USNCO Coordinator: Beatrice Salazar, Chair ACS Maryland Section

Mentors / Proctors:

Camilo Rojas, PhD, Associate Professor JHU/MSU

Evon G. Ford, PhD Assistant Professor, CCBC

George S. Owens, Lab technician III, CCBC

57TH US NATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD



he 57th U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad of tak 2025 had a very different approach compared tha to previous year's competitions. One change was the way ACS gathered information from the participants. For the first time the communication was entirely between ACS and parents instead of students. Another big change was the new platform to take the exam online. The new platform guaranteed students to get the results immediately

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U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad

after taking exam. The downside of this system was that coordinators didn't know those results, as a result in Maryland, the coordinator and students took two other alternatives: taking the exam with the Maryland coordinator and inperson with their respective teacher. It worked very well. All teachers who participated this year did an excellent job, thanks to them we had a very successful local competition.





he Maryland local section had more than 114 participants from all the counties in the ACS local section Fourteen students area. were nominated to continue the competition at the national level. Twelve of these national Olympians competed Saturday, April 5, 2025 for a chance to become international Olympians.

The other two participants competed in Washington DC. These fourteen students competed with 1600 participants nationwide. Only 20 Olympians will be nominated to attend a rigorous chemistry (camp) training.

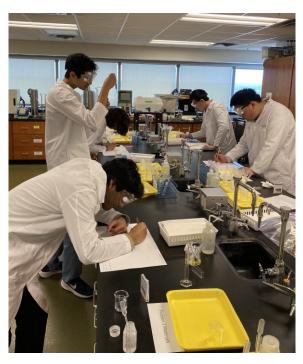
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The four with the highest scores will be chosen to compete internationally. The USNCO competition (see photos) is three parts: Part-I is a multiple-choice question exam testing inorganic chemistry knowledge, Part-II is eight parts problem-solving (essay) with more advanced topics in thermodynamics, stoichiometry, qualitative/quantitative chemistry, equilibrium, kinetics, periodicity and states of matter. And Part-III is a laboratory practical where students must solve two problems with only the materials and chemicals given.

Part-III is the fun part of the Olympiad; students become so engaged that is a pleasure to see them working in the lab like knowledgeable scientists (part-III 1.30 min).



Parts I (1.30 min) and part II (1.45 min) are done in a regular classroom. Students form good relationships, have lunch together and receive a certificate along with a gift, the USNCO traditional team apparel & a pin.









CONGRATULATIONS!



USNCO 2025 Olympians

