

# Darien pupils named finalists in U.S. contest

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Five students from Kingswood Academy in Darien were recently named finalists in a national competition sponsored by the National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Contestants submitted projects on alternative fuel sources for cars. The two winning teams selected from Kingswood Academy used solar power, along with some form of electric power.

One group used the sun during daytime hours and relied on a powerful light bulb to provide "solar" power at night. The other team used an electric motor as a backup power source.

Finalists from the school included Lydia Whitten, 14, of Woodridge and her partner, Maria Civantos, 13, of Hinsdale. The other team was made up of Rose Muscarello, 13, of Burr Ridge, Alexis Mikrut, 13, of Lemont, and Maria Helmold, 13, of Oak Lawn.

Whitten and Mikrut will receive a trip to Alexandria, Va., where they will go on to visit Washington, D.C., to tour exhibits and museums. The winners earned plaques and savings bonds worth up to \$3,000.

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