



## TEXAS ENVIROTHON

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### RICHARDSON HIGH SCHOOL WINS TEXAS ENVIROTHON

North Texas team to represent the state in Pocatello, Idaho

April 19, 2018—A five-member team of high school students from Richardson, Texas, is the winner of the 2018 Texas Envirothon championship. The Academy of Science and Technology earned second place, and third place went to Clear Lake High School. The event took place April 14 through 16 in Houston.

“Envirothon is a way for students to get hands-on experience in environmental science,” said Wendy Reistle, program coordinator of the Texas Envirothon. “Preparation for the competition, as well as the competition itself, brings together natural resource professionals and students who may be interested in those careers.”

Students on the winning team are Hayley Smith, Olivia Brown, Patrick Mishler, Annalis Mach, and Caroline Cummings. The team will travel to Pocatello, Idaho, to compete against teams from the states and Canadian provinces for scholarships at the NCF-Envirothon. Tony Strohmeier and Alisa Salvans served as the team’s advisers.

Top scoring teams on the field exam by topic and in the oral presentation were recognized during an afternoon ceremony at the University of Houston–Clear Lake. Richardson High School’s Team Spartacus took the top spot in Aquatics and Oral Presentation. Forestry, Wildlife, and Current Issue went to the Academy of Science and Technology Roadrunners. The Science Academy of South Texas Team Maroon took first place in Soils.

Sixteen teams representing 10 Texas high schools participated in the three-day competition. Participating schools were Academy of Science and Technology, The Woodlands; Klein Collins High School, Spring; Clear Lake High School, Houston; Clear Springs High School, League City; East Central High School, San Antonio; Richardson High School, Richardson; Rio Hondo High School, Rio Hondo; Science Academy of South Texas, Mercedes; St. John’s School, Houston; The Woodlands 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 for the event was Eastman Chemical Company. Silver sponsors were LyondellBasell and Engie North America. Bronze sponsors included Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District, NCF-Envirothon/U.S. Forest Service, Texas Association of Environmental Professionals, and Texas Forestry Association Education Fund. Other contributors to the event were the Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation District, Harris County Soil & Water Conservation District, Native American Seed, and the Texas Association for Environmental Education. The University of Houston, San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, and University of Houston-Clear Lake hosted the event.



**Richardson High School takes top honors at the Texas Envirothon on Monday, April 16, 2018, at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Pictured (l. to r.) are Kathleen Garland, UHCL, Hayley Smith, Patrick Mishler, Olivia Brown, Caroline Cummings, Annalis Mach, and Mark Kramer, Armand Bayou Nature Center. The team will represent Texas at the NCF-Envirothon in July.**

#### 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](mailto:reistle@uhcl.edu).