



TEXAS ENVIROTHON

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ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WINS TEXAS ENVIROTHON

The Woodlands team to represent Texas at the North American Envirothon

Kerrville, TX, April 16, 2015—A five-member team of students from the Academy of Science & Technology is the winner of the 2015 Texas Envirothon—an environmental competition for high school students. Richardson High School took second place, and the John Cooper School placed third. Twenty teams from across Texas took part in this year's competition. The event was held April 11–13 at Schreiner University in Kerrville.

The winning team will travel to Springfield, Mo., to compete at the national competition. Students on the winning team are Michael Bohnet, Horatia Fang, Colton Nettleton, Eleanor Shaul, and Andie Tong. The team advisors are Linda Costanzo and Larry Walker.

Awards were given to the top scoring teams on the field exam by topic and for the top team in the oral presentation during a Monday afternoon ceremony at Schreiner University. The Academy of Science and Technology Team A took first place in Forestry and Soils. Richardson Team A took the top award for Aquatics and Wildlife. The Current Issue winner was Rio Hondo Ocelots. Science Academy of South Texas Team Maroon won first in Oral Presentation. Two special awards were also presented—Richardson Team B received the Extra Mile award and the Rookie Team award was presented to Clear Falls High School and St. John's School for earning the top field test score among first-time team participants.

Andrew Cortez, team advisor for Science Academy of South Texas, said his students enjoyed their first visit to the hill country and were ecstatic that they did well. “Envirothon has really influenced my students in so many ways,” Cortez said.

Twenty teams from 13 schools participated in the competition. Participating schools were Academy of Science and Technology, The Woodlands; Clear Falls High School, League City; The John Cooper School, The Woodlands; J Frank Dobie High School, Houston; Harmony School of Science, Sugarland; Hallsville High School, Hallsville; Richardson High School, Richardson; Rio Hondo High School, Rio Hondo; St John’s School, Houston; Science Academy of South Texas, Mercedes; South Grand Prairie High School, Grand Prairie; Thomas Jefferson T-STEM Early College High School, Pharr; and Williamson County 4-H, Georgetown.

Financial support for the event was provided by conservation districts and natural resource related agencies and businesses from across Texas. Gold level sponsors were Eastman and LyondellBasell. Bronze level sponsors were the Environmental Institute of Houston, Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, the Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation, NCF-Envirothon, Texas Association of Environmental Professionals, Texas Forestry Association and U.S. Forest Service. Other contributors to the event were San Antonio Water System, Texas Association for Environmental Education, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Harris County Soil & Water Conservation District, and Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District. Field trips were hosted by the Riverside Nature Center and the Kerrville Wildlife Management Area.



Academy of Science and Technology Team A takes top honors at the 2015 Texas Envirothon at Schreiner University in Kerrville. Pictured (l. to r.) are Colton Nettleton, Andie Tong, Eleanor Shaul, Michael Bohnet, Horatia Fang, and Dean Diana Comuzzie, Trull School of Sciences & Mathematics.

ABOUT ENVIROTHON

Envirothon is an academic, extra-curricular environmental and natural resource education program and competition designed for high school students. Teams composed of five students answer questions focusing on five areas of study: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and the current environmental issue. In addition to the field experience, students also participate in an oral component focusing on a real-world environmental problem.

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If you would like more information about the Texas Envirothon, please contact Wendy Reistle at 281-283-3045 or email at reistle@uhcl.edu.