



Arizona Envirothon

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News Release

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ARIZONA ENVIRONMENTAL TEAMS STRATEGIZE WATER REDUCTION, CONSERVATION TO SOLVE SHORTAGES

Arizona environmental science students proposed a series of water conservation strategies to preserve long-term water supplies for an Arizona community at the Arizona Envirothon Friday in the competition's first virtual contest. A team of students from Trivium Preparatory Academy in Goodyear won the statewide competition with a presentation focused on using various water-saving technologies in municipal, industrial and agricultural applications.

A team from Centennial High School in Peoria placed second and a second team from Trivium came in third.

Kelly Briggs coached winning team members Lindsey Bell, Amanda Murphy, Dallin Widowski, Dante Testini and Jingcheng Xu. They will represent Arizona this summer in the international NCF Envirothon, which will also be a virtual competition.

"Envirothon is an amazing competition that allows students to understand the interconnectedness of the world around them," said winning team captain Lindsey Bell. "Knowing its value, both new and returning Trivium Envirothon team members met and learned together throughout the year, navigating safety and hybrid learning challenges. This all paid off in the end, as all three of our teams were recognized at the awards ceremony!"

Trivium coach Kelly Briggs added, "'We can go the distance' seemed to be their theme for the year. These students were incredibly motivated to be part of a competition that promotes the environment, science and fun. These teams focused on water conservation, thinking outside of the box, especially with concepts on how to promote agriculture during times of drought. Much of their learning was inspired by the current water shortage with Lake Mead."

Ten five-member teams from six Arizona high schools competed from Phoenix (Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center, South Mountain campus), Peoria (Centennial HS), Goodyear (Trivium Prep Academy), Queen Creek (American Leadership Academy – Ironwood campus), San Tan Valley (Poston Butte High School) and Prescott (Tri-City College Prep).

Arizona Envirothon is usually a two-day contest conducted in a varied outdoor setting to measure students' knowledge, including field skills, in aquatic ecology, water quality, forestry and

wildlife management, soil science, land use and agriculture, then requires students to apply that knowledge to address a real-world but hypothetical ecological challenge. This year, the special theme was – “Water Resources Management: Local Control & Local Solutions.”

Arizona Envirothon Committee Chairman Rodney Held said, “When we had to move to a virtual format in order to even consider offering a competition in 2021, I was concerned about whether students and teachers would be interested and willing to participate, given all of the many challenges they have endured over the past year. I’m grateful to the teachers who accepted the challenge of coaching their teams under these difficult circumstances, but most of all, I’m truly inspired by how well the students worked together to prepare and compete at such a high level. It’s very rewarding to know that this program is fostering students’ desire to pursue schooling and careers in the natural resources sector.”

Held added that organizers, coaches and students are all hoping to return to in-person, hands-on competition at a site near Payson in 2022.

Award winners for ecostation field testing skills were:

Ecostation Awards:

Soils and Land Use

- First: Trivium Preparatory Academy (Team 1), Goodyear
- Second: Trivium Preparatory Academy (Team 3), Goodyear
- Third: Centennial High School (Team 2), Peoria

Aquatic Ecology

- First: Trivium Preparatory Academy (Team 1), Goodyear
- Second: Tri-City College Preparatory High School, Prescott
- Third: Trivium Preparatory Academy (Team 2), Goodyear

Wildlife

- First: Trivium Preparatory Academy (Team 1), Goodyear
- Second: tie – Centennial High School (Team 1) and Centennial High School (Team 2), Peoria
- Third: Trivium Preparatory Academy (Team 2), Goodyear

Forestry

- First: Trivium Preparatory Academy (Team 1), Goodyear
- Second: Centennial High School (Team 1), Peoria
- Third: tie --- Tri-City College Preparatory High School, Prescott, and AAEC South Mountain, Phoenix

Rookie Team of the Year:

American Leadership Academy – Ironwood Campus, Queen Creek

Note to Editors: **Contact information for team coaches of schools in your area may be available.**