



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District

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Students Participate In Environmental Science Competition

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County students representing Seventy-First Classical Middle School and Cape Fear High School competed in the Soil and Water Area VII Envirothon held recently at Raven Rock State Park in Harnett County.

The Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors teams from schools in the county at Envirothon every year. The top seven middle school teams and the top seven high school teams are eligible to advance to 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 to the National Envirothon at Missouri State University July 27-Aug. 2. The winners are listed below by category:

Middle School

1st Place – “Knights” of Seventy-First Classical Middle School: Rahul Viswanath, Andres Hui, Kishan Raval and Nathaniel Dyer. Advisor: Sylvia Beckham

High School

3rd Place – “Odd Balls” of Cape Fear High School FFA: Kevin Dunning, Brenden Bolio, Taylor Blauser, Gavin Williams and Cameron Adams. Advisor: Frankie Farbotko

5th Place – “Fire Balls” of Cape Fear High School FFA: Sidney Grnowski, Kenny Pierpoint, Michael Forte, Mary Hannah Raynor, and Paige Long. Advisor: Frankie Farbotko

The 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. 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.

“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?”

Soil and Water Area VII includes the districts of Cumberland, Bladen, Columbus, Harnett, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson Sampson and Scotland counties. Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District is located in the Agriculture Center of the Charlie Rose Agri-Expo Center, 301 E. Mountain Dr. For more information, call 910-484-8479 option 3 or go to http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/soil_water/.



The Seventy-First Classical Middle School “Knights” won first place in the Area VII Soil and Water District Area VII Envirothon. From left are: Rahul Viswanath, Andres Hui, Kishan Raval and Nathaniel Dyer.



The Cape Fear High School FFA “Odd Balls” won third place in the Area VII Soil and Water District Area VII Envirothon. From left are: Kevin Dunning, Brenden Bolio, Taylor Blausler, Gavin Williams and Cameron Adams.



The Cape Fear High School FFA “Fire Balls” won fifth place in the Area VII Soil and Water District Area VII Envirothon. From left, are Sidney Grnowski, Kenny Pierpoint, Michael Forte, Mary Hannah Raynor and Paige Long.