

Blue Lobster Bowl 2018

[The Blue Lobster Bowl](#) is an annual academic competition run by the MIT Sea Grant College Program that encourages high school students to learn about the ocean. Each year, students from high schools throughout Massachusetts travel to MIT to compete and test their knowledge. Teams of high school students are quizzed on their knowledge of ocean science subjects including chemistry, biology, engineering, history, ecology, climate change, and weather, as part of a fun, national quiz bowl program.



The winning 2018 Blue Lobster Bowl high school team will represent Massachusetts in the National Finals Competition, April 19-22, 2018, in Boulder, Colorado, with all travel and accommodation expenses paid.

Preparations are underway for the Blue Lobster Bowl at MIT on **Saturday, March 3, 2018**, with Sunday 3/4/18 as the snow postponement competition day.

The Blue Lobster Bowl competition (which includes lunch, snacks, swag, and prizes) costs \$50* registration fee for each competing team.

**Financial need waivers will be available by application for A and B teams only.*

To apply to participate in this year's bowl, please complete a separate Team Intent Form for each one of your school's A, B, and/or C teams. One form per team must **be received by December 15, 2017**. Full registration fee payment (or application for a financial need waiver) is also required by 12/15/17. Please make checks payable to "MIT Sea Grant" and send payment and all forms to Ms. Diane Alicea, MIT Sea Grant, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, NW98-151, Cambridge, MA 02139.

Up to 24 student teams can compete in the Blue Lobster Bowl each year. If we have more teams than we can accommodate, we will accept one team (the "A Team") from every school that has applied. If sufficient space remains, we will then accept all secondary teams ("B Teams"), and then tertiary teams ("C Teams"). If we cannot accommodate all of the teams in a class (A, B, or C), we will determine competing schools from that class by the earliest intent forms received.

Team coaches will be notified of their respective teams' statuses (competing or waitlisted to compete in case there are cancellations) via email by December 21, 2017.

Complete online registration (on Eventbrite-new), as well as postmarked, original, completed student and coach consent/releases and medical forms, by coaches will be required by February 1, 2018. You may register up to seven students per team, but there can be no cross-team duplication. All registered students are welcome to attend the competition, but only the same 4-5 may compete throughout the competition. The full team (up to seven students) will receive lunch and swag and may compete in the **McDowell Science Challenge, an MIT-specific problem solving challenge** (90 minutes; for teams not competing in the single elimination tournament) with its own winning team, trophy, and prize.

We encourage waitlisted teams to register online and postmark their hardcopy medical and consent/release forms also by 2/1/18, and to plan to attend in case there are last-minute cancellations like we had in 2015, 2016, and 2017, when all waitlisted teams competed.

Teams that fail to fully register online by 2/1/18, or that submit incomplete and/or inaccurate student and coach consent and medical forms postmarked by 2/1/18, will not be allowed to compete in 2018. **NO DEADLINE EXTENSIONS** can be granted, and so we strongly encourage coaches to collect, carefully check for completeness, and enter all of this data and submit these forms early.

Coaches of teams who must cancel their participation should do so as soon as possible, and no later than February 1, 2018. If a coach cancels his/her team's participation (or does not complete the required online registration and provide all hardcopy forms by 2/1/18), the team's registration fee will be refunded in full. If a team cancels after 2/1/18, or fails to show up for the 3/3/18 competition, it will reduce other schools' teams opportunities to compete (against them) since it will be too late to recruit an additional team to compete in their place. No registration fees can be refunded after 2/1/18.

Coaches should direct their questions to 2018 Blue Lobster Bowl Regional Co-Coordinator Lori Tsuruda at Lori@pmd.org or (*82)1-781-963-0373.

TEAM INTENT FORM for Blue Lobster Bowl 2018

Must be RECEIVED BY 12/15/17 with \$50 Registration Fee or Financial Need Waiver

High School Name: _____

Complete High School Address: _____

Principal's Name _____

TEAM **A** **B** **C** (circle only one letter)

Each team must have a single, unique, designated coach. This coach must be a teacher or official from the team's school, a school designee, or an employee or official with an education or science program that is sponsoring a team. Coaches must be age 18 or older. No students can serve as coaches.

Coach First and Last Names: _____

Email Address(es): _____

Work Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Available for 3/4/18 Snow Postponement Competition Day? Yes No Unsure

Number of Years Coaching Experience: _____

Team Interest in Competing in McDowell Science Challenge: *Circle One* Low Average High

Team Swag Preference: *Pick One* T-Shirt *made w/recycled plastic* Reusable Stainless Steel Straw

As this team's coach, I agree to

_____ *initials* Comply with the official competition rules.

_____ *initials* Serve as the point of contact between my students and BLB staff.

_____ *initials* Collect all student data and forms, keep their contents confidential, and send these original hardcopies, postmarked 2/1/18 or earlier.

_____ *initials* Personally enter all required student data online, or cancel, by 2/1/18.

_____ *initials* Prohibit my team's students and their families from attending other regional bowls from 2/3/18 to 3/3/18.

_____ *initials* Check in and designate my team's 4-5 competitors at 9:30am on 3/3/18.

_____ *initials* Participate in the entire 3/3/18 competition day with my team, 9:30am-6pm.

Coach's Signature _____ Date _____

Principal's Signature _____ Date _____

**FINANCIAL NEED WAIVER APPLICATION – Must Be Received By
12/15/17 for Blue Lobster Bowl 2018**

High School Name: _____

Complete High School Address: _____

Principal's Name _____

____ % students in poverty/enrolled in federal free and reduced lunch programs

____ Year for which above percentage was calculated/reported

____ Optional: Other reason(s) for requesting waiver of \$50 team registration fee:

TEAM A B (one team for which you are requesting registration fee waiver(s))

Coach First and Last Names: _____

If my school receive a registration fee waiver, I agree that

____ *initials* The coach (listed above) will cancel my team's participation by 2/1/18
IF this team cannot compete on 3/3/18.

____ *initials* My school will pay a \$50 penalty fee to "People Making a Difference"
if the coach cancel's this team's participation AFTER 2/1/18 and/or
my school does not field a **viable team** (one pre-registered coach and 4-5
pre-registered students) **that participates in the entire competition on 3/3/18.**

Principal's Signature _____ Date _____

Principal's First & Last Names _____

Principal's Email Address _____