

Eye on the East End/Third Ward

The latest from Houston's East End and Third Ward communities

[« Sunnyside After Ike Community Expo on May 2](#) | [Main](#) | [Sterling HS to host Cinco de Mayo festival](#) »

May 01, 2009

Scroggins and Lockhart Elementary compete in robotics challenge

Over 1,000 competitors attended the first All-Earth Ecobots Challenge held at the George R. Brown Convention Center on Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Intermediate and middle school students in Harris County competed in this first-ever competition. Students created robots and demonstrated how their creations could be used as instruments of change for the environment.

Pupils from both Scroggins Elementary and Lockhart Elementary attended the competition. Lockhart entered two teams in the challenge. Team 36, consisting of Carla Adams, Celeste Lundy, Weldon Scott and Isaiah Swindle, won the first-place award in marketing and fourth-place award overall in the marketing/robotics category. Reagan Littlejohn, Deja Clay and John Morehead were the members of Team 35, which won the seventh-place award in marketing.



Submitted

From left, Bob Rehak, President, Rehak Creative Services; Douglas Kleiner, President & CEO Education Foundation of Harris County; Carla Adams, Team

36 member; Donna Cole, President and CEO of Cole Chemical; and Celeste Lundy, Team 36 member.

Team 35 of Scroggins Elementary, better known as the EcoKnights, were the big winners last weekend, winning the robotic and overall competition. The EcoKnights team consisted of Miguel Ruiz, Marco Solis, Christian Rivera and Jesus Maldonado Sanchez and were led by their teacher Emile Guidry.



Submitted

First row: EcoKnight members Miguel Ruiz, Marco Solis, Christian Rivera and Jesus Maldonado Sanchez. Second row: Lisa Caruthers, Acting Director, CASE; Emile Guidry, teacher; Bob Rehak, President, Rehak Creative Services; Douglas Kleiner, President & CEO Education Foundation of Harris County; and Donna Cole, President and CEO of Cole Chemical.

The Education Foundation of Harris County hosted the All-Earth EcoBot Challenge in partnership with the City of Houston CEFD, the Houston Galveston Area Council, the Harris County Department of Education (CASE) and several corporate citizens.

Eighty teams of students in grades 4 through 8 from throughout Harris County and surrounding areas programmed LEGO MINDSTORMS Education NXT Robot Kits robots to complete a series of activities that demonstrated recycling, reuse, reducing waste and environmental responsibility. Four person student teams were also charged with creating and presenting a PowerPoint presentation highlighting their robot's mission in saving the earth. Teachers, assistants and other educators attended training sessions prior to the event to help students prepare.

The All-Earth EcoBot Challenge provided many benefits to participating students and educators. The students were exposed to S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) concepts in the designing and building of the robots. They also gained a greater understanding of individual responsibility for the environment and an increased awareness of future careers in the management of waste, air and water quality control, environmental engineering and occupational health and safety management. The competition also expanded the students' global perspective on the environment and how other countries address complex issues using technology

One of the goals of the EcoBot Challenge was to encourage schools to develop ongoing robotics programs. Organizers hope the event will enable students to enter high school robotics programs and other competitions

locally and internationally. One of the day's highlights was a robot demonstration by the Maru family of Japan, connecting these youth to global solutions for environmental issues.

Naoki Maru and his family are very well-known in the robotics community in Japan. Maru-san is president of a metallic casting company but he makes robots as a hobby. Mr. Maru was invited by the City of Houston, along with his two sons, to judge the All Ecobots Challenge.



Submitted

Naoki Maru with his sons.

Eighty student teams from 12 school districts in Harris County, two charter schools KIPP and YES Prep, along with a team from Satori Elementary School in Galveston also participated.

Posted by Michael Golden at May 1, 2009 11:17 AM

Comments

Way to go, Scroggins!

Posted by: S. Lankau at May 5, 2009 01:04 PM

Post a comment

Name:

Email Address:

URL:

Remember Me? Yes No

Comments: (you may use HTML tags for style)

