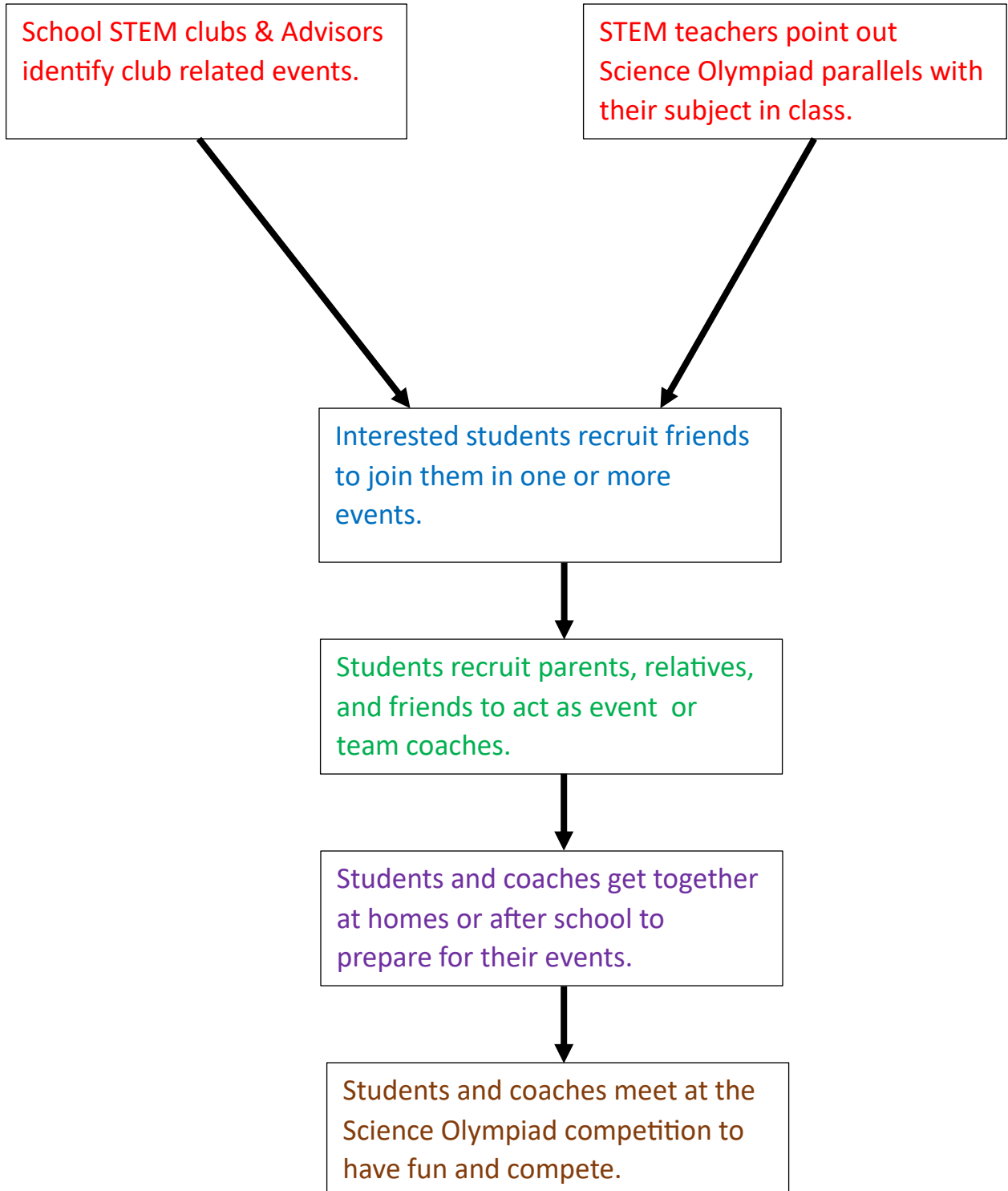


**Below, in graphical form is one way for preparing a Science Olympiad team
Each step is explained in more detail with the corresponding color paragraph.**



Recruiting Parents as Science Olympiad Coaches

While in some states the Science Olympiad is a school elective, here in Idaho it is primarily treated as an extracurricular activity. While parents do not expect the school PE teacher to coach their student's soccer team, parents should not expect the school's STEM teachers to coach the entirety of the Science Olympiad team. The school's STEM teachers, however, can provide guidance and sometimes lab resources as students prepare for the competition.

Once a teacher finds two or more interested students, they have the beginnings of a team. Recruiting a team is easy for a school since every STEM subject taught in school has related Science Olympiad events. During class, a teacher can point out the Science Olympiad events that directly parallel the subject being taught. Science, math, and ecology clubs can also rally around event choice and preparation.

Once a few interested students are identified, these students can then recruit friends to join them in one or more events. The opportunity to hang out with friends in the context of event preparation is a plus.

The interested students then recruit parents to act as event coaches for their events. Not only parents, but relatives and friends with an interest or background in a subject are potential coaches. Even people with no experience can quickly get up to speed by reading the rules and doing a little internet research.

Even a person with no science interest, but who has organizational ability can act as a team coach. From an armchair or tablet PC, a team coach can keep track of which students are competing in which events and enter the information onto the Idaho Science Olympiad website at www.idahoscioly.org. Using the website, the team coach can also create an individual schedule for each student on the team.

A Science Olympiad team can send a squad of two or three students into each of the Science Olympiad's 23 events (see event rules). Thus, a parent coach only needs to coach two or three students for an event. If the school has two teams, the number doubles to only four to six students. This small number is easier to manage at home than a basketball or soccer team that requires a gym or field.

See <https://www.soinc.org/join/start-team> . Also, the Idaho Science Olympiad board members are available to help Event or Team coaches to get started.
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