



**Arizona Envirothon**  
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## **Revised<sup>1</sup> News Release**

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### **HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS TAKE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AT ARIZONA ENVIROTHON COMPETITION**

Arizona high schoolers demonstrated their mastery of environmental principles and problem solving at the 2023 Arizona Envirothon competition. A team from Centennial High School (Peoria) took top honors. Trivium Prep Academy (Goodyear) and Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center - Paradise Valley captured silver and bronze.

Fourteen Arizona high school teams met in the pines at Prescott's Highlands Center for Natural History on Friday to test their field skills in aquatic ecology, water quality, forestry and wildlife management, soil science, land use and agriculture. Teams then applied their expertise to address a real-world challenge for this year's theme: Adapting to Climate Change.

The top three teams presented to their peers and a panel of judges, their local Climate Change Action Plans, addressing forest and watershed management responses to our changing climate, as well as city planning to mitigate heat island effects, particularly to their cities' most vulnerable residents (social justice), and adaptations for agricultural producers.

Student competitors recognize that adapting to climate change will be life-long and generational. Centennial team member Brooke Ojeda told judges that they "are not looking for a single entity to do major lifting, but a lot of people making small changes." Those changes include planting urban forests, installing lighter colored roofs and surfaces, and improving tax and utility incentives to aide in transitioning from current power sources to electric and batteries as efficiencies emerge.

The Centennial High School champions will be sent to Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada, in July to represent Arizona at the international NCF Envirothon, competing for scholarships and prizes. The Canada-bound team includes captain Katherine Miskimen, Jack Nitschke, Brooke Ojeda, Sophie Nguyen, Tayla Martin, and coaches Shelly Petersen and Jeff Jacobs.

Five-member teams from nine high schools competed for honors and prizes. Schools from throughout the state included Phoenix (Ariz Agribusiness and Equine Center, Paradise Valley and South Mountain), Buckeye (Youngker HS), Peoria (Centennial HS), Goodyear (Trivium

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<sup>1</sup> On April 21, 2023, Arizona Envirothon incorrectly awarded first place to Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center - Paradise Valley. A review of the scoring calculation revealed that Centennial High School is the 2023 winner and will represent Arizona at the NCF Envirothon. We apologize for the confusion and AAEC disappointment, and are amending our scoring protocols to guarantee accurate scoring in the future.

Prep Academy), Florence (Poston Butte HS), Vail/Tucson (Micah Mountain HS and Basis Tucson North), and Prescott (Tri-City College Prep).

Award winners for field testing skills were:

**Ecostation Awards:**

*Soils and Land Use*

- First: Centennial High School (Team 1), Peoria
- Second: Basis Tucson North, Tucson
- Third: AAEC Paradise Valley (Team 9), Phoenix

*Aquatic Ecology*

- First: AAEC Paradise Valley (Team 8), Phoenix
- Second: Micah Mountain High School, Tucson/Vail
- Third: Centennial High School (Team 11), Peoria

*Wildlife*

- First: Trivium Preparatory Academy, Goodyear
- Second: AAEC Paradise Valley (Team 8), Phoenix
- Third: Centennial High School (Team 1), Peoria

*Forestry*

- First: Basis Tucson North, Tucson
- Second: Centennial High School (Team 1), Peoria
- Third: Trivium Preparatory Academy, Goodyear

**Rookie Team of the Year:**

Basis Tucson North, Tucson

**Spirit of Envirothon:**

Trivium Preparatory Academy, Goodyear

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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.

