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2024 Stan Daily Scholarship

Camarillo Academic Olympics

What organization in Camarillo has over 1,000 4th-8th-grade students competing in a city-wide academic program? Correct, the answer is Camarillo Academic Olympics! In 1984, it was created by Rick C. Smith, to recognize students in grades 4-8, in all Camarillo schools, including public, private, and now homeschooled, for their academic achievements, which he felt were not celebrated in the Camarillo community. So, the Camarillo Academic Olympics was born! Under the umbrella of Camarillo Academic Olympics, there are two city-wide competitions, CAO and Super Quiz. Both are offered in alternating years. In March 2024, Super Quiz was held and CAO will be offered in 2025.

Camarillo Academic Olympics is a program sponsored by the Camarillo Boys and Girls Club, co-sponsored by the City of Camarillo and PV School District, and supported by many businesses and community members in Camarillo. A group of dedicated community members runs the CAO consisting of teachers, parents, school administrators, and friends.

CAO was last held in the Spring of 2023. The students compete in two divisions, Division I, grades 6-8th, and Division II, grades 4-5th. The students can pick up to three subjects total out of six subject tests, Speech, Art, and Creative Writing. All participants compete first in the school round, and the top 4-6 students from each subject from the school round compete at the city preliminaries. The 6 highest scorers from the city preliminary round then compete in the city finals at the Camarillo City Hall Council Chambers, with family and friends in attendance.

Subject Tests: The subject tests are, Math, Science, US History, Geography, Current Events, World History (Div. I), and CA History (Div. II). Subject tests have three rounds, school, city preliminaries, and city finals. For the final round, students are asked approximately 30 questions live at the city hall, either multiple-choice or fill-in-the-blank. They write down their answers and are scored.

Speech: Division I students recite an expository speech with props and Division II recites a storytelling speech without props. Speech has three rounds, like the subject tests, all speeches are memorized and then judged by volunteers.

Art and Creative Writing: The students are given items to draw for art and can choose from a few prompts for Creative Writing. The students only compete in two rounds: school and the final round at the boys and girls club. The winners from art and creative writing in each division are announced at city finals at City Hall.

After CAO, an award ceremony is held, where the top 6 students in each category and division are recognized with a medal. All students who compete receive a certificate, and ribbons are handed out for preliminaries.

Super Quiz was last held in March 2024. Each November a book to study is announced, in 2023, DK Smithsonian, *Animal!* was selected. Each school participating can create a team of 6 students for each division. The book is divided into 6 sections, and each student is assigned a section to study and learn as many facts as possible in a couple of months. The competition is held over two nights. All teams compete the first night and are asked questions out of the book, and they answer as a team. The top 6 Division I and II teams are asked back on the second night. Once again, they are asked questions from the book as a group, and each student takes a test on their assigned section individually. The scores are tallied up and the winners are announced that night at an award ceremony, with medals given to the 1st to 6th place finishers. Fun awards such as best team t-shirt, team name, and sportsmanship are also awarded. In March 2024, 21 teams were competing, coached by teachers, parents, and friends.

Camarillo Academic Olympics is celebrating its 40th year of existence. In 2023, Camarillo Academic Olympics was recognized by the West Ventura County Business Alliance as the Nonprofit of the Year. At Super Quiz, in March 2024, they received the Certificate of Recognition from the City of Camarillo for providing Camarillo Students a place to showcase their academic achievements in a fun and competitive atmosphere.

I have competed in both the CAO and Super Quiz. I won Current Events twice and helped my team at Las Colinas win the Super Quiz. Nowadays I help write questions for Current Events. Camarillo is tremendously fortunate to have a group of helpful volunteers and generous sponsors that organize this knowledge and curiosity-cultivating event for our youth year after year.