

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Judy Johnston
Stevens SWCD
12 Hwy 28 E Ste 2
Morris MN 56267
320-589-4886 ext. 3
judy.johnston@stevensswcd.org

May 20, 2011

St. John's wins 2011 State Envirothon

St. John's Preparatory School won first place at the 2011 Minnesota State Envirothon, an annual environmental learning competition for high school students, held May 16 at Spirit Mountain in Duluth. About 175 students in grades 9-12 competed on 35 teams from 24 schools throughout Minnesota.

The teams compete by visiting five learning stations and taking an exam at each station. Four of the stations are the same each year: forestry, soils, water quality, and wildlife. The fifth station is a current events topic. This year's topic was "Fresh & Salt Water Estuaries." Teams also made a brief oral presentation on this topic before a panel of three judges.

The teams participating at the state competition finished in the top three at one of 10 regional Envirothon competitions. Regional competitions are organized by the state's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. As the winning team at the state event, St John's Preparatory School earned the right to represent Minnesota in the North American Canon Envirothon, which will be held July 24-29 at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada.

The second place team at the state level was Lac qui Parle Valley High School, and the third place team was Hopkins High School.

The 2011 Minnesota State Envirothon is sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Canon, Great River Energy, Soil and Water Conservation Society, Minnesota Erosion Control Association, Minnesota Trappers Association, the Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees, Otter Tail Power Company, and Land O' Lakes, Inc. The State Envirothon is also supported by SWCD employees and federal and state agency staff who volunteer at this event.

Coordinators for the 2011 Minnesota event were Felicia Brockoff, Carver Soil & Water Conservation District, Judy Johnston, Stevens Soil & Water Conservation District.

More info: www.maswcd.org/envirothon.htm or www.envirothon.org