

September 2016

"Envirothon China is pleased to announce that after our regional contest a team from the High School Affiliated to Shanxi Normal University has been selected to represent the China region in the 2016 Envirothon North America Final Competition. “

Testimonial – Liu Xinhao

Just coming back from the United States and then going to Canada, the North American Envirothon is indeed a marathon for me ha ha ha.

Anyway, I was very excited when I was informed that I could go to Canada for the final competition, after all we are the first on behalf of the non-north American team. And also, the preparation and the process of the competition indeed improve me a lot. .

The final included five rounds of testing (forestry, aquatics, wildlife, soil, and invasive species) and a speech. What we could do at the preparation step was just reading studying material, since we did not have any training before. I was mainly responsible for forestry, and it really intrigued my interests! I was deeply attracted by the forestry knowledge, including how to speculate trees' age and growth process through the rings, introducing a variety of trees' habit, the leaves of the structure of the tree branches, and how to manage forest etc. Above all, these are all some brand new environmental knowledge which I have not contacted before, and this knowledge also intrigue me the idea that go to study more in Canada.

Just as expected, Trent University didn't let me down. Forest has surround the whole university, and this let me who love the forestry so much seem to own huge treasure. I was fortunate to get training in the real forest, and to explore the most pure part of the nature. On the eve of the training day, a heavy rain washed away the only dirt of the forest, and the forest with the most perfect attitude to welcome us discovery. Entering the forest, my lung was full of extremely fresh air, and it was my first time walking in the forest which without any development. I have seen this scene only in the documentary. In the training day, the coach asked us that who has already used the experimental apparatus; I naively believed that only few people have used, but the result was that only few people have not used before. My reaction was at a loss: I even have never seen these things before, and what should I do later? Everyone are doing experiment expect me? But god still blessed me, I was assigned to a group which other members all have used them before, and one of our group members was in Ontario local team (they were the champion). During the training, my teammates patiently explained about how to use the experimental apparatus such as how to employ prism to estimate the forest density, how to employ clinometer to measure tree height and so on. It was my first time to get in touch with these new things, and at that moment, I was full of excitement. Stood in the forest, employing these strange things to do the environmental investigation, my curiosity was satisfied.

At the second half of the training, I also went to the forest to identify the name of trees, the economical value, the value of wild animals, and the characteristics of the trunk and leaves and so on. For example, some maple can be used to make syrup! No wonder some of them are called sugar maple. Although I was busy and tired when taking notes, I was very happy to learn! I also put all of the knowledge into my mind, and I found really learned a lot. This training also intrigued my interest in environmental science.

This topic was how to governance the silver carps. Actually these fish can be a delicious Chinese fish meal ha ha. But foreigners don't eat that fish, then the silver carps are reproducing in the river lawlessly, and they even will jump out of the water to harm the fishing nets, boats and even people. So the committee required each group to come up with a plan to control them and also consider the prevention method and the cost. We employed a novel way to deliver the presentation, the interview: there is a host to ask something about how to governance the silver carp problem and then other people will talk about our manage plan in the question and answer way. In the presentation, we also interspersed some appropriated jokes, which made judges often laugh loudly. The process of the speech was very smooth, and the judges were very appreciate with our speech style; they told us that we were the firth team to using this unique way to deliver the speech in these years.

To sum up, I am honored to come to Canada; although the process was tough, I still learnt a lot about the environmental knowledge, which I have never learnt before, and it really intrigued my interest in environmental science. By the way, we also receive the Canadian television's interview ha ha. But our academic preparation is not enough, so I hope our later Chinese representatives can get a more well-rounded preparation !

~ **Liu Xinhao**

In the spirit of "no boundaries in education", Reachable Education is bridging international secondary school contests and activities with Chinese students. To help students better leverage the resources and achieve more competitive performance, we are also responsible for the local training and regional selection for these platforms. <http://www.reachable-edu.com/>