



Texas Envirothon
University of Houston-Clear Lake
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Academy of Science and Technology from The Woodlands wins the 2013 Texas Envirothon

Edinburg, Texas, April 11, 2013—Academy of Science and Technology Team A placed first at the Texas Envirothon which took place April 6–8, 2013, at the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, Texas. The John Cooper School Team A placed second, while Klein Collins High School took third place.

Students on the winning team—Allison Martin, Christine Chin, Natalie Sullivan, Manasi Joshi, and Kyle Dugan—will represent Texas at the North American Envirothon competition to be held in Bozeman, Mont., August 4–9, 2013. 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 the Echo Hotel and Conference Center in Edinburg. The winners were Academy of Science and Technology Team A in Aquatics and Oral Presentation, Academy of Science and Technology Team C in Current Issue, The John Cooper School Team A in Forestry and Wildlife, and Academy of Science and Technology Team B and The John Cooper School Team B tied for first place in Soils.

Thirteen teams from eight schools participated in the competition. Participating schools were Academy of Science and Technology (Teams A, B & C), The Woodlands; The John Cooper School (Teams A & B), The Woodlands; The Woodlands College Park High School, The Woodlands, Klein Collins High School, Spring; Richardson High School (Teams A & B), Richardson; South Grand Prairie High School, Grand Prairie; Harlingen South High School, Harlingen; and Rio Hondo High School (Teams A & B), Rio Hondo.

The fun began on Saturday afternoon with student training workshops offered by a variety of professionals. During the presentations, students received training in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and oral presentation skills.

Presenters included John Boyette and Salvador Alemany from the Texas A&M Forest Service, Dr. Hudson DeYoe and Dr. Frank Dirrigl from UTPA, Shanna Dunn and Clark Harshbarger from Natural Resources Conservation Service, Jennifer Owen-White of the Santa Ana National

Wildlife Refuge, Megan Clayton of AgriLife Extension Service, and Michelle Holyfield and Alex Stanton from Eastman Chemical Company.

The field competition began on Sunday morning at the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in Alamo, Texas. Sixty-three students as well as 10 team advisors participated in the field testing. Questions on the field test ranged from identifying animal skulls and aquatic invertebrates and taking tree measurements to describing soil textures and discussing the sustainable management of rangeland.

To help students prepare for Sunday evening's challenge, which was to develop a presentation addressing how to best manage a ranch on either side of the Rio Grande, Dr. Kathleen Garland, associate professor of environmental management at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, gave a presentation on the current issue topic—sustainable rangeland management.

On Sunday evening, the students were sequestered for three hours to work on their presentations. The presentations were delivered to a panel of four judges on Monday morning.

More than 45 volunteers contributed over 380 volunteer hours while undertaking a variety of jobs that included, monitoring the field stations, taking photographs, leading students to each station, grading the field tests and serving as judges for the oral presentations.

Sponsors of the 2013 Texas Envirothon were Eastman Chemical Company, Entergy Corporation, LyondellBasell, Environmental Institute of Houston, University of Houston-Clear Lake, University of Texas-Pan American, North American Envirothon, U.S. Forest Service, Environmental Education Association of New Mexico, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6, Texas Association of Environmental Professionals, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, Texas Association for Environmental Education, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Harris County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Montgomery County SWCD, Walker County SWCD, Bosque SWCD, Polk-San Jacinto SWCD, San Patricio SWCD, Coastal Plains SWCD, Coastal SWCD, and Bedias Creek SWCD.

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, which was sustainable rangeland management. In addition to the field experience, students also participate in an oral component focusing on a real-world environmental problem.



Academy of Science and Technology Team A takes top honors at the 2013 Texas Envirothon held at the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, Texas. Pictured (l. to r.) are Kyle Dugan, Natalie Sullivan, Christine Chin, Manasi Joshi, and Allison Martin.

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