

Biology Bowl Rules

Oral Competition

Only the first 16 schools that return their information and payment will be allowed to participate in the Oral Competition. Schools that return the information after the Oral Competition is filled will be placed on a waiting list. You will be informed of your team's status by email. If you register for this competition, please be aware that it has gone later than 2:30 pm in previous years. During past competitions, teams departing early have disrupted the win/loss bracketing, and resulted in teams meeting more than once before the final round, in conflict with event rules. **If you are unable to commit to staying past 2:30 PLEASE do not register for this event.**

Each school may enter only one team in the Oral Competition. Each team may have 1-4 members. Each team must select a captain who will sit nearest the reader during the competitions. A team may continue to compete throughout the day without all 4 members present if necessary. However, no substitutions can be made after the initial round.

Each team member must make and carry to each round of competitions a 4" x 8" label identifying their school with a corresponding number (e.g. Pittsburg High School #4. The captain is #1). The label should be placed in front of each team member to assist the judge in identifying contestants when they signal to answer. **Be sure to bring the labels because they are required and will not be provided.**

The Biology Department of Pittsburg State University will provide four officials for each round of competition:

- **Judge**—The judges will be a faculty member and will have the final say on all matters relating to the progress of each round. The judge will identify the team name and number of the contestant who signals first for answering each toss-up question, correct pronunciation of the reader, and accept or reject answers which are not clear to the reader.
- **Reader**—The reader will be an upperclassman majoring in Biology and will read all questions unless deferred to or requested by the judge. The reader will start and end each round, and will usually determine the correctness of all answers. The reader will also give the correct answers to all questions answered incorrectly.
- **Timer**—The time will time the rounds (20 minutes each), the interval between question and signal, between signal and answer, and for bonus questions, between question and answer.
- **Scorekeeper**—The scorekeeper will keep a running score during each round in full view of all participants and the audience.

The competition will consist of toss-up questions and bonus questions.

Toss-up Questions—Toss-up questions (10 points each) are all multiple-choice questions, and may be answered by a member of either team. Only the person who signaled is allowed to answer the question. The team with a member signaling first has the first opportunity to answer correctly. If they are unable to answer to the satisfaction of the reader, the other team will be given an opportunity to answer. Any team may signal to answer before the question is completely read, but their answer must match one of the four choices. (The reader and judge may exercise their own discretion in such instances.) An answer must consist of the word(s) in the possible answers given and not merely the letter of the answer. If a team member signals to answer before a question is completely read and answers incorrectly, then the reader will re-read the entire question, with answers, for the other team. Once a question has been read completely, it will not be re-read. **There will be no conferring on toss-up questions.**

The teams will have 10 seconds to signal after the last word of the question is read or re-read. The signaling team member must always begin his/her answer within 5 seconds of being recognized by the judge. Failure to begin an answer within the allotted time will be considered an incorrect answer.

Bonus Questions—If a team member answers a toss-up question correctly a bonus question (10 points) will be read for that team. (The other team cannot answer a bonus question.) After the last word of the bonus question is read, the team will have 20 seconds in which to confer, and the team captain may answer any time within that 20 seconds. If no answer is forthcoming, the timer will say "TIME" after the 20 seconds, and the team captain must provide an answer immediately without further consultation. **On all bonus questions, answers will be accepted only from the team captain.**

If the reader has begun reading a question (toss-up or bonus) when the timer announces the end of the round, then only that question will be finished. If it is a toss-up question and the team that signals first answers incorrectly, then the other team will be given the chance to answer. If the team that signals first answers correctly, then no bonus question will be read. If the round ended with a correct, tying answer to a toss-up question, then the next bonus question will be read to break the tie. If the question read does not break the tie, then the round will proceed under the usual rules until one team scores and wins.

Lab Practicals

General Biology Lab Practical—Dr. Joseph Arruda will oversee this competition. The practical will consist of 24 stations each with one or two questions over various models or diagrams. The practical will be given in 20 minute intervals beginning at 9:00 am and ending at 11:00 am with 6-9 students scheduled in each time slot. Slots will be filled on a first-come, first served basis. The top 3 scores will receive medals.

Additional Activities

Sounds of Nature—Expand your biological knowledge by competing in a quiz on natural sounds made by birds, fogs, mammals, reptiles and insects. Participants will hear tape-recorded sounds, which will be presented with representative samples of 20 animal sounds. Students must make a species identification in a matching format on the answer sheet provided in the session. Correct responses may be common names but must be specific enough to indicate individual species. Winner of the event will be the participant who has the highest number of accurate responses.

Tracks and Signs—Test your skills in tracking! Participants will view 20 tracks and signs of mammals and birds. The items will either be the original item, an impression, or a picture. Students must make a species identification in a matching format on the answer sheet provided in the session. Correct responses may be common names, but must be specific enough to indicate individual species. Winner of the event will be the participant who has the highest number of accurate responses.

Cadaver Tours—Dr. Steven Ford and an assistant will conduct **human cadaver laboratory demonstrations by reservation only**. These tours will be performed in two rooms, in 30-minute intervals, and a maximum of 25 people per demonstration will be allowed. To reserve a cadaver demonstration, please indicate your preference on the Biology Bowl Registration form along with the number of people who will be attending the tour. These will fill on a first-come, first-served basis and you will receive an e-mail to confirm or reschedule your time. **Groups must be accompanied by their sponsors and will meet 10 minutes prior to their reserved tour time in the 2nd floor lobby of Hecker-Wellls Hall.**