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Students from Granada Hills Charter compete in 2019 Santa Cruz Forestry Challenge

Loma Mar, CA — Six students from Granada Hills Charter (GHC) High School participated recently in the 2019 Santa Cruz Forestry Challenge, alongside a total of 84 high school students from 12 schools throughout California. The event was October 9-12 at Redwood Glen in Loma Mar, California. Granada Hills Charter finished fourth and sixth out of a total of 21 teams.

One of the highlights for the students was the opportunity to collect data on a 20-acre forested unit in the northeast portion of Redwood Glen to establish baseline statistics and assess growth potential. Students used their findings to decide how to comprehensively manage the land to balance harvesting with new growth of timber over the long run. During the Challenge, the teams of students also completed field training, followed by a field test, to assess their technical forestry knowledge.

“Forestry Challenge provides an opportunity to apply forest management skills using real data and develop a sustainable plan using data that was collected in the field,” said GHC teacher, Wendy Hagan. Makena Plourde, GHC 12th grader, summed it up as follows: “Forestry Challenge is a fun experience that allows students to explore nature and gain a better understanding of the real world.”

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About Granada Hills Charter School: Granada Hills Charter School, the largest charter school in the nation, is an independent public school in the San Fernando Valley. A fiscally independent conversion charter school, Granada Hills Charter has a current student enrollment of approximately 4,750 in its high school program and 400 students to be enrolled in 2019-20 in its new TK-8 program. Both programs have a combined annual student wait list of nearly 4,000. The School’s student population is one of the most diverse, with more than 40 languages other than
English spoken at home and over 60 nationalities represented. Over 50 percent of students are eligible for the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. As a 501c3 non-profit benefit corporation, the School's Governing Board is the legal entity overseeing all school policy and its $60 million operating budget. The school is ranked "#1 Best Charter High School in California," "#4 Most Diverse Public High School in Los Angeles" and "#11 Best Charter High Schools in America" by Niche.com in the 2019 Best Schools rankings.