

1145-G1-1995      **Courtney L Davis\*** ([courtney.davis2@pepperdine.edu](mailto:courtney.davis2@pepperdine.edu)). *A Beginner's Guide to Building a Science Modeling Club.*

I created our Science Modeling Club two years ago to provide a venue to introduce mathematical modeling beyond our curriculum. In weekly one-hour meetings, students work in teams to learn modeling ideas and techniques in hands-on ways while building toward COMAP's MCM and ICM contests. We had two teams compete in the COMAP contests in 2017, and six teams competed in 2018. From a beginner's perspective, I will discuss our evolving general strategies and lessons learned both in conducting the club and in preparing for these contests. This includes touching on club start-up, recruitment, how we find modeling questions, practice with mathematical software, team formation, contest planning, ongoing club involvement, and student feedback. I will describe some of the surprises as well as the most helpful takeaways so far, with a goal to lend insight to others in the early stages of launching contest-centered clubs or teams. (Received September 24, 2018)