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Riley Creek earns state top honors

Published: May 28, 2009

PORTLAND – The second annual Oregon Game Project Challenge (OGPC) is in the history books with a new high school champion and a successful new middle school competition.

Jesuit High School's 'File Not Found' team took the 1st place champion award in the high school division, and Riley Creek Middle School's 'Team Banana' traveled from Gold Beach to Salem to earn the first place champion award in the middle school division. Riley Creek's Team Flying Squirrels won first place for presentation.

TechStart Education Foundation, Oregon University System, Software Association of Oregon, and the Oregon Computer Science Teachers Association hosted 41 teams from schools around the state at Chemeketa Community College in Salem for the Saturday, May 16, competition. Sixteen teams were honored with awards for their computer games designed to educate and propose solutions to water resource issues.

"Students presented games that we could easily see in commercial distribution today," said Chris Brooks, president of the TechStart Board of Directors. "We will continue to promote computer science competitions like the game project challenge when students come out in numbers like this and exceed our expectations like every participant did this weekend."

Oregon Game Project Challenge, in its second year, is a competition that brings together teams of four to seven students and introduces or nurtures their interest in computer science. The OGPC competition season runs from December to May each year, concluding with the statewide tournament in Salem. Both high school and middle school teams compete by presenting original computer games to nearly 50 judges from local technology industry that are designed to be fun, challenging, and innovative. Games were judged based on the following criteria:

The depth and breadth of research the team does on this year's theme; how well the game was designed; the extent to which the team collaborated on the design; the quality of the presentation that the team makes at the tournament; how well the game incorporates the annual theme; advanced use of technology or programming features; for more information about TechStart and the OGPC competition visit <http://www.techstart.org/ogpc>.

Results – Middle School

Division

Champion Award

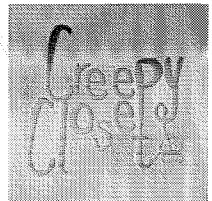
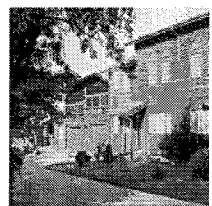
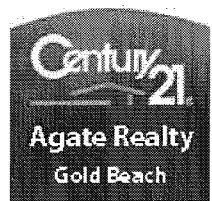
1st Place: Team Team Banana, Riley Creek Middle School (Gold Beach)

2nd Place: Team S.A.V.E., Waluga Middle School (Lake Oswego)

Teamwork Award

1st Place: Team Fantastic Four, Amity Middle School

2nd Place: Team Project Cell, Sherwood Middle School



Presentation Award

1st Place: Team Flying Squirrels, Riley Creek Middle School (Gold Beach)

2nd Place: Team A.Q.U.A., Ashbrook Independent School (Corvallis)

Game Experience Award

1st Place: Team Praetorian Gaming, Sherwood Middle School

2nd Place: Team Hmmm....A 4-H Team, 4H Bend

Programming Award

1st Place: Team Die Hydrogen Monoxide, Sherwood Middle School

2nd Place: Team The Nerd Herd, Amity Middle School

Game Research & Development

1st Place: Team Hurricanes, Cheldefin Middle School (Corvallis)

2nd Place: Team Smiley Faces, Sherwood Middle School

The coaches for the Riley Creek teams were Thea Hiersche and Jim Shockley.

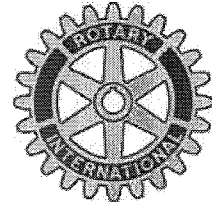
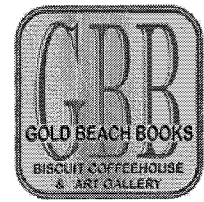
Members of the middle school champion Team Banana were William Veloso, 6th Grade; Darby Sutter, 7th Grade; Emily Coelho, 7th Grade; Clara Herbage, 7th Grade; Tyler Norton, 7th Grade; and Niels Bulskov, 8th Grade.

Members of the Presentation award Team Flying Squirrel were Landon Bader, 6th Grade; Gabriel Kennedy, 6th Grade; Duston Hooey, 7th Grade; Naomi Veloso, 7th Grade; Lyndsey Dixon, 7th Grade; Cameron Kuykendal, 8th Grade; and Cody Hawkins, 8th Grade.

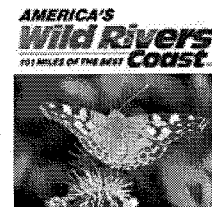
Team sponsors included The Riley Creek PTO, Gold Beach Education Foundation, and the Riley Creek Student Council.

About TechStart Education Foundation

The TechStart Education Foundation (www.techstart.org) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit that was founded in 2003 by the Software Association of Oregon (http://www.sao.org), a trade association with more than 400 member organizations. TechStart strives to nurture a passion for all of technology among Oregon's K-12 students by promoting and supporting wider access to technology learning to transform how students learn, to sharpen their thinking, and to influence their success beyond graduation. For more information about TechStart, contact Natasha MacDonald, Executive Director, at (503) 228-5429.



Volunteers Raising Salmon
Gold Beach, Oregon



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