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LOCAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE COMPETITION

Discovery High School recently won first place overall for high school teams, and Newton-Conover High School came in sixth place overall in this year's regional Envirothon event held in Wilkes County. Teams from Grandview Middle School in Hickory and Newton-Conover Middle School in Conover participated.



Discovery High School first place team includes (left to right): Patrick McPherson, Thomas Colton, Grace Little, Annamarie Eustice, and Jillian Whitener.

Envirothon is the most widely recognized hands-on environmental education program in the nation. Middle and high school students immerse themselves in a year-long learning process that combines in-class curriculum with hands-on field experiences facilitated by resource professionals such as soil scientists, foresters and wildlife specialists. This intense training culminates in a competition where teams are tested in five subject areas: Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and a current environmental issue. Scores determine winning placements.

Over 60 teams participated, with over 300 students in a 13 county area. Students competed in five-member teams at the event, vying for the opportunity to go to the state competition, as well as cash awards and trophies. The top seven middle school teams and the top seven high school teams advance to the state competition on April 24-25 at Cedarock Park in Alamance County. The winning high school team from the state level advances to the national competition with an all-expense paid trip.



Newton-Conover High School team, which will compete at the State Envirothon, includes Kaylah Bailey-Collier, Andrew Gaither, Jonathan Styers, Audrey Vang, and Vanessa Vang

“Envirothon students often become serious stewards of our natural resources and advocates for a healthy planet” said John Peeler, North Carolina’s Envirothon Committee Chair. “What bigger legacy can we leave?”

Locally, the Envirothon competition is coordinated by soil and water conservation districts and sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

For more information on how to participate in local, regional and state Envirothons, please visit <http://www.ncenvirothon.org> or contact your local soil and water conservation district at 828-465-8950.

For more information on how to you can participate, please visit <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/SoilWater/> or call 828-465-8950.