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**San Diego's Oak Valley Middle School Will Represent  
Southern California at the National Science Olympiad Tournament**

*San Diego School Wins State Competition for First Time in 20 Years*

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA – April 11, 2017 – On Saturday, April 8th, a group of 15 student scientists from Oak Valley Middle School in San Diego took home the grand prize in the 2017 Southern California State Science Olympiad Tournament, held annually at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. Competing against the best Science Olympiad teams from across Southern California in 23 events ranging in disciplines from technology, engineering, biology, physics and chemistry, these young women and men earned the right to represent Southern California at the National Science Olympiad competition this May at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

“It was a great honor for our students to compete at Caltech against the 30 other top teams from Southern California. By winning first place and earning the opportunity to contend with the best teams in the nation, these students have surpassed all of our expectations,” said Cass Kaminetz, the Oak Valley Science Olympiad Head Coach. “San Diego is a hotbed of science innovation, and all of our students benefit from the incredible support of our dedicated coaches, parents and volunteers. If these students represent the future of homegrown scientists in San Diego County, it is a bright one indeed!”

Though schools from across San Diego County have competed at the State level for the past 33

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years, this is the first time in 20 years that a local San Diego team has made it to Nationals. This also is the first time any school in the prestigious Poway Unified School District will represent Southern California at Nationals. Akin to the Little League World Series of baseball, the Science Olympiad National Tournament will challenge Oak Valley students to demonstrate their scientific expertise on a grand stage.

For those interested in sponsorship opportunities or to learn more about the Oak Valley Middle School Science Olympiad team, please contact Cass Kaminetz at [ovmssso@gmail.com](mailto:ovmssso@gmail.com) or visit the website [www.ovmssso.org](http://www.ovmssso.org) for more information.

### **About Science Olympiad**

For the past 33 years, Science Olympiad has led a revolution in science education. What began as a grassroots assembly of science teachers is now one of the premier science competitions in the nation, providing rigorous, standards-based challenges to 7,600 teams in 50 states. Science Olympiad's ever-changing line-up of events in all STEM disciplines exposes students to practicing scientists and career choices, and energizes classroom teachers with a dynamic content experience. For more information about Science Olympiad, visit [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org).

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