

# Tulare County Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

# news galleryweek

April 27, 2023

## Elementary students compete in Science Olympiad



The annual Science Olympiad for elementary students was held Saturday at Mission Oak High School in Tulare. This was the first time since the pandemic that students competed in person in all events. It was evident that they were enjoying being together with their teammates – playing in the sunshine on Mission Oak’s vast quad between competitions.

For the competitions, students launched rockets and rubber band-powered paddleboats, tested the strength of bridges made from pasta noodles, and catapulted gummy bears. In addition, they completed tests on subjects related to architecture, astronomy, biology, the environment, and geology. In all, nearly 250 students from 15 Tulare County schools competed in 19 events.

In the 2023 Science Olympiad Division A (Grades 3-6), the winners were:

1st - Sundale Union School, Tulare (Team 15)

2nd - Oak Grove Elementary School, Visalia (Team 4)

3rd - Hurley Elementary School, Visalia (Team 3)

4th - Annie R. Mitchell Elementary School, Visalia (Team 6)

5th - Elbow Creek Elementary School, Visalia (Team 13)



The Science Olympiad competition for middle and high school students (Divisions B/C) was held in February. For results and contact information for the upcoming 2024 event, visit [www.tcoe.org/ScienceOlympiad](http://www.tcoe.org/ScienceOlympiad).

Photos above:

~ Sundale Union School (Team 15) placed first at the 2023 Science Olympiad Division A competition this past weekend.

~ Two students work with an adult to prepare the rocket for a launch test at the 2023 Science Olympiad Division A competition.

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## UPHS robotics team competes in world championship



The University Preparatory High School (UPHS) Robotics Team, Arborbotics Team 6657, returned Sunday from the FIRST Robotics World Championships in Houston, Texas, where they represented Tulare County and competed with 600 teams. While the team didn't return with a victory, they competed for the first time among the best high school teams on the planet.

Team advisor Josh Curtiss reports that the team faced setbacks, including transportation issues, a robot malfunction, and an extremely tough competition schedule. "Through it all, they stayed positive and persevered with gracious professionalism, which is a tenant of the FIRST Robotics organization," said Curtiss. In the end, Arborbotics finished 68th out of 77 in their division.

"As learning is at the forefront of our mission, the team has chalked this season up as a success with a regional win at Fresno and a second place finish at the Aerospace Valley Regional in Lancaster," said Curtiss. "The team would like to thank the community for its support, particular the serge of support that came in to get us to the World Championships."

Curtiss reports that the students are already planning for next season and how they can return to Worlds for another shot at the title. For more information on the Arborbotics team, visit [www.team6657.weebly.com](http://www.team6657.weebly.com).

Photo above:

*~ The University Preparatory High School (UPHS) Robotics Team, Arborbotics Team 6657, poses for a photo at the FIRST Robotics World Championships in Houston, Texas.*

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