

Jump Shot ROBOT

BEARBOTICS
COMPETES IN
ARIZONA

Palmer Ridge Bearbotics, also known as team 4068, took their talents to Arizona for competition. After receiving this year's challenge for their robot, Bearbotics got to work. This year, the challenge was inspired by the game of basketball. "The robot had to pick up basketballs and shoot them into a hoop in the competition area. Then after shooting basketballs, the robot had to climb up monkey bars that consecutively got higher. We ended up doing really well; we placed second," *David Nguyen, 11*. Bearbotics was really happy with their performance and can't wait for next year.



"I joined because Bearbotics because I did Lego Robotics in middle school and I saw the PR team compete when I was in middle school and it really interested me. I'm the only programmer on the team so I spend the most time testing the robot."

Ben Homan
Ben Homan, 11



4. Nicola Ferrante, 9, and Chloe Catalano, 9, observe other teams in the egg parachute event. Ferrante and Catalano's project placed high at regionals. "I joined Science Olympiad because I knew it was a laid back club that had to do with STEM. I am also able to put it on my resume for colleges as experience," Ferrante said. *photo by melanie sauter.* **5.** Working on her presentation, **Heather Taylor, 12**, attempts to make it the best it could be. Because of her preparation, Taylor trusts herself and her work when it comes to competitions. "I would say Science Olympiad is a pretty relaxed environment. It's really fun because everyone has similar interests," Taylor said. *photo by melanie sauter.*



GO YOUR OWN WAY



Lauren Halenkamp, 12

"I was in Bearbotics Freshman year. It really helped launch my love for STEM and engineering in general."



Cameron Hinkle, 12

"As a club, Cyber Patriots has grown a lot. We have all learned a lot of cyber security skills and we do better and better year after year."



Shayna McHugh, 12

"Because of Bearbotics, I plan on majoring in mechanical engineering or possibly doing a biomechanical or biomedical dual major in undergrad."



Olivia Smith, 12

"In Cyber Patriots the team work is my favorite. I like talking with the other people."

1. Nicole Day, 12, and Madison Kuo, 12, prepare their project and give their bridge some final touches before presenting it before the judges. Day and Kuo spent a lot of time preparing for competition day. Day said, "The diversity of the events is why I love Science Olympiad. You can participate in events like Experimental Design or Disease Detective." The diverse science things you can do really makes the club fun," Day said. *photo by melanie sauter.* **2. Chloe Catalano, 9**, checks on her project before placing it into the egg launcher in the parachute egg contest. Catalano built her rocket ahead of time and prepared it to launch at the regional competition. "It was a long day, but the competition got super fun towards the end and it was really fun to compete in," Catalano said. *photo by melanie sauter.* **3. Caleb Dall, 11, and Matthew Neptune, 9**, inspect their plane before competition. The scoring in Dall and Neptune's event is based off of how long the plane can stay in the air. The longer the plane can fly, the more points are given to competitors. "We did surprisingly well in the competition. We placed third which we were both very happy about," Dall said. *photo by melanie sauter.*



You walk into the gym at CSU Pueblo and see projects everywhere: planes, parachutes, and eggs. After walking around and experiencing all kinds of projects, as a competitor you feel more nervous about your presentation. Science Olympiad is a STEM competition that requires preparation, practice, coaching and commitment.

Science Olympiad has twenty-three events, so students can explore whatever topics they are interested in. "We first pick a topic. Sometimes it's building and sometimes it's just knowing

things. Then you learn about it and compete with it," **Conor Fry, 12**, said.

Students work together on different events and can make some really amazing things. "I really enjoyed the bridge building event, even though I was kind of thrown in at the last minute, it was really fun. I researched all the different bridge structures and attempted to build something that would hold its own weight plus more," **Madison Kuo, 12**, said, whose bridge placed 9th.

Many students appreciate the diversity of the events. "I compete in 'Rocks and Minerals,' 'Experimental Design,' and 'It's About Time.' It's more of a grind mindset. I just put my head down and try to work as hard as I can," **Levi Denissen, 12**, said.

Science Olympiad leads to a higher fascination in STEM fields and also helps students explore them thoroughly. *story by josie parham.*

Bill Nye's Science GUYS

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
STUDENTS COMPETE AT REGIONALS AT CSU PUEBLO

Calling All Coders

CYBER PATRIOTS
WALK THROUGH
COMPETITIONS

1 "Four Saturdays a year we come in for the actual competition. Each team has two challenges during a six hour time period," said **Camden Senneff, 12**.

2 The goal of Cyber Patriots competition is to find and fix vulnerabilities in images. These vulnerabilities can be as simple as giving a user a strong password to something much more complex.

3 Different team members have different roles. "My main role was protecting the computers using cyber security skills," said **Olivia Smith, 12**.

4 Teams earn points for fixing a vulnerability and lose points for making a system less secure.