

## **The Most Exciting Week of My Life, and a Vacation From School**

**Ambrose Soehn**

The Discovery Channel Young Scientists Challenge, which is held in Washington, DC, is one of the most prestigious competitions for aspiring young scientists. One of the coolest parts about it was being in Washington, DC itself. My family and I had time to explore some of DC's best museums. We were also treated to very good food and 5-star accommodations. However, more importantly than all that, were the people I met. The thirty nine other finalists are still some of my closest friends, and I actually had the opportunity of seeing a couple of them again after the competition. The competition itself is comprised of presenting your science fair project in the world-renowned Smithsonian Museum of Natural History where you are judged, along with a series of group based challenges. These challenges were some of the most difficult, but exhilarating events and included riding around in a home-made electric car, learning how many pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> are emitted from an average American cheeseburger, building a greenhouse to simulate what our world is presently going through, and the most fun of all, creating a 5 foot tall fire tornado fueled by a spinning vortex of air and methanol. Everyone gets to be filmed by Discovery Channels film crew, and the footage will be created into special presentation that will air on Discovery Channels new show, Planet Green. All in all, this competition is something that I will remember for the rest of my life, and it all started by filling out my nomination packet.