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### HWS picked for national Envirothon

By BRIAN LOTHRIE/Finger Lakes Times  
Monday, May 21, 2007 2:15 PM CDT

GENEVA - More than 500 top high school students, team advisers, guests and resource professionals will spend a week at Hobart and William Smith Colleges this summer when the 2007 Canon Envirothon gets under way July 29.

Teams from 45 states and nine Canadian provinces will be looking at alternative and renewable energy as part of the hands-on outdoor program that will take them to several area sites, including Savannah Dhu in Wayne County. For nearly 20 years, the program has encouraged student interest in natural resource conservation and environmental issues.

The teams coming to Geneva will be those that won their local and state or provincial competitions. New York's team will be decided this week when its regional winners compete Wednesday and Thursday at SUNY Cobleskill.

Sandy Huey, chair of the event's Host Committee, said HWS was chosen because of its proximity to natural resources, airports, and scientific institutions.

"The [region] provides many opportunities to see the sights and learn," Huey said, mentioning the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station and the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, in particular.

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"The Finger Lakes - and our own Finger Lakes Institute - offer numerous ways for these students to learn about the world around them, and our faculty and staff are pleased to be a part of that," said Colleges President Mark Gearan.

In addition to the competition - which includes on-site training; tests in soil, aquatic ecology, forestry and wildlife; and a 20-minute oral presentation on alternative/renewable energy - the week will provide some time for sight-seeing.

At stake in the competition are scholarships and awards from Canon, which has sponsored the program for the last 10 years. The top five teams, based on members' combined scores, will receive scholarships, with the first place team winning \$5,000 per team member. The next five teams will also receive awards.

The Envirothon grew out of the Environmental Olympics, a 1979 program sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

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Local volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs, including work on registration, decorations, set-up, and serving as photographers, team buddies, and monitors.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Eileen Dyson Peterson at 568-5979. For more information about the Canon Envirothon visit [www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org).

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