



MARYLAND SECTION

American Chemical Society

[HTTP://WWW.MARYLAND.SITES.ACS.ORG](http://www.maryland.sites.acs.org)

Invitation to High School Chemistry Teachers

Dear Colleague,

As Chair of the Maryland Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS), I am pleased to announce that we will be participating in the 2018 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO). The primary goals of this program are to stimulate interest and achievement in chemistry among high school students throughout the United States and to provide recognition of outstanding young chemistry students, teachers, and schools.

Students competing in the USNCO are eligible to be selected as members of the United States team for the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO). For the past thirty-four years, the United States has sent a team of four students to compete with nations around the world at the IChO. The students participate in both theoretical and laboratory examinations over several days. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded to the best performers, and the IChO provides students the opportunity to interact with their peers from other countries. This year the international event will be held in Bratislava [Slovakia](#) and Prague Czech Republic, July 19-29, 2018.

I want to encourage you and your students to participate in this program. It is the responsibility of the ACS Maryland Section to nominate students from this area to take the USNCO national examination. In order to identify these students, we conduct a preliminary screening of students through a series of steps:

1. Students register for the National Competition by applying by mail or online.
2. Students request a teacher (chemistry teacher preferably) to write a letter of recommendation on his/her behalf emphasizing the student's academic abilities in Chemistry and commitment to the competition.
3. Students take the Maryland Local Exam between March 1st and March 25th of 2018. The answer sheets must arrive to the local section coordinator's address before March 26th or sent online by this date.

The national exam involves three parts administered to more than 1,000 students nationwide. Students can use past exams available at www.acs.org/olympiad to prepare.

I encourage your school to participate in this academic competition. All students who participate will be recognized by ACS and presented with a certificate; top 150 students receive recognition for outstanding performance at the national level. We hope this recognition will serve to stimulate interest in chemistry and to promote a positive attitude toward chemistry.

I, Beatrice Salazar, have been appointed the USNCO Coordinator for this area. I encourage you to enter students from your school in this competition by completing and returning the enclosed registration form before March 5, 2018. Thank you for helping promote chemical education in this country.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Salazar

Chair, Maryland Local Section, ACS