

Fossil mentor needed!

Dear North Carolina Fossil Club members,

My name is Chris Moorman. My husband Ed Holub and I coach the Science Olympiad team at Phillips Middle School in Chapel Hill. We restarted the program last year after 5-6 years of it not occurring.

Science Olympiad is a like a science track meet with 23 events in which teams of two students compete. Some of these events involve building knowledge, such as knowledge of astronomy, anatomy, ecology, or experimental design and some events involve building things, such as rockets, bridges, catapults, or a new cookie recipe. A description of all events can be found at: <http://www.sciencenc.com/index.cfm>

Phillips took 1st place in the regional tournament and 7th place in the stat last year! We were thrilled for the students. It was a wonderful experience for the students, over half of which were girls.

Our problem is that we are not scientists. I am a business school professor and my husband is a businessman. However, we are committed to motivating the next generation of scientists through programs like Science Olympiad! To make our program work, we need to recruit scientists and/or science students to coach the 23 two-person event teams.

We are writing to ask if you might volunteer to help our two-person Fossil team. Here are the NC and National page sites that reflect what the students need to know:

- North Carolina page: http://www.sciencenc.com/Tournament_information/Event_rules_nc/fossils.cfm
- National page: http://soinc.org/fossils_b

There are study aids and references available. The kids do most of the learning themselves, but there are times when they need help and encouragement. The students really react well to working with mentors. Aside from learning about their events, the students have an opportunity to learn about careers in science-related fields. We anticipate you would meet with the students 5-6 times, with a heavier concentration of meetings from February – April as the regional and state tournaments get closer. Because the teams are only two students, it's usually easy to fit everyone's schedules.

If you can take some time to help these young scientists, please contact Chris and Ed at 919-942-1915, moorman@duke.edu, or eholub@mindspring.com. Thank you!



Phillips Middle School took first place in the regional Science Olympiad tournament recently and will be headed to the state tournament on April 25. It was the first time in years that a team from the school has been organized. Wood's Charter School took second in the competition, and Smith Middle School took third.

