

January 2012

INL Scholastic Tournament

# Tournament Talk

INL Scholastic  
Tournament

> U.S. Department of  
Energy's Idaho National  
Laboratory

## New Year...New Changes!

I assume that this newsletter will reach most of you following a wonderful Christmas and a new year. As many of you already know, we're also preparing for a new year and many new things for the INL Scholastic Tournament. For 2012, as in the past, we will have a West and East Region tournament followed by a state tournament. Different, however, from the past, the state tournament will take place in Idaho Falls rather than Boise. Because of our late start this year, we are still finalizing the competition dates. As soon as they're finalized, we will notify you so that you can make the necessary arrangements. We're excited for the new changes and look forward to working together in helping improve the education of Idaho's students. This will mark the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the INL Scholastic Tournament and we hope that you will once again choose to compete with us.

As we did last year, we would ask you to each register through the INL Scholastic Tournament web site as well as through the Dept. of Energy's

web site. That web site is located at <http://science.energy.gov/nsb/high-school/high-school-regionals/>. The deadline for registration is Fri., Feb. 3. Please register your team today.

Although the online registration for the INL Scholastic Tournament has yet to be updated, please feel free to use it to register your team. Changes will be made early next month.

Listed below are some of the changes that will be taking place for 2012. In order for better understanding and to be concise, I have listed them in bullet form.

- The 2012 competition will include the West and East Region tournament only. The North Region is competing in the Gonzaga NSB regional in Spokane.
- There will be a state championship in Idaho Falls sometime in mid-March matching a yet undetermined number of teams from both the West and East Regions.



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## 2012 Regional Tournament Registration Form

Register your team now for the 2012 INL Scholastic Tournament

School name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach's telephone: Daytime: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed form to: Steve Zollinger, INL Scholastic Tournament, 2238 Robb Street, Idaho Falls, ID, 83402. **Forms must be received by Feb. 3, 2012.**



- I plan to have a Class A, B and C competition, but only two teams will advance to the National Science Bowl, April 26-30 in Washington, D.C., requiring a playoff between the three divisions and three regions at the state tourney.
- The questions will be NSB questions (all math and science and some multiple choice). A sample of the math and science questions can be found at <http://science.energy.gov/nsb/high-school/high-school-coaches/>.
- Because the questions will be from NSB, this year's competition will not include a lightning round. As best as I can determine now, all other previous rules of INL Scholastic Tournament will apply.
- There will be questions for practice and league-play as in the past, and they will again be the same questions used last year during regional and state competitions. You can request those now by emailing Brenda at [Brenda.greenhalgh@inl.gov](mailto:Brenda.greenhalgh@inl.gov).
- This year's West Region tournament will be the last one sponsored by INL. However, the intent is to find someone to sponsor an NSB tournament in Boise and take the lead in future years. I plan to continue a state championship between the two regions in future years.
- The West Region tournament, with my assistance, will have to find its own Quizmasters to run the tournament matches. I will travel to Boise twice to train personnel, and a third time to conduct the tournament. I hope to work with coaches or anyone else that can be the lead for this year. However, I do understand the need for sensitivity and the concern about conflict of interest if a coach or anyone tied to any of the competing schools were to be involved. For that reason, I will also make contact with business and industry for support and possible sponsorship.
- As a result of our not traveling to Boise, the state championships will not be broadcast on IPTV.
- Most, if not all of the INL Scholastic Tournament staff will be back for this year's East Region tournament.
- The dates for the East Region tournament at University Place in Idaho Falls are tentatively set for Feb. 27-28. However the competition may be a one day tournament, depending on how many teams register.
- The dates for the West Region tournament at Boise State University are March 5-6. This tournament may also be a one day competition depending on how many teams register. I anticipate this tournament to be especially uncertain because of the need for the top finishers in the West Region to travel to Idaho Falls for the state championships. I would hope to have a similar size competition as we've had in the past.
- I have not determined a date or location for the state championships, although they will be in Idaho Falls in a similar time frame as in the past. However, due to the potential challenge of finding an adequate location in Idaho Falls, I may have to consider a Saturday competition.
- Despite the many changes that we're all experiencing, I'm excited for the new year to begin. Change can be good and I look forward to the new adventure, and I hope that you do too.
- Additionally, the Dept. of Energy's National Science Bowl is strong and healthy and expecting approximately 69 regional tournaments this year, the most ever in the 22-year history of the competition

