



ACS

Orange County



National Chemistry Week

- ◆ Since 1994, Chemistry and the Zoo have come together every year in Santa Ana, CA, to host our National Chemistry Week (NCW) program
- ◆ About twelve college groups set up a smorgasbord of stations for hands-on kids' chemistry experiments and demonstrations, ranging from Slime to watching (and eating!) liquid nitrogen ice cream
- ◆ The science show has an attendance of 250-300 people (definitely standing room only!)
- ◆ Check our website for more NCW fun photos: <https://ocacs.org>

High School & College Student Award Dinners

The Annual **High School Awards Banquet** is hosted by OCACS to honor the best performers in:

- ◆ The High School First Year Student Exam
- ◆ The Orange County Chemistry Olympiad
- ◆ The Orange County Science & Engineering Fair, and
- ◆ All their teachers

Parents/Guardians of the Award winners are invited to attend, and in some years there are as many as 300 attendees.

The **College Awards Dinner** is held every year to recognize the best final-year students at the approximately 15 universities and colleges in Orange County.



Chemistry Olympiad

Orange County students often score high enough in the Local and National Chemistry Olympiad exams to reach the Study Camp, and sometimes they go on to become a member of the team of four students who represent the USA at the International competition.



Congratulations to our recent **gold-medal winners** at the International Chemistry Olympiad: Edward Jin & Anton Ni (2018) and Nathan Ouyang (2022).

OCACS Activities

The ACS Orange County Section supports STEM in the community in many ways:

- ◆ The Orange County Science and Engineering Fair
- ◆ The California Science & Engineering Fair
- ◆ High School Teachers' Symposium
- ◆ Chemists Celebrate Earth Day
- ◆ Chemistry Poetry Contests
- ◆ Dinner Meetings
- ◆ Environmental Group Meetings
- ◆ The Charles R Bennett 'Service through Chemistry' Award
- ◆ The 'Teacher of the Year' Award
- ◆ OCACS Website : <https://ocacs.org>



ChemLuminary Awards

- 2020
- ◆ Global Engagement Award sponsored by the Committee on International Activities
- 2018
- ◆ Outstanding Continuing Public Relations Program sponsored by the Committee on Public Relations & Communications
- 2017
- ◆ Best Overall Local Section sponsored by the ACS National Minority Affairs Committee
 - ◆ Outstanding Regional Meeting sponsored by the ACS National Committee on Meetings & Expositions
 - ◆ Outstanding NCW Event for a Specific Audience sponsored by the ACS National Committee on Community Activities
- 2016
- ◆ Outstanding US National Chemistry Olympiad sponsored by the Society Committee on Education



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Recent Outreach by Younger Chemists

Virtual Chemistry Magic Night

A "magic" evening was conducted with graduate students and a professor leading middle-school and younger children in hands-on chemistry experiments. Kids' Science kits were purchased from a commercial supplier and distributed to a wide swath of children in at-risk communities in Santa Ana, CA.



In a webinar-style meeting over Zoom, approximately 75 families, including over 150 children, carried out the experiments in their own homes, following the directions given live by the grad students. The event was conducted simultaneously in English and Spanish, since the "home language" for many of these children is Spanish. The effort was supported by a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect (DEIR) Grant.

Chemistry at the Farmers Market

Led by the Orange County YCC, a group of graduate, undergraduate and high school students designed, organized and performed a live demonstration of chemistry experiments to a wide range of adults and children at the Orange Home Grown Farmers & Artisans Market. No entrance fee was charged, and being open to all members of the community, the event attracted people of all backgrounds and ages.



An estimated total of 200 people attended the two events. The program comprised 4 new demonstrations like Storm Clouds and Elephant Toothpaste, and one hands-on activity (slime) for K-8 children. The audience reported that it was the highlight of their visit to the Market that day.