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For Immediate Release**DOE Savannah River Regional Science Bowl: 'Buzzing' in for the win***Challenging America's brightest in one of the most prestigious academic science competitions*

AIKEN, S.C. (March 3, 2025) – 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 at the University of South Carolina Aiken. Coordinated by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) [Education Outreach Program](#), the event attracted 14 teams from South Carolina and the greater Augusta, Georgia, area on Feb. 22.



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. From left: David Wang, Matias Riveros-Amado, Jerry Fan, George Zhou, Arnav Patel and Coach David Arrington.

"Sponsoring STEM events like the Science Bowl is crucial for DOE and SRNS because it brings awareness and exposure to students," said Cindy Hewitt, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist. "They see how math and science impact the world around them and learn about career opportunities at SRS."

Lakeside High School Team 1 of Evans, Georgia, emerged victorious, earning an all-expense-paid trip to DOE's [National Science Bowl®](#) competition in Washington, D.C., scheduled for April 24-28. Lakeside High School Team 2 secured second place, while Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School claimed third.

Dr. David Arrington, Coach, Lakeside High School, explained that the school holds tryouts and practices year-round in preparation for this event.



Davidson Magnet Team 2 and Aiken Scholars Academy prepare for practice rounds.

"My students have grown tremendously, both independently and as a team. Science Bowl brings a competitive edge to science education, encouraging a deeper love for the subject," said Arrington. "Coaching builds relationships that extend far beyond the classroom, and we will continue to compete each year."

Jerry Fan, a senior on Lakeside High School Team 1, reflected on their journey, saying, "We've worked hard for this moment, and it feels fantastic. I started participating in Science Bowl back in seventh grade, and my interest has only grown, particularly in biology and physics. We're ready to take home the trophy at nationals."

Each team, comprised of five students and one coach, compete in a fast-paced question-and-answer format similar to the television show "Jeopardy!" The questions span across various academic disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth science, space science, physics, energy and math.

"The intense moments, like answering the final question in the last seconds, are unforgettable," said Coralyn Cairns, senior captain of Lakeside High School Team 2. "The key moments of communication and teamwork, especially in tight situations, have brought me back each year."

According to Hewitt, the tournament style competition continues even for teams that don't advance in the double-elimination rounds. "The [American Chemical Society](#) hosts brain teaser activities, providing engaging and educational experiences for all participants," she said.

Silver Bluff High School participated for the first time this year.



Augusta Preparatory Day School from Augusta, Georgia, prepares for the brain tester activity with the American Chemical Society.

"I'm extremely proud of our teams' dedication and commitment. Despite their busy schedules, they never missed a practice," said Silver Bluff coach Rachel Harrell. "It's thrilling to see their hard work pay off. We're a small school, but our students' enthusiasm and teamwork have led us to win a round today, which not all teams had the opportunity to achieve."

"Starting this competition at our school has been a rewarding experience. We're excited about our potential for next year and look forward to expanding our team," said Jacky Li, an 11th grader at Silver Bluff High School.

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 63 students from 10 high schools and is the only academic competition of its kind.



Lakeside High School Team 1 and Lakeside High School Team 2 face-off in the final round of the DOE Savannah River Regional Science Bowl competition.

Volunteers from multiple site contractors, including judges, scorekeepers, moderators, and timekeepers, made the regional tournament possible.

"I love watching competitors be so enthusiastic about STEM," said Greyam Hayes, SRNS Design Authority Engineer. "You see their confidence grow with each 'buzz' in. Other site employees should get involved because now, more than ever, we must advocate for education and proudly share our passion for our careers."

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.

For more information about the DOE Savannah River Science Bowl, click [here](#).

Participating Schools

Aiken Scholars Academy	Aiken	South Carolina
Augusta Preparatory Day School	Martinez	Georgia
A.R. Johnson Magnet School	Augusta	Georgia
Chapin High School	Chapin	South Carolina
Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School	Augusta	Georgia
Dorman High School	Roebuck	South Carolina
Greenbrier High School	Evans	Georgia
Lakeside High School	Evans	Georgia
Lowcountry Preparatory School	Pawleys Island	South Carolina
Silver Bluff High School	Aiken	South Carolina

(Each school may enter multiple teams)

Established by Congress in 2000, NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear science. NNSA maintains and enhances the safety, security, and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile; works to reduce the global danger from weapons of mass destruction; provides the U.S. Navy with safe and militarily effective nuclear propulsion; and responds to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the U.S. and abroad.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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