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GHHS SO takes 9th at nationals


Grand Haven High School's Science Olympiad team placed ninth in the nation at competition this past weekend at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.


BECKY VARGO MAY 20, 2014





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Lakeshore Middle School finished 24th of 60 teams in the middle school division.

“This was the 24th consecutive year Grand Haven High School appeared in the national tournament as a result of getting first or second place at the state tournament,” noted coach Mike Reed. “Grand Haven High School has consistently done well at the national tournament, with 22 top 10 places in the 24 years.”

Grand Haven High School received medals in five of the 23 events at the tournament. Medals are awarded to the top six placing teams in each event.

Eight of the 15 competing team members of the high school team received at least one medal in the tournament — and two students, Perry Benson and Ellie Scholtz, received two medals. Also, Benson and Nick Sterenberg were the national champions in the event Mission Possible.

“We’re extremely proud of them,” said Grand Haven Area Public Schools Superintendent Keith Konarska. “Their continued success speaks volumes for our program.”

Troy High School of Fullerton, Calif., and Beckendorff Junior High School from Katy, Texas, took the top honors in the 30th annual national tournament on Saturday.

Northville High School, the team that Grand Haven High School beat by a single point at the state competition this spring, finished 17th of the 60 high school teams at the national tournament. Mead Middle School of Northville finished in fourth place in the middle school division.

Grand Haven High School placed fifth in Write It Do It and Boomilever, sixth in Dynamic Planet and Geologic Mapping, seventh in Astronomy and Scrambler, eighth in Tech Problem Solving, ninth in Water Quality and Entomology, and 10th in Forensics and Materials Science.

Grand Haven’s middle school students placed fifth in

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What’s your best advice for this year’s high school graduates?

- Go to college, get a degree
- Go to a trade school, learn a trade
- Get a job
- Take a year off
- Enjoy summer, then worry about your future
- One word: plastics
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Bridge Building, eighth in Water Quality and ninth in Disease Detectives.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see a video from the *Ottawa Area Intermediate School District about Grand Haven schools' involvement in Science Olympiad.*

The results of the events for the high school are:

First Place – 1 point for each event

Mission Possible: Perry Benson and Nick Sterenberg

Fifth Place – 5 points for each event

Boomilever: Nick Johnson and Eric VanDyke

Write It, Do It: Ellie Scholtz and Alexander Sokoly

Sixth Place – 6 points for each event

Dynamic Planet: Perry Benson and Ellie Scholtz

GeoLogic Mapping: Braeton Ardell and Haley Kalis

Seventh Place – 7 points for each event

Astronomy: Luke Dionise and Scott Peters

Scrambler: Nick Johnson and Eric VanDyke

Eighth Place – 8 points

Technical Problem Solving: Luke Dionise and Scott Peters

Ninth Place – 9 points for each event

Entomology: Haley Kalis and Ellie Scholtz

Water Quality: Varun Biddanda and Adam Greer

Tenth Place – 10 points for each event

Forensics: Kaia Hayes and Eric VanDyke

Materials Science: Perry Benson and Nick Sterenberg

Eleventh Place – 11 points

Disease Detectives: Varun Biddanda and Karl Johnson

Sixteenth Place – 16 points

Compound Machines: Perry Benson and Nick Sterenberg

Seventeenth Place – 17 points

Experimental Design: Luke Dionise, Kaia Hayes, and Evan Miller

Eighteenth Place – 18 points for each event

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Anatomy and Physiology: Kaia Hayes and Karl Johnson

Rocks and Minerals: Varun Biddanda and Ellie Scholtz

Twenty-first Place – 21 points

Elastic Launched Glider: Nick Johnson and Eric VanDyke

Twenty-third Place – 23 points

Circuit Lab: Alexander Sokoly and Nick Sterenberg

Thirty-fifth Place – 35 points

Bungee Drop: Braeton Ardell and Scott Peters

Thirty-sixth Place – 36 points

MagLev: Braeton Ardell and Alexander Sokoly

Thirty-eighth Place – 38 points

Designer Genes: Adam Greer and Karl Johnson

Forty-fourth Place – 44 points

Chemistry Lab: Karl Johnson and Evan Miller

Trial Events – No team points

Game On: Scott Bays and Connor Weber – 15th place

Hydrogeology: Scott Bays and Emma Wingard – 27th place

Alternate team members for the high school team at the national tournament were Scott Bays, Emily Bruch, Fritz Jaeger, Emily Stringham, Connor Weber and Emma Wingard.

Assistant coaches for the high school team are Eric Dykstra, Roger Glass, Greg Huizenga, Jason Hunter, George Jaeger, Kris Johnson, John Mauro, Robert Monetza, Marcella Morrell, Julie Olson, Margaret Shay, Robert Shay, Scott Stanley, Mike Sterenberg, Dennis Striegle, Dan Tlachac, Jim Vande Waa and Jeremey Wilder.

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