

Trumbull Seniors Compete at Yale Physics Olympics

On Saturday October 23, THS seniors Alex Mark, Sarah Tropp, and Andrew Elstein traveled to New Haven with advisor Hans Drenkard to participate in the 13th Annual Physics Olympics hosted by the Yale University Physics Department.

The program involves students and their advisors in a full day of physics challenges. Using simple equipment and plenty of imagination, teams compete to design and carry out solutions to a set of five experimental problems, some in indoor laboratories and some outside in the Kline Tower Quadrangle – all designed to demonstrate that doing science, and physics in particular, is fun.

This year's Olympics consisted of five competitive events, including bungee jump modeling, vector treasure hunting, viscosity estimation, building collapse management, and a Fermi order of magnitude estimation quiz.

Fifty teams from 37 schools throughout Connecticut, New York, and Rhode Island also participated in the events. The event is organized in cooperation with physics colleagues at the University of Liverpool (UK), who host a similar program with the same tasks on the same day, making this an international event.



THS Seniors Andrew Elstein (front), Sarah Tropp, and Alex Mark set up rubber bands and water balloons to model a bungee jumper.



THS Seniors (left to right) Andrew Elstein, Sarah Tropp, and Alex Mark set up a model building to optimize its collapse in Yale Physics Lab.