

Conroe Academy of Science and Technology High School Wins First Place in 4th Annual Texas Envirothon

The Texas State Envirothon was held on April 18 and 19, 2004, at Bear Creek Park, in Houston. The Envirothon is an academic, extra-curricular environmental and natural resource education program and competition designed for high school students. Teams of five students work together to answer questions focusing on five areas of study (aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current environmental issue, which changes each year). In addition to the field experience, students also participate in an oral component focusing on a local environmental problem.

Nine teams participated in the fourth annual competition including:

Chapel Hill High School A (Mt. Pleasant)
Clear Lake High School (Houston)
John Cooper High School A (The Woodlands)
John Cooper High School B (The Woodlands)
Conroe Academy of Science and Technology
Chapel Hill High School B (Mt. Pleasant)
Magnolia High School
North Lamar High School (Paris)
Paschal High School (Ft. Worth)

The competition began on Sunday afternoon at Bear Creek Park where students participated in the field test. The teams of students rotated from station to station, answering questions relating to each topic. Questions involved deductive thinking combining knowledge from all five areas, using the appropriate field equipment, and a total team effort. Sunday evening the teams participated in the oral component of the competition. Students were presented with information focusing on urban resource management and were asked to develop a proposal addressing the rapid growth of the northwest portion of Harris County. Areas of consideration included: wildlife habitat, proper management of natural resources, and environmentally responsible behavior. The presentation also considered the impact on economic, environmental and societal issues such as water quality, air quality, quality of life, and transportation issues. Dr. George Guillen, Director of the Environmental Institute of Houston/University of Houston-Clear Lake, presented the

background information to the students. The students were then sequestered with supervision for four hours to work on their presentations. The presentations were given to a panel of judges on Monday morning.

Awards are given to the top scoring teams on the field/written exam, by topic, and for the top team in the oral presentations. The winners were:

Aquatics:	Chapel Hill High School B (Mt. Pleasant)
Forestry:	John Cooper High School- Team A (The Woodlands, TX)
Soils:	Conroe Academy of Science and Technology (Conroe, TX)
Wildlife:	Conroe Academy of Science and Technology (Conroe, TX) John Cooper High School - Team B (The Woodlands, TX)
Current Issue:	Conroe Academy of Science and Technology (Conroe, TX)
Oral Presentation:	John Cooper High School - Team B (The Woodlands, TX)

The overall results use composite scores and the winners were as follows:

1st Place - Conroe Academy of Science and Technology (Conroe, TX)

2nd Place - John Cooper High School - Team A (The Woodlands, TX)

3rd Place - John Cooper High School - Team B (The Woodlands, TX)

Conroe Academy of Science and Technology High School will represent Texas in the International Canon Envirothon, which will be in West Virginia, July 26–August 1, 2004.

Sponsors of the 2004 Texas Envirothon include Eastman Chemical Company, University of Houston-Clear Lake, the Environmental Institute of Houston, Canon USA, Harris County Soil and Water Conservation District, Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District, Texas Association for Environmental Education, Harris County Cooperative Extension, and Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. A special thank you goes out to over 30 volunteers representing state and local agencies along with other interested groups and individuals that donated their time on Sunday and Monday.

For more information about the Texas Envirothon, contact Wendy Reistle, Environmental Institute of Houston/UHCL, at (281) 283-3045 or visit www.TexasEnvirothon.org.