



**Public Service
Announcement
From
Snohomish CD**

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Date: Friday, May 20, 2011
Contact Person: **Lois Ruskell**
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Please run the following public service announcement as soon as possible.
Suggested Sections: Applause, Youth, Local or School News

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**Stanwood High School Takes Top Spot at State Envirothon**

Stanwood High School’s Envirothon team, led by advisor Todd Jacobsen, won first place in the Washington State Envirothon held at Warm Beach Camp and Conference Center on May 18 and 19. The second place team was Garfield/Palouse High School and third place was Union High School from Camas. Snohomish Conservation District hosted the state event. According to Outreach Director Lois Ruskell, “It was a tough competition and we’re proud of all the teams that participated. We were honored to host such a great group of young people”.

Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental education competition. High school youth compete on their knowledge of five areas: soils, forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife and a current environmental issue which is ‘Freshwater and Saltwater Estuaries’ in 2011. Most of the students took advantage of a beach walk on Wednesday led by Nicole Hopper from Taylor Shellfish. Many had never seen a geoduck up close. They learned the benefits of eelgrass and where the term ‘Salish Sea’ came from at a lively presentation by Glen Alexander from the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The Stanwood team, consisting of Aaron Olson, Jacob Flake, Brandon Nickels, Thor Pearson, and Leif Small, will fly to New Brunswick, Canada in July to compete against teams from all over the U.S. and Canada. This is the third year that the Stanwood High School Envirothon team has represented Washington State at the North American event. The five-day event is sponsored by Canon and each member of the top ten teams is eligible to win a Canon scholarship ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to be used for college expenses. Find out more about Envirothon at: [www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org). The Snohomish County contact is Lois Ruskell at Snohomish Conservation District, 425-335-5634, ext 108.

**Photos Included - Captions:**

Stanwood High School's Envirothon team members include, left to right: Jacob Flake, Aaron Olson, Brandon Nickels, Leif Small, Thor Pearson and advisor Todd Jacobsen

Garfield/Palouse High School placed second at the WA State Envirothon. Members include, left to right: Advisor Mindy Puller, Blake Slocum, Ben Weagraff, Tiona Shea, JB Lang, Chad Redman, and advisor George Landle

Union High School third place team members include: Minerva Zhou, Steven Tsai, Catherine Nguyen, Nathan So, Marcus Kwan (not pictured) and advisor John Akers (not pictured).