



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Orangewood Christian High School 9th Graders Named State Winners in the 15th Annual eCYBERMISSION STEM Competition

The U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program Encourages Students Nationwide to Develop Solutions to Real-World Problems in Their Communities

Maitland, Florida— Monday, May 1, 2017 – The U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) today announced **9th Grade Team Bug Brigade** from **Maitland, Florida** as a **1st** place state winner in the 15th annual [eCYBERMISSION](#) competition – one of several science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiatives sponsored by the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program. eCYBERMISSION, administered by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), promotes self-discovery and enables students to recognize the real-life applications of science, math, technology, and mathematics (STEM). eCYBERMISSION challenges students in grades six through nine to develop solutions to real-world problems in their local communities.

Students compete for state, regional, and national awards for up to \$9,000 in U.S. EE Savings Bonds, valued at maturity.

Bug Brigade worked together with **Deborah Waldheim, Team Advisor**, to find an effective way to repel and kill mosquitoes, and prevent them from transmitting diseases from overseas. The teams then submitted their Mission Folder—the official write-up of the project— through the eCYBERMISSION website to be evaluated and scored by volunteer virtual judges. State winning 1st place teams receive \$1,000 per student in U.S. EE Savings Bonds and 2nd place teams receive \$500 per student in U.S. EE Savings Bonds.

“The U.S. Army applauds all the students for challenging themselves to the eCYBERMISSION competition in efforts to improve their communities,” said Louie R. Lopez, AEOP Cooperative Agreement Manager. “Congratulations to all the state winning teams and we encourage students to continue building their interest and knowledge in STEM.”

“eCYBERMISSION not only encourages students to be both creative and scientific, but also requires them to think critically while developing innovative solutions to some of their communities most challenging issues,” said Dr. Mary Gromko, NSTA President. “We congratulate the state winners and commend all of the team advisors for engaging and empowering their students to make a real difference in the world around them.”

In the next round of the eCYBERMISSION competition, a panel of judges will evaluate the top three scores from each region in each grade level. Sixty regional finalist teams will compete to advance as one of 20 national finalists, moving on to compete at the National Judging & Educational Event (NJ&EE)— June 26-30 in Washington, D.C.

For more information about the eCYBERMISSION competition, go to <https://www.ecybermission.com> .

About the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP)

The United States Army has long recognized that a scientifically and technologically literate citizenry is our nation's best hope for a secure, rewarding, and successful future. For over 50 years, the Army has supported a wide range of educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) for our youth, college and graduate students, as well as our valued teachers. Our nation's economy has greatly benefited from the technological achievements of the last century and is destined for greater achievements throughout the 21st century. For more information about AEOP, please visit www.usaeop.com.

About eCYBERMISSION

eCYBERMISSION is a web-based science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) competition free to students in grades six through nine that promotes self-discovery and enables all students to recognize the real-life applications of STEM. Teams of three or four students are instructed to ask questions (for science) or define problems (for engineering), and then construct explanations (for science) or design solutions (for engineering) based on identified problems in their community. Students compete for State, Regional, and National Awards. The U.S. Army is committed to answering the Nation's need for increased national STEM literacy and to expanding STEM education opportunities across the country to open doors to new career paths for American students that lead to a brighter tomorrow.

About NSTA

The Arlington, VA-based [National Science Teachers Association](http://www.nsta.org) is the largest professional organization in the world promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning, preschool through college. NSTA's membership includes approximately 55,000 science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, business representatives, and others involved in science education.

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