

Your Complete Name: Shuoyan (Andy) Chen

Current Grade Level: Junior

Hobbies: Guitar, Drawing, Game Development, Working out

Clubs: A-Team Member of School Science Olympiad, A-Team Member of School Science Bowl, President of School Physics Club, Secretary of School Math Club, Ex-Member of Cross Country Team, Organizer of Super Monkey Fan Club, Player of Doki Doki Literature Club, Prospective Member of Mile High Club

Contest/Competition Experience or Honors: USAPhO Camp (2023), USAPhO Silver (2022), USAPhO Semifinalists Qualifier (2021-2023), AiME qualification (2020-2023), USNCO Nationals Qualifier (2023), Science Bowl Regionals Team Silver (2023), Physics Unlimited Premier Competition International Honorable Mention (2022), Harker Physics Competition National Honorable Mention (2022), Science Olympiad Nationals Team Bronze (2022), Orange County Science & Engineering Fair Category Silver (2022), USNCO First Year Exam Regionals County Champion (2022), USACO Silver Qualifier (2022), Presidential Service Award Gold (2022), Science Olympiad Nationals Team Silver (2021), AP Scholar with Distinction (idk), "Most Significant Victim of a Hot Glue Shortage" Paper Plate Award (2022), Gravelord Lych Elite Defeated in 07:37.55 (4/11/2023), Super Mario Odyssey Beaten in 1:27:06.69 (2021), 4200 in WordHunt (2023), Angry Birds Epic 100% Completion (2023), 6041 Max Trophies in Clash Royale (2022), \$1354300 score in Spelunky HD - #982 Worldwide (2022), 2nd Most Yelled at by Don Allen (2022-2023), Certified Goofy Goober (2020-2021, 2023)

Autobiography: My journey in physics started during my middle school years of Science Olympiad. When I was younger, I participated in competitions such as Mathcounts and AMC, but nothing science-related. At the end of my 7th grade year, I tried out for the Science Olympiad team at my school. As a rookie to the program, I wasn't sure which events I wanted to do, and ended up choosing a few physics-related events since they seemed interesting. Throughout the year I gained interest in the field by learning about mechanics in Machines, electricity and magnetism in Circuit Lab, and a bit of thermodynamics in Density Lab. I came to realize that physics had put to application one of my biggest strengths in rigorous math, as well as guided my intuition towards the world. As a few of my friends and I have joked, physics was just "math with pictures." Something about discovering the fundamental principles of the universe and how they fit together was extremely exciting, which led me to pursue this interest and take my first $F=ma$ exam. Needless to say, my lack of experience as a first-year student didn't earn me an ideal ranking, but it was a valuable experience.

I attended Troy High School in Fullerton, CA, for its extremely strong Science Olympiad program as well as the extensive math courses offered there. This was one of the best decisions I have ever made. For those who already know, Troy is extremely work-intensive, and anyone without decent time-management skills will struggle in this school. However, it was just the right difficulty for me to maintain my grades as well as have spare time to socialize and enjoy myself. I was able to build much more interest and improve my skills in physics.

Winning a silver medal in USAPhO in my sophomore year gave me a huge boost of confidence. In addition to that, I had become experienced in the spectacular world of calculus and was finally able to apply it to physics. Throughout the summer and my junior year, I promised myself to study physics as hard as I possibly could. I practiced almost every day, and over breaks I reviewed my entire set of materials over for hours each day. During preparation I learned a variety of new information about the field, which got me even more hooked on its intricacies. This became a positive feedback loop, as physics not only gave me something to do during my freetime so I don't feel unproductive, but it was also fun. Call me a nerd, but I genuinely enjoyed every moment of my studying, except maybe when I had to grind out stupidly tedious power rule integrals for conceptually simple problems.

After a confident run in this year's USAPhO exam, I was overjoyed to receive the invitation email to the national training camp. I am extremely excited to meet my fellow peers at camp and make some lifelong friends. I am also looking forward to meet the brilliant physicists who will be mentoring us through the week and a half of training. I would like to give thanks to my teachers: Mr. Mosig for fostering my interest in the subject and being an extremely wholesome guy, Dr. Chen for building me a strong foundation starting early on, and Dr. Tang for providing me extensive materials and problems to prepare for competitions. I can't wait to see everyone at camp!