

## **Paducah Middle Runner-Up In the Department of Energy's National Science Bowl**

*By Joe Walker  
LATA Kentucky*

Paducah Middle School is the national runner-up in hydrogen-fueled model car competition in the U.S. Department of Energy's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual National Science Bowl.

The team's balsa-wooded auto finished just 0.35 of a second behind the national winner May 1 in the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Model Car Challenge at Bethesda Chevy Chase High School in Bethesda, MD. Blake Middle School of Hopkins, MN, won the final heat of the 10-meter race in 3.49 seconds, just ahead of Paducah Middle's 3.84 seconds.

Paducah Middle team members Erin Burba, Reese Butler, Grant Hutcheson, Parker Loyd, and Palmer Stroup were judged on creative engineering skills in designing, building and racing a car with hydrogen fuel cell technology. Dianne Cypret and Cindy Glisson coached the group.

"The U.S. needs outstanding scientists and engineers to help solve many of our nation's greatest challenges," Energy Secretary Steven Chu said. "The National Science Bowl engages students in a fun and rewarding competition, and encourages them to direct their talents towards careers in science, mathematics, and technology."

Paducah Middle qualified for an all-expense-paid trip to the National Science Bowl by winning the regional competition Feb. 18 in Paducah. The national competition in the Washington, D.C., area drew 69 regional-champion high school and 41 middle school teams from 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. They were quizzed on various science topics including biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, astronomy, energy, and math.

Middle schoolers underwent question-and-answer competition April 30 at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD, while high school students participated in hands-on science experiments, seminars and lectures. The next day, high school teams competed in Questions & Answers while middle school teams raced their hydrogen-fueled cars.

The Department's National Science Bowl is the nation's largest academic competition of its kind. More than 14,000 students from 1,800 schools participated in regional science bowl competitions this year. The Department supports mathematics and science education to help provide a technically trained and diverse workforce for the nation.



Palmer Stroup holds the hydrogen-fueled model car that took second place for Paducah Middle School in DOE's National Science Bowl competition. Other team members are, from left, Erin Burba, Parker Loyd, Grant Hutcheson, and Reese Butler.

*Photo submitted by Paducah Middle School*

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