

The Final Four: *You Be The Chemist* Competition



What is the difference between a cation and an anion? Better yet, what is the difference between an exothermic and an endothermic reaction? Quickly, what is the molecular structure of dihydrogen monoxide? In less than five seconds write down the name of the most malleable and ductile element? Name the four states of matter. What is the difference between condensation and sublimation?

These are just a handful of the type of questions Ecotek Lab students had to answer in order to advance to the Final Four for the *You Be the Chemist Competition*. The student scientists on this year's qualifying team are: Daniel Hudson-8th grader at Detroit Edison PSA, Miles Frierson- 6th grader at Derby Middle School, Elainah Bayless-8th grader at Creative Montessori Academy, and Raynisha Pannell-8th grader at George Crockett Academy.

To make it to the final four was quite difficult. The students reviewed hundreds of chemistry concepts ranging from atomic structure to states of matter to organic compounds. They also performed a number of hands-on experiments, ranging from determining the density of metals to the dehydration of sucrose to catalyzation of hydrogen.

In the coming weeks, Miles, Raynisha, Elainah and Daniel will be competing to see who will represent Ecotek Lab at the Wayne County Regional Round of the *You Be The Chemist* competition on February 27, 2013 (top 3 scientists) and for a chance to advance to the state round of the competition. Preparation will include a review of more chemistry concepts and more lab work (e.g. molarity, chemical bonds, temperature scales). Regardless who ends up advancing to the regional round, each student has built a solid scientific foundation that will serve them well in the future.

About the Ecotek Science Program

Ecotek is a science research lab program for young inventors and researchers in grades 5 thru 12. Student scientists work on projects aligned with the issues being addressed by world leaders at the United Nations. To learn more about Ecotek Lab go to <http://www.ecotek-us.com>

About the You Be the Chemist Competition

The You Be the Chemist Competition is a national competition for students in grades 5 thru 8 that tests their knowledge of basic to advance chemistry.

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