Your Complete Name: Shuoyan (Andy) Chen
Current Grade Level: Senior

Hobbies: Bladesmithing, Game Development, Looksmaxing

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, Club Penguin 🐧

Contest/Competition Experience or Honors: IPhO Silver (2023), USAPhO Silver (2022), USNCO Nationals Honors (2023), “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), 7207 Max Trophies in Clash Royale (2024), 28503 Max Trophies in Brawl Stars (2024), $1354300 score in Spelunky HD - #982 Worldwide (2022), 2nd Most Yelled at by Don Allen (2022-2023), Top 0.01% of Bruno Mars Listeners (2023), 2:47 Edging Streak (2024), 108-day Mewing Streak (2023-2024)

Autobiography: I was introduced to physics through Science Olympiad at my middle school. 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. 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 strengths in rigorous math, as well as guided my intuition towards the world. At the time physics seemed like “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. Though my lack of experience as a first-year student didn’t earn me an ideal ranking, it was a valuable experience.

After some years of practice, I recieved a silver medal in USAPhO in my sophomore year, which gave me a boost of confidence. In addition to that, I had gained experience in calculus and was able to apply it to physics. Throughout my junior year, I devoted most of my time to studying physics. During preparation I researched each field in-depth, which got me even more hooked. 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.

Last year I was extremely fortunate and thankful to have received an invite to camp, and during my time there I tried my best to take advantage of the training. It was a pleasant surprise when I was selected to compete with the travelling team at IPhO, which was the highlight of that summer. I had met many like-minded physicists and saw a lot of new places in Japan.

It is a pleasure to have been invited to the training camp once again this year. I am excited to see the people with whom I trained last year, as well as meet some new faces. I am also looking forward to seeing the coaches again and learn from their lectures. I would like to give thanks to my teachers: Mr. Mosig for maintaining my interest in the subject and being an absolute G, Dr. Chen for helping me build a strong foundation starting early on, Dr. Tang for providing me with extensive materials and problems to prepare for competitions, and finally Dr. Tengiz Bibilashvili and the camp coaches for their careful mentorship since last summer.