



## Anniversary Story

“No Pressure, Right?”

By Anthony Lowndes, *The Groundwater Foundation*

July 27, 2015



I stepped into the role of Program Manager at The Groundwater Foundation in mid-January of 2015, knowing I would face some challenges and pressures. Part of my responsibilities was coordinating a project involving Science Olympiad (SO) and a trial event created by the Foundation, Hydrogeology: Water for the World. The event challenges students, through investigation and computer modeling, to identify potential groundwater management solutions.

I had never been part of SO before, and coordinating the logistics on top of being the event supervisor for a trial event was a full emersion into the world of competitive science. Hydrogeology was set to be a full event in 2016 thanks to the hard work of past staff member Amy Kessner and Groundwater Foundation President Jane Griffin over the last two years; all I had to do was not screw it up. No pressure, right?

Thankfully I was able to practice running the event on a smaller scale at two Regional Tournaments. Both tournaments were small but fiercely competed. On to State Tournaments. With a total of 11 teams competing in Nebraska and many others in Washington, Maryland, California, Utah, Illinois, and Indiana the pressure was on to coordinate all the event supervisors and ensure success to guarantee the National Tournament event would be well attended.

The morning of the National SO Tournament, held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I still did not have an exact number of competitors. I knew this would be a bigger, more competitive crowd and I had prepared the event's test to be much more difficult than any previous. There were a total of 40 teams participating, with almost every state represented. Despite some mild hiccups while getting the event started, I was pleased with the outcome. It was amazing to see so many students engaged in a rigorous, science-based competition! The level of sportsmanship was incredible and I can't wait to do it all over again next year. There were no changes to the rules and the committee agreed to move the event to full status for the 2016 tournament season!



Find out more about Hydrogeology at <http://www.groundwater.org/kids/getinvolved/so/hydro.html>.

---

Celebrate with us at the [2015 Groundwater Foundation National Conference!](#)