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Sidney High School Takes Top Honors at Western Region Envirothon Contest

Gordon Nebraska – A team from Sidney High School will represent the Panhandle for the Nebraska Envirothon Contest near Nebraska City at the Lied Lodge on Wednesday, April 27, 2016. The first place team comprised of Logan Uhlir, Ryan Birner, Brenner Keane, Hannah Rapp, and Spencer Ellwanger earned the state berth with a score of 115 on Wednesday, February 10 at the contest held in Gordon. Forty-three students competed in the split regional contest. Schools represented included Sidney, Gordon-Rushville, Creek Valley, Banner County, Garden County and Chadron.

On the way to the Western Region title, the top overall placing Sidney team tied with Chadron (Team 1) for the highest score on the Soils test. Second place overall in the Western Region was clinched by Chadron (Team 1) competitors Murphy Churchill, Toni Doescher, Brooke Roes, Sean O’Brien and Clay Madsen.

The Envirothon is open to all 9-12th grade students and encourages high school students to learn more about the natural environment. The contest challenges students’ knowledge on aquatics, forestry, wildlife, range, soils, land use and natural resource policy or issues and one special topic of national interest. Up to five-member teams compete in a setting where they learn that cooperation is needed to achieve success.

Each year several regional Envirothon contests are held across Nebraska by Nebraska’s Natural Resources Districts. The Western Region contest is coordinated by the South Platte, North Platte and Upper Niobrara White NRDs and the Gordon contest was held at Gordon City Hall in conjunction with a regional Future Farmers of America (FFA) Agriculture Mechanics contest.

The winning team from each regional competition is invited to represent their region at the Nebraska State Envirothon Competition. An additional eight wildcard teams with the highest scores are also invited. The state champion then goes on to represent Nebraska at the National Envirothon contest which will be in Ontario, Canada July 27 through August 1, 2016. Members of the top ten teams from that event will be awarded National Scholarships that can be used toward a four year university, two year college or trade school.

Overall Team Champion Sidney

Sidney High School won the Western Region Envirothon title to qualify for the Nebraska Envirothon on April 27. They posted the highest score on the Range and Aquatics portions, plus tied with Chadron High (Team 1) recording the highest score on the Soils test. Team members are, from left, Brenner Keane, Spencer Ellwanger, Logan Uhlir, Hannah Rapp and Ryan Birner.

Team Chadron – Special Topic, Forestry and Soils (tie)

Chadron High School’s (Team 1) tied for the highest score in Soils section with Sidney and posted the highest scores in Special Topic (Invasive Species) and Forestry. Chadron (Team 2) members pictured left to right: Sean O’Brien, Murphy Churchill, Toni Doescher, Brooke Roes and Clay Madsen.

