

Texas Student Team Wins National First-Place Award and \$32,000 in eCYBERMISSION Competition (WASHINGTON, D.C.)

Thursday, June 25, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Army's eCYBERMISSION competition awarded four students from Pin Oak Middle School in Bellaire, Texas the national first-place award for eighth grade on Thursday, July 2. Winners were announced at the eCYBERMISSION awards banquet at the National Judging and Educational Event in Washington, D.C.

eCYBERMISSION is a free, web-based, science, math and technology competition that allows students in grades six through nine to compete for regional and national awards, by using the scientific method to solve problems in their communities.

Each member of a national first-place winning team receives \$5,000 in U.S. EE Savings Bonds, in addition to the \$3,000 in U.S. EE Savings Bonds that each team member won for selection as a regional winner.

The "Super Sports Squad" team was selected as a national winner after competing against three other eighth grade national finalist teams at the eCYBERMISSION National Judging and Educational Event. The team is led by Team Advisor Jamie Scott and is comprised of students Kate Beittenmiller, Emily Christians, Maddie Cooper and Emily White.

The team was recognized for its efforts to include children with special needs in its school's sports programs and extracurricular sports activities. The students created lesson plans using adaptive physical education for soccer, kickball, tee ball and basketball. They found that their participants' motor skills increased throughout the course of their program, and hope to promote the program to others in their community.

"We are excited to congratulate the 'Super Sports Squad' team," said Dr. Michael Doyle, U.S. Army eCYBERMISSION Program Manager. "It is vital to our nation's future that we place emphasis on the importance of science, technology, math and engineering (STEM) education for our youth."

This year, more than 12,000 students registered for eCYBERMISSION and 2,005 teams submitted their research for scoring. Now in its seventh year, eCYBERMISSION has awarded more than \$6.7 million in U.S. EE Savings Bonds in support of the science, math and technology leaders of tomorrow. Since its inception, more than 58,000 students from across the country, in

U.S. territories and Department of Defense Education Activity schools worldwide have participated in the competition.

Registration for the 2009-2010 eCYBERMISSION competition opens on Aug. 1, 2009. For a complete listing of the 2008-2009 regional and national winners or for more information, please visit www.ecybermission.com.

About eCYBERMISSION

eCYBERMISSION is a free, web-based, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) competition for students in grades six through nine. Sponsored by the U.S. Army and managed by RDECOM, eCYBERMISSION is designed to share the importance of STEM education with the leaders of tomorrow and encourage them to understand the real-life applications of these subjects. Students compete for state and national awards by working in teams to identify a problem in their community and using scientific inquiry to propose a solution. eCYBERMISSION is an Army Educational Outreach Program (www.usaeop.com).

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For more information, please visit www.ecybermission.com or contact eCYBERMISSION Mission Control at 1-866-GO-CYBER (462-9237) or via e-mail at missioncontrol@ecybermission.com.

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