

RPTC Grant Application 2022 - Entry #3611

Date

06/20/2024

Application is for:

Organization: Limited to 50% of Project Funds, \$500 Cap

Grant Requestor Name

Lylia Zheng

Grant Requestor Title

Student Vice-President 2023-24 Mesa Verde Science Olympiad Team

Organization Name

Mesa Verde Science Olympiad Team

Organization/Grant Requestor Address

8390 Orange Haven Place
SAN DIEGO, CA
92129
US

**Grant Requestor Phone**

+18587334138

Grant Requestor Email

lyliazheng@gmail.com

Are you under 18?

Yes

Advisor

Jeanette Candelaria

Advisor Email

jeanette@cyberthought.com

Advisor Phone

+16198843491

Organization Grant amount requested from RPTC Not to Exceed 50% of Total Funds - Maximum \$500

Selected Value: \$500 (0 min / 500 max)

Event of Project Completion Date:

09/15/2024

Make check payable to

MVSO PTSA (EIN Number is 330560998)

What is your proposed project/event/activity the grant will be used for?

Background: Science Olympiad (SO) is a premiere science competition designed to increase students' interest in science and to provide recognition for outstanding achievement across several science disciplines. MVMS Science Olympiad (MVSO) is a recognized and sponsored program of Mesa Verde Middle School of the Poway Unified School District. Event Coaches aim to prepare all interested students for the school, regional, state and national competitions. MVSO is volunteer based and a non-profit organization that relies heavily on parents and former students/participants to achieve its goal of spreading core principles and methods of science, while minimizing participation costs to allow as many participants as possible.

Rationale:

- Science Olympiad program participation at MVSO diminished after COVID, and
- Many Elementary Science Field Day programs were dropped at schools that feed into Mesa Verde Middle School and Westview HS, and
- Lack of participants impacts coach availability and support of the MVSO team

Our purpose:

To set up the resources for, introduce Science Olympiad (SO) to, and encourage SO STEM learning in three local elementary schools that feed into Mesa Verde Middle School in Rancho Peñasquitos.



How will your project benefit Rancho Penasquitos or a significant sized group within our community or otherwise fill a great need in Rancho Penasquitos? When will your project be completed? Do you agree to submit photos and videos to the RPTC

We will (re-)introduce and encourage extracurricular STEM learning in local PQ elementary schools using an approach that allows more competitive students to participate in more team events, while allowing students newer to science to experiment more slowly and begin to build a science foundation. We will do this by helping to train about 15 parents/volunteers as coaches at each of three schools to use the established Science Olympiad (SO) program. We expect this to impact Science Olympiad participation at not only elementary, but also middle and high school levels. We believe that this process will help parents to feel more prepared to be coaches, and elementary students will have more confidence to join SO in middle and, later, high school if they have participated in Elementary SO. We hope that the younger students exposed to these activities will pick up on and be sparked by our passion for SO and mature into older students who become SO volunteers and consider science as a potential future career. Over one-hundred students at Mesa Verde participated in the Science Olympiad this year. We expect participation in the Science Olympiad to grow at elementary schools as it becomes an established event like it is at MVMS. In 2023-24, a neighboring elementary school sent eight 16-person teams to regionals.

Progress to date:

- We made great progress this year in getting our Mesa Verde team numbers back to pre-COVID levels.
- We have identified parents at three elementary schools, whose students feed into Mesa Verde Middle School (Park Village, Deer Canyon, and Willow Grove), who have taken steps to and have recruited parents and families to participate in Elementary SO in 2024-25.
- We have identified and begun to organize coach training materials so parents at these elementary schools may refer to or use them when they volunteer to coach at their respective schools.
- We hope to reduce their startup workload and increase their confidence to coach.
- Use of photos and videos is at the discretion of parents. We will provide photos and videos with parent permission and to the extent allowed by the PUSD.

Is there anything else you'd like the RPTC Board to consider?

The proposal team includes two outstanding middle school Science Olympiad students, Lylia Zheng and Rishab Ghosh, who are transitioning to West View HS. When they heard that parents were interested in forming elementary school teams, both offered independent and UNSOLICITED assistance with training of elementary school parents to coach Science Olympiad teams, and to help coach students later. They have provided continuous help with every aspect of this project, both with ideas for this proposal and with preparation of electronic resources for parent volunteers. They have maintained a level of professionalism on par with paid high school and college level employees the advisor has mentored.

Project scope of work In-Kind Services

- Identification, collection and organization of training materials
- Procurement of binders and job aides (cheat sheets, quiz sheets, sample tests, etc., for training)
- Procurement of donated items to use for coaching
- Coordination of printing
- Assembly of binders
- Assistance with training for coaches Summer 2024
- Assist with training for elementary students in Fall of 2024

Funding Request is for materials to train parents in September of 2024

- \$330 for binders and printing to prepare binder content.
- \$170 for tools to conduct events likely to repeat more frequently than others - 3 heart models (\$96) and \$74 for rock and mineral sets or books for other repeating events.

Our biggest contribution to this endeavor is the person power to find and organize the electronic training materials and help with training. This request for training binders, copies and a few key training tools for each coach, is only a small component of a much larger budget, easily \$100-200 dollars for each of 13 events per school, with materials for some build events up to \$500 per event. We hope that our efforts combined with those of the parent volunteers may produce a positive effect that is greater than if the elementary schools were engaging in this endeavor on their own. We believe that preparing the training binders ahead of time will give the parent volunteers at each elementary school more time to deal with the logistics of starting and funding their new programs. In addition, the resources and binders will also be available for future years and other elementary schools whose student populations feed into Mesa Verde and other Rancho Peñasquitos middle and high schools.