

PRESS RELEASE: Bagley Team Places Third in North Central Junior Envirothon

FROM: Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District

CONTACT: Emily Lindell, Office Manager, 218-694-6845, ext. 4



Bagley Envirothon competitors at Lake Bemidji State Park. First row, left to right: Blake Erickson, Chase Lavine, Cori Bonik, Aleah Nelson. Second row, left to right: Briar Maruska, Lucas Maruska, Grace Jones, Kelby Fultz, Kylli Anderson, Jenika Moen. Third row: Matt Cage, coach.

On Wednesday, May 7th, a team representing Bagley Elementary School won third place in the North Central Junior Envirothon at Lake Bemidji State Park. Coached by Bagley sixth grade teacher Matt Cage, the winning team included Kylli Anderson, Blake Erickson, Kelby Fultz, Chase Lavine and Jenika Moen. Finishing just one point behind the third place team was the other Bagley team consisting of Cori Bonik, Grace Jones, Briar Maruska, Lucas Maruska and Aleah Nelson. Approximately 75 students from around the area participated in this event on the junior and senior high levels.

Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental education competition. For many years our region's high school teams have competed in the North Central Envirothon. Our Envirothon also includes sixth through eighth graders who compete alongside the older students in a Junior Envirothon. Soil and Water Conservation Districts from Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods and Wadena counties collaborate to put on the North Central Envirothon each year.

Envirothon is an outdoor learning experience. During the event, participants attend sessions on aquatics, wildlife, forestry, soils and current events. Natural resource professionals use the outdoor environment to present hands-on problems and questions to the competitors. Students take quizzes and earn points at each station. High school teams also deliver a prepared presentation based on a specific conservation challenge. This year's oral presentation topic was "Sustainable Local Agriculture and Locally Grown in Minnesota."

In addition to Bagley's third place finish, Nevis teams took first and second place in the Junior Envirothon. This year's top high school Envirothon team represented Northome High School, with Grand Rapids High School teams taking second and third places. The winning high school teams advanced to the Minnesota State Envirothon on May 19th at St. John's University in Collegeville.

Special thanks goes out to all who contributed to the North Central Envirothon, including local donors Clearwater-Polk Electric Operation Round Up and Garden Valley Telephone. Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District would also like to thank local Envirothon judges Mike Stenseng of Clearwater County Environmental Services and Cari Roepke of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bagley Field Office. Thanks also to Bagley Elementary School and Lake Bemidji State Park for supporting youth conservation education and to all event volunteers and participants.