



TEXAS ENVIROTHON

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SCIENCE ACADEMY OF SOUTH TEXAS WINS TEXAS ENVIROTHON

Valley team to represent Texas in Ontario, Canada

Houston, TX, April 6, 2016—A team of high school students from the Science Academy of South Texas captured the 2016 Texas Envirothon championship in Houston, Texas. The event took place April 2–4 at Sheldon Lake State Park, the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and Armand Bayou Nature Center. The Academy of Science and Technology took second place, and Clear Lake High School placed third.

“Envirothon is a great way for high school students to get hands-on experience and an introduction to potential natural resource careers,” said Wendy Reistle, program coordinator of the Texas Envirothon. “The competition also exposes students to real environmental issues that need to be addressed.”

The five-member team will travel to Ontario, Canada, to compete against teams from the other states and Canadian provinces for scholarships at the NCF Envirothon. Students on the winning team are Victoria Allen, Martha Garcia, Paola Granados, Vanessa M. Martinez, and Angel Perez. Andrew Cortez served as the team’s adviser.

Awards were given to the top scoring teams on the field exam by topic and for the top team in the oral presentation during an afternoon ceremony at UHCL. Clear Lake High School took the top spot in Aquatics, Wildlife, and Current Issue. Co-winners in Forestry were Science Academy of South Texas Team Maroon and Richardson Team A. Academy of Science and Technology Team Salamander placed first in Soils, and the Oral Presentation winner was Team Alpaca, also from AST. Sam Rayburn High

School Team 1 was recognized with the Rookie Team award for earning the top field test score among first-time team participants.

Twenty-two teams representing 15 Texas high schools participated in the three-day competition. Participating schools were Academy of Science and Technology, The Woodlands; Carroll Senior High School, Southlake; Clear Falls High School, League City; Clear Lake High School, Houston; Clear Springs High School, League City; East Central High School, San Antonio; J. Frank Dobie High School, Pasadena; Hallsville High School, Hallsville; Richardson High School, Richardson; Rio Hondo High School, Rio Hondo; St. John's School, Houston; Sam Rayburn High School, Pasadena; Science Academy of South Texas, Mercedes; Thomas Jefferson T-STEM Early College High School, Pharr; and The Woodlands College Park High School, The Woodlands.

Financial support for the event was provided by conservation districts and natural resource related agencies and businesses from across Texas. Gold sponsor was Eastman Chemical Company. Silver sponsor was Texas Association for Environmental Education. Bronze sponsors were LyondellBasell, University of Houston-Clear Lake, Environmental Institute of Houston, Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, NCF-Envirothon/U.S. Forest Service, and Texas Association of Environmental Professionals. Other contributors to the event were Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Harris County Soil & Water Conservation District, and Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District. The University of Houston-Clear Lake, Sheldon Lake State Park, and Armand Bayou Nature Center served as event hosts.



Science Academy of South Texas takes top honors at the Texas Envirothon on Monday, April 4, 2016, at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Members of Team Maroon are Angel Perez, Martha Garcia, Victoria Allen, Vanessa M. Martinez, and Paola Granados. The team will represent Texas at the NCF Envirothon.

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.