



Arizona Envirothon
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News Release

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High School Environmental Scholars Explore Renewable Energy Potential for Payson

- Match Skills in Arizona Envirothon Competition -

Arizona high schoolers demonstrated their mastery of environmental principles and problem solving at the 2024 Arizona Envirothon competition. A team from Basis Tucson North took top honors. Centennial High School (Peoria) and Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center Paradise Valley tied for silver/bronze.

Thirteen Arizona high school teams met along the Mogollon Rim's Christopher Creek at R-C Scout Camp 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 sustainable energy plans for the Town of Payson.

The students' energy recommendations (the 2024 theme of "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future") included familiar renewable sources – solar, wind and hydroelectric. However, due to Payson's location and topography and surrounding forests at elevated fire risk, teams considered combined forest management and harvest to include biomass power generation. The teams' renewable power portfolios for Payson took into account the existing powerline infrastructure, feasibility of increased electricity storage and the environmental effects in the natural resources driven local economy.

The Basis Tucson North champions will represent Arizona at the international NCF Envirothon, at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York July 28 – August 3. Team members include Juliette Duncan, Celine Liu, Jimmy Kwon, Sydney Aune and June Poirier, 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** (Micah 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: Red Mountain HS

Third: AAEC Paradise Valley, and Centennial High School (Tie)

Aquatic Ecology

First: Basis Tucson North

Second: AAEC Paradise Valley

Third: Centennial High School, and Red Mountain, Mesa (Tie)

Wildlife

First: Basis Tucson North

Second: Centennial High School

Third: Centennial High School , and Red Mountain, Mesa (Tie)

Forestry

First: AAEC Paradise Valley

Second Basis Tucson North

Third: Red Mountain High School, Mesa

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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.



Arizona Envirothon Official Results

Aquatic Ecology Ecostation

1st Place: Team 4 – Basis Tucson North

2nd Place: Team 8 – AAEC Paradise Valley

3rd Place (tie): Team 1 – Centennial HS & Team 5 – Red Mountain HS

Forestry Ecostation

1st Place: Team 8 – AAEC Paradise Valley

2nd Place: Team 4 – Basis Tucson North

3rd Place: Team 5 – Red Mountain HS

Soils and Land Use Ecostation

1st Place: Team 4 – Basis Tucson North

2nd Place: Team 5 – Red Mountain HS

3rd Place (tie): Team 1 – Centennial HS & Team 8 – AAEC Paradise Valley

Wildlife Ecostation

1st Place: Team 4 – Basis Tucson North

2nd Place: Team 1 – Centennial HS

3rd Place (tie): Team 3 – Centennial HS & Team 5 – Red Mountain HS

Rookie Team of the Year

Team 5 – Red Mountain High School

Spirit of Envirothon

Christine Brehm

Top Three Overall Placement

1st Place: Team 4 – Basis Tucson North

2nd Place (tie): Team 1 – Centennial HS

2nd Place (tie): Team 8 – AAEC Paradise Valley