



Media Contact: “DT” Townsend
(803) 952-7566
dt-lawrence.townsend@srs.gov

SRS Science Bowl Coordinator:
Bonnie Maxwell
(803) 952-8720

Area Schools Compete in DOE’s National Science Bowl[®] *America’s Future Scientists and Engineers Show What They Know*

AIKEN, S.C., (February 2, 2009) –America's next generation of scientists and engineers will soon put their knowledge to the test in the country’s largest science tournament. The Department of Energy’s (DOE) National Science Bowl[®] involves more than 17,000 students competing in regional events held in 41 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Each match will put students’ knowledge to the test in science and math using a fast-paced question and answer format similar to *Jeopardy*. DOE’s National Science Bowl is the only educational event and academic competition of its kind that is sponsored by a federal agency.

“Developing the students who will be our next generation of scientists and engineers is critically important to the future of our nation,” said Jeff Allison, Manager, DOE Savannah River Operations Office. “I am always amazed with the breadth of knowledge these team demonstrate during the competition. This bowl is just one way the Department fully supports our Site’s extensive educational outreach programs.”

DOE’s National Science Bowl for high school students features 67 regional competitions, each one sending a winning team to the National Finals (all-expense paid trip), scheduled for April 30-May 5, in Washington, D.C.

The national championship team will win its choice of three science-related trips, which include locations in the U.S., France and England.

Twelve CSRA high schools will compete against 12 other teams from South Carolina in the 19th annual Department of Energy Savannah River Regional Science Bowl at The University of South Carolina-Aiken, Saturday, Feb. 7. Competition begins at 9 a.m. at USC-Aiken’s Business and Education Building.



Aiken High School, Aquinas High School, Augusta Area Homeschoolers, Augusta Preparatory Day School, Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School, Fox Creek High School, Lakeside High School, North Augusta High School and South Aiken High School are the local contestants.

Since DOE's National Science Bowl began in 1991, more than 130,000 students – and their teachers – have participated. Student teams, which consist of four students, an alternate, and a teacher/coach, practice for months before the competition. Many teams even test their knowledge against real scientists at major corporations or DOE's National Laboratories, who volunteer their time to help students prepare to answer complex questions.

The competition's questions are so complex that they often stump professional scientists. For example:

- *Physics* – Assuming $g = 10$ meters per/sec², if a pulley is used to lift a 1 Kg weight 2 meters high, how much work in SI units was expended to overcome friction if 20 Newtons of effort was used? Answer: 20 Joules
- *General Science* – This fungus is the causative agent for what was known in medieval times as St. Anthony's fire and is now used as a source for certain drugs. Answer: Ergot

More information about DOE's National Science Bowl[®] is available at:

<http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/nsb/default.htm>

In addition to DOE, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) and the University of South Carolina Aiken are partners in putting together this year's regional Science Bowl.

“For nearly two decades, the Site's educational outreach program has supported a variety of events throughout the school year,” said Barbara Smoak, manager, SRNS Educational Outreach. “It is an honor and a privilege to share in the excitement, joy and personal growth experienced by participating students and teachers.”

SRS is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy and the management and operating contractor is Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.

Note to Editors: See attached map for directions. *Reporters attending the event should call the media contact listed above.*

2009 DOE Savannah River Regional Science Bowl Teams

1. Aiken High School, Aiken, SC (two teams)
2. Andrew Jackson High School, Kershaw, SC (two teams)
3. Butler High School, Augusta, Ga.
4. Chapin High School, Chapin, SC
5. CSRA Home Educators, Martinez, Ga.
6. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School, Augusta, Ga.
7. Evans Christian Academy, Evans, Ga. (two teams)
8. Evans High School, Augusta, Ga.
9. Fort Dorchester High School, North Charleston, SC
10. Gaffney High School, Gaffney, SC
11. Hanahan High School, North Charleston, SC
12. Hillcrest High School, Simpsonville, SC
13. Irmo High School, Irmo, SC
14. James F. Byrnes High School, Duncan, SC
15. Lakeside High School, Evans, Ga. (two teams)
16. Laurens District 55 High School, Laurens, SC
17. Lewisville High School, Richburg, SC (two teams)
18. North Augusta High School, Belvedere, SC
19. South Aiken High School, Aiken, SC (two teams)
20. Southside High School, Greenville, SC

Schedule of Activities for Saturday, February 7

8-8:30 a.m.	Registration for Teams and Volunteers
8:15 a.m.	Moderators and Scientific Judges Meeting
8:30-8:50 a.m.	Welcome/Introductions
9 a.m.	Round Robin Matches Begin
11:30 a.m.	Tie Breakers (if necessary)
12:30-1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Double Elimination Matches – Top 8 Teams
3:30 p.m.	Final Science Bowl Rounds
4-4:30 p.m.	Awards Presentation (immediately following final round)

SRNS-09-07