Road to Gold

Division B/C

Georgia Tech Event Workshop Series
2024-25

About

This is Allen: https://scioly.org/wiki/index.php/User:Builderguy135

Medals	
Total medals	118
	• 82 invitational medals
	• 8 regional medals
	• 21 state medals
	• 7 national medals
Competitor Info	
Competitions attended	39
	• 26 invitationals
	• 4 regionals
	• 6 states
	• 3 nationals
Volunteering	
Years volunteered	3
Social Media	

01 STUDY EVENTS

02 BUILD EVENTS

03 COMPETITION DAY

A Disclaimer

Science Olympiad is not (just) about winning!

Winning will come with a genuine understanding of the concept, NOT the other way around

Study Events

Tip 1: Know your Cheatsheet

What is the cheatsheet or binder for?

❌ Dumping Wikipedia pages
❌ Restating basic information just in case you forget it on the exam
❌ Cramming the most information so your notes are denser than everyone else

✅ Things you don't want to memorize (numbers, formulas)
✅ Increasing your test-taking speed
✅ A general reference tool for niche information

Tip 1: Know your Cheatsheet

Many events allow cheatsheets and binders, but are you using them efficiently?
- Do not just copy/paste information into your notes. Instead, take your time to process the information. Restating your notes will help it stick.
- Know your cheatsheet. Your notes should be to speed up information lookup during the event, not to relearn concepts during the event.
- 3pt Stint Ultra Condensed slows you down. Stick with a more readable font
- Use highlighting, *formatting,* and color to emphasize information and increase lookup speed.
- Notes should be dynamic. Update them often.

There's no point having a binder if you don't know how to use it!

Tip 2: Practice Exams

- Practice exams help with identifying weak spots in knowledge. Do as many as you can.
- Familiarize yourself with your partner, so that you can learn how you and your partner takes exams.
- Read the solutions afterwards! This is how you fill in the gap in your knowledge.
- If public knowledge, learn from event supervisor's past exams
  - Sometimes published on tournament's website or information packet
  - Will help you be more prepared during the event
  - NEVER reach out to the event supervisor before the event, or try to find the event supervisor through non-public means

Tip 3: Know your Basics

A solid foundation in event knowledge to have good intuition goes a long way when dealing with problems you've never seen before
- Don't just learn the "advanced stuff" (most of this won't be on the exam anyways)
- Instead, understand basic biology, physics, chemistry concepts fully
- Know what the event is about and generalize your studying
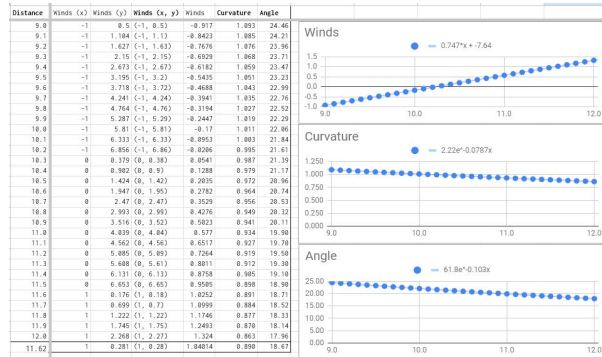 - Optics → Wave Physics
  - Road Scholar → Earth Science

Build Events

Tip 1: Consistency is Key

Familiarize yourself with your device
- Know how your device changes under different situations–test as much as possible
- Collect as much *good* data as you can (vehicle, flight events). **Never fake your data**.
- Build precisely. Take your time so that the end result is consistent.
- This is more important than *anything* about the design and quality of your build. A well-trimmed poorly built plane will outperform a poorly-trimmed well built plane every time

Battery Buggy data (Nationals 2019, 4th Place)

Tip 1: Consistency is Key

Eliminate as many variables as you can.
- (Flight) Is there draft?
- (Vehicle events) Is the floor dirty? What floors are you practicing on?
- (Mission Possible) Is the surface angled?

Tip 2: Time Yourself

All build events have a relatively short competition period. **Know exactly what you and your partner will do during that time.**

- Practice if you were in competition.
- Ask a friend to name target times/distances or generate them randomly
- Do everything you would do during competition. Reset testing surface if needed.

Tip 3: Know the Venue

It is always best to know the venue that you are competing in!
- Sometimes you can know this by finding the venue online
- Spectate, if allowed, before you compete. Know mistakes people have been making at this venue
- NEVER practice at the venue without permission. People have been disqualified for this

- (Flight) Ceiling height? Draft?
- (Vehicle) Floor surface? Is it clean? Tiled?

Tip 4: Double Check Everything

Always double check that your build is allowed within the rules manual.
- A dimension limit is not the goal, it is the limit.
- Build your devices so that you are, *without a doubt*, within the rules.

Read the rules ten times over, especially in build events.
- Know how rules can be interpreted, as your interpretation may be different.
- Figure out if there are clever designs or optimizations you can make under the rules.
- My philosophy: always try to know the rules better than the event supervisor.

Competition Day

Tip 1: Have a Plan

Always have a plan about how you will approach the event.
- If it's a study event, take the test normally like you have done with your partner.
- If it's a build event, execute your plan as well as possible.

Have backup plans (build)
- You should always have backup plans, especially if builds, if something goes wrong.
- Knowing your device will help you change things on the fly.

Tip 2: Take a Breather

Regardless of if you prepped well or not, competition day is the end of the road
- If it's a study event, don't second guess yourself
  - Go in with confidence, run through the test and check your answers after
  - Don't burn time on questions you or your partner don't know
- If it's a build event, execute your plan as well as possible.
  - Be prepared for it all to change, and to go with the flow of the event
  - Remember the ESs are people too, who are just doing their job
  - With that in mind, also stand your ground

THANKS!