



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**[SCHOOL NAME] [Xth] Graders Named State Winners in the 16th Annual  
eCYBERMISSION STEM Competition**

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

**April 30, 2018** – The U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) today announced **Mountain Heights Academy 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Team OPERATION BEE** as a **1<sup>st</sup> place state winner** in the 16th annual [eCYBERMISSION](#) competition – one of several science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiatives sponsored by the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP). The **Mountain Heights Academy 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Gupfish Gardeners** is the **2<sup>nd</sup> place state winner** in the eCYBERMISSION competition. CYBERMISSION, administered by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), is a web-based competition for students in **grades six through nine**. Students are challenged to work in teams of 3-4 to identify a problem in their community and use scientific practices or the engineering design process to develop a solution. Student prizes for each grade level are awarded at the state, regional, and national levels.

The teams submitted their Mission Folder—the official write-up of the project— through the eCYBERMISSION website to be evaluated and scored by volunteer virtual judges. First-place state winning teams received \$1,000 per student team member in U.S. EE Savings Bonds and second-place state winning teams received \$500 per student team member in U.S. EE Savings Bonds.

“The remarkable projects submitted by these students demonstrate their commitment to tackling some of their communities’ most daunting challenges. The U.S. Army is truly awed by the thoughtfulness and originality behind the ideas put forth by these students,” said Louie R. Lopez, AEOP Cooperative Agreement Manager. “I congratulate the state winners on their accomplishments and wish them luck in the next phase of the eCYBERMISSION competition.”

“The level of creativity and dedication these students have shown through their projects is truly impressive. Their imaginative ideas are shining examples of the innovation we try to foster every day in STEM education classrooms nationwide,” said Dr. David Crowther, NSTA President. “We congratulate the state winners on what they’ve achieved so far and applaud all of the team advisors for engaging and inspiring their students to make a real difference in the world around them.”

In the next round of the competition, a panel of virtual 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 at the National Judging & Educational Event (NJ&EE), taking place on June 17-22, 2018 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](http://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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