

Press Release
For Immediate Release
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Dirigo HS, Jay HS Teams Win Western Regional Envirothon in Wilton

WILTON – Dirigo High School Team II took first place in the Western Regional Envirothon May 15 at Lake View Farm, Wilton. Jay High School Team I and Jay Team II won second and third place, respectively.

The Envirothon is a hands-on competition for teams made up of three to five high school students with an advisor. Teams are tested on four natural resource areas: aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife, in addition to a national issue, Recreational Impacts on the Environment. Participants learn to work together as a team, make oral presentations, and think under pressure.

The three top teams move on to the state Envirothon competition, set for May 29 at Unity College. Winners of the Maine Envirothon will go to the Cannon Envirothon at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona July 28 - August 3.

This is a great learning experience for students, says Rosetta Thompson, district manager of the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District. The Envirothon helps youths understand how best practices when it comes to the environment. Soil and Water Conservation Districts from Franklin, Oxford and Androscoggin put on the annual Western Maine event with each county hosting it every three years.

A training Mock Envirothon is held to prepare teams for the competition. During the mock, teams have a chance to ask questions and learn more about topics on which they will be tested. The Western Regional Mock event was held April 29 in Lisbon.

While many teams come from public schools, the Franklin County 4-Her's did remarkably well for a team that had not previously competed, said Thompson. Many Envirothon participants return because the national issue is different each year. The 4-H group competed for the first time. She also points out the Envirothon is a great way for high school Ecology or Environmental clubs, scouts, 4-H groups or home schools to learn about our natural resources.

Envirothon participants can compete for two \$2,000 scholarships from the University of Maine. National winners also are eligible for scholarship money. For more information about the Envirothon, contact the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District at 778-4279 or www.franklincswcd.org.