



Contact:
Kathy Dougan
Public Relations Director
Mississippi Soil & Water
Conservation Commission
601-354-7645, ext. 317
kdougan@mwscc.ms.gov

For Immediate Release

Oxford High School Envirothon Team places sixth at NCF-Envirothon International Competition

EMMITSBURG, MD -- Oxford High School placed sixth overall out of 54 teams at the 2017 NCF-Envirothon international competition on Friday, July 28, at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This year, high schools from 45 states, seven Canadian provinces and two Chinese provinces participated in the NCF-Envirothon at the state/provincial, regional and international levels.

The Oxford team placed first in the State Envirothon Competition in order to progress to the international competition.

"The team did very well at the international competition; they represented Mississippi well," said Chelsey Gazaway, Education Specialist Sr. at Mississippi Soil & Water Conservation Commission, adding, "In the Soils category, Oxford came in second place, which is very good."

Out of a possible total of 700 points, only 40 points separated the Oxford team from the first-place team from Pennsylvania, according to Clay Burns, Envirothon Coordinator and Branch Director II for Mississippi Soil & Water Conservation Commission. Burns and Gazaway traveled with the Oxford team to the competition.

"It has been an honor and pleasure to work with these amazing young, female conservationists," said Team Advisor Angela Whaley, adding, "Seeing their faces when they announced that Mississippi had placed sixth made all of the long hours, ticks and chiggers well worth it. I could not be prouder!"

The Envirothon competition started in 1979 in Pennsylvania. Mississippi first joined the competition in 1998, placing second at the NCF-Envirothon in 2001.

Mississippi Envirothon, a program of the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts, is a hands-on natural resource competition designed to challenge students in grades 9 through 12 to explore the natural world around them.

The 2017 Area and State competitions included more than 50 student teams with more than 300 students in the competition, and 81 teacher/advisors on-site who worked with teams to prepare for Mississippi Envirothon.

The Mississippi Envirothon is funded by a grant from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

PHOTO ATTACHED

PHOTO: (left to right) Siena Cizdziel, Joanna Bu, Raina Woolworth, Sadie Pasco-Pranger and Calendula Cheng. Photo by Chelsey Gazaway.