

News from the Savannah River Site

U S D E P A R T M E N T O F E N E R G Y • A I K E N • S C 2 9 8 0 8

Principal Media Contact: DT Townsend
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
803.952.7566
dt-lawrence.townsend@srs.gov

DOE Media Contact: Monte Volk
803.952.6283
monte.volk@srs.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOE “Science Bowl” Challenges Elite Students from Throughout South Carolina and the Augusta Area in Regional Finals

Jeopardy on steroids, students take on the toughest questions in Science

AIKEN, S.C. (March 20, 2017) – Many of our country’s future scientists, engineers and mathematicians recently put their knowledge to the test during this year’s U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Savannah River Regional Science Bowl® Competition, which attracted 21 teams from across South Carolina and the greater Augusta area.

Throughout the day-long event, tension and the excitement filled rooms within the University of South Carolina Aiken facility where competing teams listened carefully to questions, hands ready to buzz-in, knowing every correct answer is one step closer to representing their school and region at the National DOE Science Bowl Competition in Washington, D.C.

The format used is similar to the television show “Jeopardy,” where team’s face-off during a timed period of fast-paced question-and-answers. Questions cover a wide range of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, energy and math.

“I was eager to compare ‘brains’ with others in this competition,” said Curtis Baptist School Senior and team captain Collin Ulrich. “It was an exciting challenge that broadened my perspective in many areas.”

Science Bowl teams consist of four students, an alternate and a teacher who serves as an advisor and coach. This year’s regional contest involves



DOE Science Bowl teams from Midland Valley High School (foreground) and Curtis Baptist School make last minute preparations moments before the first round of competition.

105 students from 14 high schools and is the only academic competition of its kind that tests students' knowledge in all areas of science and is sponsored by a Federal agency.

According to Kim Mitchell, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Education Outreach, this competition tests the students' ability to perform under pressure. "The teams arrive fully prepared after extensive practice. I'm always impressed with how much information they can retain and how calm they remain," said Mitchell.

Mitchell also noted that teams frequently depend on the academic strength of each member during this demanding academic contest. "One member may be their math specialist, while another is their go to person for questions related to chemistry. They are all brilliant."

The Savannah River Site (SRS) is one of only four DOE sites to have participated each year at the regional level since the start of the Science Bowl competition.

"Academically, now and later, Science Bowl offers a lot of benefits," said Mark Cameron Jones, Midland Valley High School Junior. "I think it will be very helpful to have it on my college applications."

Fellow team member Alex Molina, also a junior, added that the Science Bowl is an excellent opportunity to gain science-related knowledge and experience. "Through the preparing and the competing, we better ourselves as students. It will definitely help me with classes, such as AP Chemistry."

The winning team from Lakeside High School, Evans, Ga., will be rewarded with an all-expense paid trip to the National Competition to be held in Washington, D.C., April 27-May 1. A part of the country's largest science tournament, the national event also offers several days of hands-on science activities, seminars, and sightseeing.

To reach the national level, U.S. teams must win one of 69 regional tournaments.

Another team from Lakeside High School came in second, while third place was achieved by Greenbrier High School, also from the Evans area.

DOE created the National Science Bowl (NSB) in 1991 to encourage students to excel in mathematics and science and to pursue careers in these fields. Approximately 265,000 students have participated in the NSB throughout its 26-year history.

Over the next several months, more than 9,000 high school students and 4,500 middle school students will compete in 70 high school and 50 middle school regional Science Bowl tournaments. The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science manages the National Science Bowl and sponsors the NSB finals competition.

Volunteers from the community and multiple contractors at SRS work as scorekeepers, timers, judges and many other important functions during the regional tournament each year. "We heavily depend on our volunteers and greatly appreciate their help," said Mitchell. "It's quite a team effort."

The Savannah River Site provides a variety of science and literacy outreach programs to reach tens of thousands of students each year.

The primary goals of these outreach programs are to enhance interest in science, mathematics, engineering and technology and to support improvements in education in the Central Savannah River Area by using the unique resources available at SRS.

Participating schools:

Aiken High School	Aiken	South Carolina
Curtis Baptist School	Augusta	Georgia
Davidson Magnet School	Augusta	Georgia
Dorman High School	Roebuck.	South Carolina
Evans Christian Academy.	Grovetown	Georgia
Evans High School	Evans	Georgia
Greenbrier High School.	Evans	Georgia
Grovetown High School.	Grovetown	Georgia
Hillcrest High School.	Simpsonville.	South Carolina
Lakeside High School	Evans	Georgia
Midland Valley High School.	Graniteville	South Carolina
Palmetto High School	Williamston	South Carolina
Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School (TCM)	Augusta	Georgia
Westminster Schools of Augusta	Augusta	Georgia

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

Visit us on the web at www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com

SRNS-2017-557