

Name That Molecule

North Shore Science League

January, 2010

The goal of this event is to correctly identify and name molecules based on their physical structure.

Event Description

There will be twenty stations. Each station will have a depiction of a particular molecule. In most cases, this depiction will be a ball and stick model with a key to specify which atom is represented by a particular colored ball. For more complex molecules, this depiction will be either a drawing or a stick representation on a piece of paper. Based on these depictions, teams are expected to identify the molecule by either chemical name or common name. There will be three types of molecules presented in this event.

General Chemistry (5 molecules) – examples: water, carbon dioxide

Organic Chemistry (10 molecules) – examples: benzene, dimethylamine

Biological Chemistry (5 molecules) – examples: alanine, guanine

Teams are not allowed to bring any resource materials into the event. Only a writing implement is allowed.

Event Scoring

A point will be given for each correctly identified molecule. To receive this point, the team must provide either a common name or a chemical name. Simply providing a chemical formula will not be sufficient to receive this point. There will be a tie-breaking question included in the event.