

**U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Qualification Process**  
Southern New Mexico-West Texas Chemistry Olympiad Competition

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012

The Southern New Mexico-West Texas Chemical Olympiad Competition serves as the American Chemical Society Rio Grande Section local exam used in qualification for the U.S. National Chemical Olympiad (USNCO) competition. Full details of the USNCO exam are available at the ACS website linked from the NMSU Chemical Olympiad web page. A maximum of **10 students** from the ACS Rio Grande Section, comprising portions of Southern New Mexico and West Texas, will be selected to participate in the USNCO.

**USNCO Eligibility Requirements:**

**Note:** Participation in the Southern New Mexico-West Texas Competition on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 is **open to all interested students regardless of citizenship** or other qualification criteria for the national exam. The following are requirements to participate in the national exam to be held in April (complete rules are on the following page):

- The student must be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident (green card holder) on the day the national exam is administered.
- The student must be a regularly enrolled high school student who will graduate no earlier than the spring of 2012.
- Students must be younger than 20 years old.
- A total of **no more than two qualifiers** are allowed from any single teacher or any single high school in the local section.

**Selection of USNCO Qualifiers:** Eligible students will be selected to participate in the USNCO exam **based on their written examination scores** in the local competition held on March 31<sup>st</sup>. In the case of a tie, selection will be based on performance on the titration experiment (an individual experiment), with a second tie-breaker based on the results of the qualitative analysis experiment. Alternates will also be identified in the case qualifying students decline to participate or are later determined to be ineligible. Students thus selected will be officially nominated to take the USNCO exam to be administered on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. **USNCO Exam Details:**

- Date and Time: Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> (8:30 AM – 3:00 PM). Lunch provided.
- Location: NMSU Chemistry and Biochemistry Complex
- Events (two written, one laboratory practical).
  - 90-minute multiple-choice section (Part I)
  - 105-minute free response section (Part II)
  - 90-minute laboratory practical (Part III)

## Rules for Participation in the 2011 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad\*

1. All students who take the USNCO national examination **MUST BE U.S. CITIZENS** on the day it is taken. (They **MUST BE** eligible for a U.S. passport.) Green card holders are not eligible.
2. Regularly enrolled high school students who will graduate no earlier than the spring of 2011 are eligible.
3. Students must be younger than 20 years old.
4. No more than **two students per teacher** or **per high school may be nominated** to take the national exam. In the case of magnet programs or split enrollment, students' school is defined as the high school where students take science class.
5. Eligible students who have previously attended the study camp automatically qualify for the national exam and do not count against the limit of eligible students from their local section or school.
6. Winners of gold medal at the International Chemistry Olympiad are not eligible to compete in subsequent USNCO study camps. Winners of silver or bronze medals are eligible to return and automatically qualify for the national exam; they do not count against the limit on number of eligible students from their local section or school.
7. Students who have taken advanced placement courses in chemistry are eligible. Likewise, students who have received credit for college level courses (limited to no more than two semesters or three quarters beyond general chemistry) are eligible.
8. A student may participate only in the competition of the section in which the student's high school is located. If the section is not participating, the USNCO national office will assign the student to a section.
9. A student who participates in the Physics Olympiad study camp, the Mathematics Olympiad study camp, or the Biology Olympiad study camp is not eligible to participate in the Chemistry Olympiad study camp during the same summer.

\* These rules apply to students taking the USNCO national examination. Local sections are encouraged to develop their own procedures for identifying outstanding students at the local level and choosing national examination candidates. The sections are reminded, however, that all students who take the national exam must meet the qualifications outlined above.