

Conroe Academy of Science and Technology High School Wins First Place in 3rd Annual Texas Envirothon

The Texas State Envirothon was held on April 6 and 7, 2003, at the University of Houston-Clear Lake and Armand Bayou Nature Center, 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.

Fourteen teams participated in the third annual competition including:

Chapel Hill High School (Mt. Pleasant)
Cy-Falls High School A (Houston)
Magnolia High School Environmental Science
John Cooper High School A (The Woodlands)
John Cooper High School B (The Woodlands)
Conroe Academy of Science and Technology A
Conroe Academy of Science and Technology B
Canadian High School (Canadian)
Cy-Falls High School B (Houston)
Magnolia High School Biology
North Lamar High School (Paris)
Meridian High School (Meridian)
Paschal High School (Ft. Worth)
Miami High School (Miami)

The competition began on Sunday afternoon at Armand Bayou Nature Center 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 loss of agricultural land and were asked to develop a comprehensive plan for the development of counties surrounding Harris County. Dr. Jim Lester, HARC, and Linda Shead, Trust for Public Land, presented 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:	Conroe Academy of Science and Technology -Team A (Conroe, TX)
Forestry:	North Lamar High School (Paris, TX) Meridian High School (Meridian, Texas)
Soils:	Conroe Academy of Science and Technology -Team B (Conroe, TX)
Wildlife:	North Lamar High School (Paris, TX) Meridian High School (Meridian, Texas)
Current Issue:	John Cooper High School- Team A (The Woodlands, TX) Conroe Academy of Science and Technology -Team B (Conroe, TX)
Oral Presentation:	Conroe Academy of Science and Technology - Team B (Conroe, TX)

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

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

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

3rd Place - Paschal High School (Ft. Worth, Texas)

Conroe Academy of Science and Technology High School will represent Texas in the International Canon Envirothon, which will be in Maryland, July 26–31, 2003.

Sponsors of the 2003 Texas Envirothon were: Eastman Chemical Company, Lyondell Chemical/Equistar Chemicals LP, Armand Bayou Nature Center, University of Houston-Clear Lake, the Environmental Institute of Houston, Canon USA, and Arthur Temple School of Forestry/Stephen F. Austin State University.

Once again, congratulations to all the teams and their members and a very special thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors. For more information about the Texas State Envirothon, contact Wendy Reistle or Brenda Weiser, Environmental Institute of Houston/UH Clear Lake, at (281) 283-3950.