



U.S. Department of Energy

National Energy Technology Laboratory



September 23, 2013

Dear Science Chair or Principal:

On behalf of the Secretary of Energy, I am pleased to announce the opening of the 2014 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. West Virginia students have represented the state admirably at the national competition in recent years. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> annual West Virginia Regional Science Bowl will be held **Saturday, February 1, 2014**, at the main campus of West Virginia University 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). Please see the website below for a complete list of competition rules.

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 24 high school teams. The 24-team field will be composed of the top three teams identified from each of the state's eight Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) local competitions. **If three teams from each RESA have not been identified by January 6, 2014, a fourth 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 10, 2014.

The winner of the West Virginia Regional Science Bowl will receive a 5-day (April 24-April 28, 2014) 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 WWSB 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 2013 National Science Bowl® Champion Team (Mira Loma HS, Sacramento CA) received a nine-day, expenses-paid Exploring Alaska Trip. In 2012, West Virginia's own Morgantown High School (Morgantown, WV) placed 4<sup>th</sup> 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/>.

If you have any questions, please contact your RESA Coordinator, or either of the WVSB Coordinators listed below. The U.S. Department of Energy and West Virginia University are very proud to sponsor the Science Bowl and we look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

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