

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIR THON

www.maenvirothon.org

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Diane Baedeker Petit
413-253-4371, cell: 508-965-8417
diane.petit@ma.usda.gov

Winners of the 2008 Massachusetts Envirothon announced

LEOMINSTER, Mass. (May 17, 2008) -- Lexington High School has been announced as the overall winner of the 21st annual Massachusetts Envirothon, a statewide environmental education program and competition for high school students. As the overall winner, the Lexington team has been invited to go to Flagstaff, Arizona, July 27 to August 3, to compete in the International Canon Envirothon.

In this year's Massachusetts Envirothon, a field competition was held on May 6th and 7th at Hopkinton State Park, after which the top four teams went on to compete in the final competition held May 17th at the Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster. Winners have also been announced for each ecostation in the field competition, as well as for current issue presentations.

This year's current issue was "Outdoor Recreation and the Environment." In preparation, teams were asked to identify a key recreational issue or opportunity and make recommendations for how their community should address it.

At the outdoor field competition event, teams of five students rotated through four "eco-stations" where they demonstrated their environmental knowledge through hands-on activities such as soil analysis, plant identification, tree measuring and investigation of water insects. Each team also gave a presentation on their research into the year's designated current issue before a panel of judges that included environmental professionals from government agencies, non-profit organizations, academia and private industry.

1st through 4th Place Overall

First Place: Lexington High School
Second Place: Tantasqua Regional High School, Fiskdale
Third Place: Quabbin Regional High School, Barre
Fourth Place: Somerset High School

As second and third place winners, the Tantasqua Regional High School Team and Quabbin Regional High School Teams were each awarded a trip on the Schooner Thomas E. Lannon out of Gloucester, Massachusetts. The Somerset High School Team and Mohawk Trail Regional High School Team were each awarded eight passes to the New England Aquarium in Boston as fourth place and Rookie of the Year winners, respectively.

5th Through 10th Place Overall

Fifth Place: Bedford High School
Sixth Place: Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Shelburne Falls
Seventh Place: Barnstable High School, Hyannis
Eighth Place: Lawrence Academy, Groton
Ninth Place: Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
Tenth Place: South High Community School, Worcester

-- MORE --

Eco-Station 1: On the Beach

Eco-Station with a Water Emphasis

- First Place: Tantasqua Regional High School, Fiskdale
- Second Place: Lexington High School
- Third Place: Somerset High School
- Fourth Place: Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
- Fifth Place: Newton North High School

Eco-Station 2: On the Edge

Eco-Station with A Wildlife Emphasis

- First Place: Lexington High School
- Second Place: Hopkinton High School
- Third Place: Barnstable High School
- Fourth Place: Quabbin Regional High School, Barre
- Fifth Place: Tantasqua Regional High School

Eco-Station 3: In the Hill

Eco-Station with a Soils Emphasis

- First Place: Lexington High School
- Second Place (tie): Lawrence Academy, Groton and Monson Environmental Action Team
- Third Place: South High Community School, Worcester
- Fourth Place: Somerset High School
- Fifth Place: Minuteman Regional High School, Lexington

Eco-Station 4: In the Pine Grove

Eco-Station with a Forests Emphasis

- First Place: Lexington High School
- Second Place: Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Shelburne Falls
- Third Place: Tantasqua Regional High School
- Fourth Place (tie): Bedford High School and Quabbin Regional High School
- Fifth Place: Alternate Team Fuchsia, May 7 with Alternate team members from Lexington HS, Pembroke HS & Quabbin Regional HS

Outdoor Recreation and the Environment: Current Issue Presentation at the Field Competition

- First Place: Quabbin Regional High School
- Second Place: Taconic High School, Pittsfield
- Third Place: Tahanto Regional High School, Boylston
- Fourth Place: Doherty Memorial High School, Worcester
- Fifth Place (tie): Chelmsford High School and South High Community School, Worcester

Rookie of the Year: New Team with the Highest Score

Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Shelburne Falls

Prizes given for each of the ecostations and the current issue winner from the field competition include medals and resources for the schools such as a book or small equipment related to the ecostation topic.

-- MORE --

The following teams earned Community Research and Community Action Awards on May 6th and May 7th.

Community Research Awards

David Prouty High School, Spencer
Doherty High School, Worcester
Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School
Leicester High School
Monson Environmental Action Team
Quabbin Regional High School, Barre
South Hadley High School
Tahanto Regional High School, Boylston
Willow Hill School, Sudbury
Somerset High School
South High Community School, Worcester
Springfield Central High School
Taconic High School, Pittsfield

Community Action Awards

David Prouty High School, Spencer
Doherty High School, Worcester
Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School
Leicester High School
Monson Environmental Action Team
Quabbin Regional High School, Barre
South Hadley High School
Tahanto Regional High School, Boylston
Willow Hill School, Sudbury

For more information on the Massachusetts Envirothon visit www.maenvirothon.org.

###