



Arizona Envirothon
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News Release

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Environmental Scholars Design Forest Management for Climate-Changed Mogollon Rim

- Match Skills in Arizona Envirothon Competition -

Arizona high schoolers demonstrated their mastery of environmental principles and problem solving at the 2025 Arizona Envirothon competition. A team from Basis Tucson North took top honors. Red Mountain High School (Mesa) and Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center – Paradise Valley earned silver and bronze.

Fifteen Arizona high school teams met at Tonto Creek Camp (Tontozona) on Friday to test their field skills in aquatic ecology, water quality, forestry and wildlife management, soil science, land use and agriculture. On Saturday, teams presented to judges their recommended strategies for forest management along the Mogollon Rim considering climate change driven temperature increases and changing precipitation patterns. Students studied the values of forest products and ecosystems to Native Americans and suggested ways to learn from indigenous forest management, and to bring tribal involvement into landscape-level forest management.

The top students' recommendations considered diverse aspects of forest management, from microbial soil health and changing plant and wildlife communities to socioeconomics and legislative needs for addressing sustainable forest management. They identified future desirable forests types and conditions, and appropriate thinning and controlled burns to achieve healthy forests and local natural resource based economies.

The Basis Tucson North champions will represent Arizona at the international NCF Envirothon, at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta, Canada in July 20 - 26. Team members include Celine Liu, Jimmy Kwon, Eddie Tsai, Sabine Barbour, Andrew Wu, and Coach John-Paul Mann.

Five-member teams from ten high schools competed for honors and prizes. Schools from throughout the state included **Phoenix** (Bioscience HS, Ariz Agribusiness and Equine Center, Paradise Valley and South Mountain campuses), **Mesa** (Red Mountain HS), **Avondale** (Agua Fria HS), **Peoria** (Centennial HS), **Queen Creek** (American Leadership Academy - Ironwood), **Tucson** (Basis Tucson North), **Vail** (Mica Mountain HS), and **Prescott** (Tri-City College Prep).

Award winners for field testing skills were:

Ecostation Awards:

Soils and Land Use

First: Basis Tucson North

Second: Mica Mountain and AAEC Paradise Valley (tie)

Third: Red Mountain High School

Aquatic Ecology

First: Agua Fria High School

Second: Basis Tucson North

Third: Red Mountain

Wildlife

First: Mica Mountain

Second: AAEC Paradise Valley and Red Mountain (tie)

Third: Basis Tucson North

Forestry

First: AAEC Paradise Valley

Second: Red Mountain High School

Third: Basis Tucson North

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Note to editors:

Contact information for Arizona Envirothon **teams in your area** and photo support are available by contacting Jeff Humphrey (520) 491-9212.



2025 Arizona Envirothon winning team Basis Tucson North will represent Arizona at the international NCF Envirothon, at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta, Canada in July 20 - 26. (Left-to-right) Celine Liu, Andrew Wu, Eddie Tsai, Coach John-Paul Mann, Jimmy Kwon and Sabine Barbour.