

## Ecotek Student Scientists Advance in National Chemistry Contest

Chemistry is a challenging topic that most students shy away from, but the student scientists in Ecotek have taken a real liking to the subject. This year the following students have advanced to the regional round of the *You Be The Chemist Challenge (YBTC)*: Tori Farrow, Amber Young, Antoine Crews, Angel Hall, Briana Young, and Mosheh Williams (serving as the alternate). The YBTC is a national chemistry competition for students in grades 5 through 8.

To advance to the regional round of the competition, the students had to win out against their fellow researchers by answering 100 chemistry questions across a number of areas ranging from understanding the properties of matter to knowing the difference between an endothermic and an exothermic reaction. One of the students, Amber Young, a fifth grader at Chrysler Elementary in Detroit, earned a perfect score.

The regional round of the YBTC competition will be held on March 10 at Wayne RESA. The top three students from this round will compete with other students from around the state to determine who will represent the State of Michigan in Philadelphia, PA at the national competition. Competing in the YBTC is a great opportunity for students to get a head start on chemistry.

All students in Ecotek are required to participate in the YBTC competition. The background that they gain from preparing for the competition helps them with their UN research projects and helps improve their science grades at school. For example, Angel Hall and Amber Young are working on a project entitled "The Bacteria Superhighway" in which they are growing bacteria cultures collected from different sources to understand how bacteria/viruses move from one host to another as well as how bacteria react to different antibiotics. Participating in the YBTC competition has helped them better understand biochemical relationships. It has sparked their interests in careers in biotechnology. It will also serve them well when they travel to the UN to meet with leaders from agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO).





### **About the Ecotek Science Program**

Ecotek is a program within the Motor City Model UN Club, a 501c3 organization. It provides students ages 10 to 17 with the opportunity to work on science projects to help them better understand the role that science plays in policy making within international organizations like the United Nations. The students work on a diverse set of projects ranging from combating AIDS to protecting the environment. Once they have reviewed the UN treaties and have completed their lab research, the students meet with world leaders at the UN to share what they have learned.

To learn more about the program and the students highlighted in this press release, please contact Keith Young at 313-399-7893 or email him at [keiyoung@ecotek-us.com](mailto:keiyoung@ecotek-us.com)