



U.S. Department of Energy

National Energy Technology Laboratory



October 1, 2012

Dear Science Chair or Principal:

On behalf of the Secretary of Energy, I am pleased to announce the opening of the 2013 National Science Bowl, a tournament-style academic competition challenging students in the fields of science and mathematics. In support of the National Science Bowl, the U.S. Dept of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory is once again proud to host the West Virginia Regional Science Bowl. The WWSB is one of many regional competitions held for high school teams across the country to select participants for the National Science Bowl held in Washington D.C. In 2012, the West Virginia Regional Science Bowl Winner, Morgantown High School finished in 4th place at the National Science Bowl, ranking as one of the elite high school science teams in the United States. In 2009, Woodrow Wilson High School from Beckley was one of the 16 double elimination finalists at the National Science Bowl, ranking them as one of the top 16 schools in the country.

The 22nd annual West Virginia Regional Science Bowl will be held **Saturday, February 2, 2013**, at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) in Morgantown, West Virginia. To participate in the West Virginia Regional Science Bowl, teams must be nominated by the Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) serving the county in which the team is enrolled in high school, or (for home schooled students only) the county in which the team members reside. Teams consist of four high school student competitors, one high school student alternate, and one or more coaches (usually a science or math teacher). Boy and Girl Scout troops, Science Clubs, and multiple home schools within a single county are also invited to form teams (some restrictions apply, see website below for details).

Each RESA will independently organize or host a Science Bowl style competition for all teams in their area, with the winners receiving nominations for participation in the West Virginia Regional Science Bowl Competition in Morgantown. Please contact your RESA coordinator to express your team's interest in participating in the local competition. The RESA coordinator serving your area is indicated on the attached list, and also at the West Virginia Science Bowl website, which is found at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/education/scibowl/wvindex.html>.

The West Virginia Science Bowl regional competition is limited to 18 high school teams. The 18-team field will be composed of: 1) the prior year's regional champion; 2) the top two teams identified from each of the state's eight Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) local competitions; and 3) an at-large RESA 3rd place finisher randomly selected from among all RESA. In the case that the prior year's regional champion is also one of the top two finishers at the present year's RESA competition, the 3rd place finisher from that RESA will be automatically selected. **If two teams from each RESA have not been identified by January 7, 2013, a third place team which participated in a preliminary tournament in the state will be selected by WWSB organizers through a lottery and invited to enter the competition.** Teams invited to the WWSB competition will receive a written invitation from WWSB organizers by January 11, 2013.

The winner of the West Virginia Regional Science Bowl will receive a 5-day (April 25-April 29, 2013) expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. to represent West Virginia in the National Science

Bowl competition held at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. The WVSB winning team will also take possession of the traveling trophy for one year, a banner for their school, and other individual prizes.

Members of the 2012 National Science Bowl® Champion Team (Lexington HS, Lexington MA) received an all-expense-paid Exploring Alaska Trip. Also in 2012, Morgantown High School (Morgantown, WV) placed 4th at Nationals and won \$1000 for their high school's math and science department. In 2009, Woodrow Wilson High School (Beckley, WV) reached the double elimination finals, and received a \$1000 check for their school's science department. Other prizes awarded at the NSB included trips sponsored by National Labs, computer equipment, TI Calculators and data acquisition kits, trophies, medals, and T-shirts. For more information on the national event, please visit the National Science Bowl website at <http://science.energy.gov/nsb/> .

Again, the U.S. Department of Energy is very proud to sponsor the Science Bowl and we look forward to your participation. If you have any questions, please contact your RESA Coordinator, the WVSB regional coordinator emeritus, Steve Woodruff at (304)285-4175, or myself at (304) 285-4342.

Sincerely,

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