

News from the Savannah River Site

U.S. Department of Energy • Aiken • SC • 29808

Primary Media Contact: Mackenzie McNabb
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
(839) 746-1214, mackenzie.mcnabb@srs.gov

DOE Media Contact: Julie Petersen
U.S. Department of Energy
(803) 952-7690, julie.petersen@srs.gov

For Immediate Release

SRS-sponsored team advances to DOE's National Science Bowl

Challenging America's brightest in one of the most prestigious academic science competitions

AIKEN, S.C. (March 12, 2024) – Future scientists, engineers, and mathematicians recently put their knowledge to the test during the annual U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Savannah River Regional Science Bowl® Competition, which attracted nine teams from South Carolina and the greater Augusta, Georgia, area.

Lakeside High School-Team 1 of Evans, Georgia, won an all-expense paid trip to DOE's [National Science Bowl](#)® competition in Washington, D.C., which will take place April 25-29. Lakeside High School- Team 2 placed second and Dorman High School placed third.



This year's winners, Lakeside High School-Team 1 from Evans, Georgia, earned an all-expense paid trip to the national U.S. Department of Energy Science Bowl in Washington, D.C., which takes place April 25-29. Coach John Cato, Jerry Fan, Iziq Thomas, Jerry Lu, George Zhou, David Wang and Coach David Arrington.

"Students arrived feeling excited and ready to show off their brilliant skills," said Cindy Hewitt, Education Outreach Specialist for Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, the Site's managing and

operating contractor. “Competing teams work incredibly hard studying, practicing and strategizing each year to win this regional competition and continue on to D.C.”

Teams faced-off in a fast-paced question-and-answer format similar to the television show “Jeopardy.” Questions cover a range of academic disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, energy and math.

“It’s inspiring to witness the level of intelligence that is displayed in each round of the competition,” continued Hewitt. “It is the ultimate test of the students’ ability to perform well under pressure.”

Each team consists of five students and a teacher who serves as a coach. After winning the 2023 regional competition, two coaches from Lakeside High School, David Arrington and John Cato, said their teams were thrilled for the chance to protect their winning title.

“Our students are proud to blaze a trail for others interested in science, engineering and math,” said Arrington. “This team has grown and evolved since middle school and enjoys every minute of competing together and showing what they are capable of.”

“This competition teaches students how to make mistakes and bounce back by rallying together,” said Cato. “As we gear up for nationals, I hope my team can look back on this experience and see the friendship and support they’ve gained from the extra hours and effort put into this program.”

SRS is one of only three DOE sites to participate annually at the regional level since DOE created the National Science Bowl in 1991. This year’s regional contest involved 64 students from nine high schools and is the only academic competition of its kind.



Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School team members Amari Robinson, Caroline Moon, Elizabeth Xie, and Hanyu Zhou test their buzzers before a round. Behind the table, sits teammate Adetutu Adeyemi and Coach Jillian Harold.

“Our performance was a testimony of the work we’ve put in all year to build our team from scratch,” said Amari Robinson, an 11th grade student from Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School. “We went from practicing in a controlled and calm environment to a high-pressure competition that required us to ‘buzz in’ within seconds – it was the most nerve-racking and rewarding experience.”

Volunteers from multiple Site contractors work as judges, scorekeepers, moderators and timekeepers during the regional tournament each year.

“For over 10 years, I’ve volunteered and supported this competition as a moderator,” said Connie Yung, Engineering Recruiter for Savannah River Mission Completion. “I hope I can inspire at least one student here to pursue a career in STEM just like they inspire me with their energy and intensity. Witnessing students less than half my age answer some of these difficult questions is what brings me back, year after year.”



Savannah River Mission Completion Engineering Recruiter Connie Yung, right, shares the rules of the competition before a match.

To reach the DOE National Science Bowl, teams from across the U.S. must win one of 65 regional tournaments. Approximately 344,000 students have faced off in the National Science Bowl® finals. This year’s national competition will be held April 25-29, in Washington, D.C.

Participating Schools

Aiken High School	Aiken	South Carolina
Augusta Preparatory Day School	Martinez	Georgia
A.R. Johnson Magnet School	Augusta	Georgia
Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School	Augusta	Georgia
Dorman High School	Roebuck	South Carolina
Dutch Fork High School	Irmo	South Carolina
Lakeside High School	Evans	Georgia
Lowcountry Preparatory School	Pawleys Island	South Carolina
South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics	Hartsville	South Carolina

(Each school may enter multiple teams)

The primary goals of SRS outreach programs are to enhance students' interest in science, technology, engineering and math. These programs use unique Site resources to support improvements in Central Savannah River Area education.

Click [here](#) for more information about the DOE Savannah River Regional Science Bowl.

SRNS-2024-1419