



2017 West Virginia Envirothon winners announced

For Immediate Release
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WESTON, W.Va. -- A team of Hardy County high school students took first place at the West Virginia Envirothon, which was held at WVU Jackson's Mill Thursday and Friday.

Serving on the winning team were Jackson Vance, Seth Hoyt, Nick Martin, Sloan Williams and Connor Fahey.

Each member of the Moorefield Gold Team will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship and will go on to represent West Virginia in the National Conservation Foundation's 2017 North American Envirothon, which will be held July 23-29 in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

"Oh gosh it feels so great, but it's not about winning but just being in the contest. We are all seniors and we've been together since the beginning," Vance said.

"We started training in October and it means a whole lot of hard work has paid off," said Gretchen Cremann, the team's adviser.

Also placing in this year's competition were the Mineral County (2nd place), Ravenswood FFA (3rd place) and Doddridge County (4th place) teams.

Each year, the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts (WVACD) hosts the state's Envirothon competition, a conservation education program and competition for students in grades nine through 12. Envirothon focuses on five subject areas: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current environmental topic.

Students learn about West Virginia's diverse ecosystem and how they can help conserve and protect it for future generations. To date, Envirothon has awarded more than \$170,000 in college scholarships to West Virginia students.

“Envirothon is important in that it teaches participants how to address environmental issues outside of their classrooms. Along the way, participants develop an appreciation for our natural resources and see the need for conservation firsthand,” said Wayne McKeever, West Virginia Envirothon chairman.

Teams are made up of five students with one adult adviser or chaperone. Many have chosen a teacher. Teams can be created through school clubs, home school groups, classes, 4-H groups, Scout troops, etc. Once formed, teams must register for the upcoming West Virginia Envirothon, get their study materials and prepare for the competition. Teams are tested on their natural resource knowledge, skills and problem-solving abilities.

Twenty-six teams, consisting of about 150 students from around West Virginia, competed in this year’s Envirothon.

Among the West Virginia Envirothon’s sponsors are Dominion Foundation, the West Virginia Conservation Agency and the Weyerhaeuser Co.

Other award amounts are as follows:

2nd place: \$750 per student

3rd place: \$500 per student

4th place: \$350 per student