



For Immediate Release

PEMBROKE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM from KANSAS CITY, MO **TAKES TOP HONOURS AT THE 2015 NCF-ENVIROTHON**

52 Teams Spanning North America Tested Their Skills at One of North America's Largest High School Natural Resource Education Competitions

Washington, D.C. August 3, 2015 – A five-member team of high schools students from **Pembroke Hill High School** from **Kansas City, MO** are the winners of the 2015 NCF-Envirothon. A week-long North American natural resource education competition, a program of the National Conservation Foundation, (NCF) working in partnership with Smithfield Foods, local conservation districts, forestry associations, educators and cooperating natural resources agencies to organize and conduct competitions on the local, regional, state and/or provincial level. The Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental education competition. The top winning teams were announced on Saturday August 1st, during the award ceremonies at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. Over four thousand high schools were involved in the 2015 program across North America.

“The National Conservation Foundation congratulates not only the winning team, but all the students who participated in this year's competition,” said Steve Robinson, Chair of the NCF Board of Trustees, *“We are so proud of all of the students' efforts and commitment to helping preserve our natural resources.”*

We are very pleased to have Smithfield Foods join as a sponsor of the program this year. The cash awards were a part of the support provided by Smithfield Foods this year.

The NCF-Envirothon tests teams on their knowledge of soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and a current issue (2015 Urban/Community Forests). Each team's knowledge is tested under the supervision of foresters, soil scientists, wildlife specialists and other natural resource professionals. Teamwork, problem-solving and presentation skills are evaluated as each team offers a panel of judges an oral presentation with recommendations for solving the specific challenge that is presented during the competition.

We are pleased to announce Forests Ontario will host the North American Envirothon in Ontario in 2016! The dates will be July 24th - July 29th, 2016 www.forestsontario.ca

NCF-Envirothon Media Centre: www.envirothon.org check the online media center for information about the competition, daily updates, and photos for downloading.

The top 10 teams of the 2015 NCF-Envirothon include:

| Place | High School | City/Town | State/Province |
|--------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st | Pembroke Hill High School | Kansas City | Missouri |
| 2nd | Penncrest High School | Media | Pennsylvania |
| 3rd | Academy of Science&Technology | Conroe | Texas |
| 4th | Newton North High School | Newton | Massachusetts |
| 5th | The Mount Academy | Ulster County | New York |
| 6th | MATES <i>(Marine Academy of Tech& Environmental Science)</i> | Ocean County | New Jersey |
| 7th | Venture Crew 202 | Westminster | Maryland |
| 8th | Charter School of Wilmington | Wilmington | Delaware |
| 9th | Hidden Pond Nature Center | Springfield | Virginia |
| 10th | Hot Springs High School | Truth or Consequences | New Mexico |

In addition to the NCF-Envirothon,

About Smithfield Foods

Smithfield Foods is a \$15 billion global food company and the world's largest pork processor and hog producer. In the United States, the company is also the leader in numerous packaged meats categories with popular brands including Smithfield®, Eckrich®, Farmland®, Armour®, Cook's®, John Morrell®, Gwaltney®, Nathan's Famous®, Kretschmar®, Margherita®, Curly's®, Carando® and Healthy Ones®. Smithfield Foods is committed to providing good food in a responsible way and maintains robust animal care, community involvement, employee safety, environmental and food safety and quality programs. For more information, visit www.smithfieldfoods.com.

About National Conservation Foundation

The mission of the National Conservation Foundation was established by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is to encourage and facilitate the implementation of unique programs and services by districts and other conservation organizations that advance the conservation, wise use and orderly development of the nation's natural resources. It accomplishes this by providing funding for research, educational and communications programs and educating the public about conservation. NCF has provided support to the North American Envirothon efforts for many years and in 2014 assumed responsibility for the program. To learn more about the Envirothon go to: www.envirothon.org. The National Conservation Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees <http://www.nacdnet.org/about/partners/ncfs>.

CONTACT:

Rich Duesterhaus, Staff Director
NCF-Envirothon
1-571-217-4228
Rich-Duesterhaus@nacdnet.org

or
Debbie Waycott, Public Relations
NCF Envirothon
1-800-825-5547 X 5
dwaycott@envirothon.org

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