

ENVIROTHON PROGRAM

The Envirothon program is sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. We have separate State middle school and high school competitions.

Participant Eligibility:

Open to teams of students in grades 9 – 12 for high school and in grades 5-8 for middle schools. Teams consist of five members. Each team must have an adult advisor and the team may have alternates. It is important for high school teams to have at least two alternates if you feel that your team may have a chance to win first place at the state competition. The North American Canon Envirothon will allow two substitutions to the original team.

Public schools, private schools, home school groups, school clubs, FFA groups, etc. are all eligible to participate in the Envirothon Program.

Team Sponsorship:

Teams must be sponsored by a Soil and Water Conservation District. To encourage maximum participation, the State Envirothon Committee will sponsor organized teams if Districts can't, or do not wish to be sponsors.

Contest Cycle:

The Envirothon begins at the start of the new school year. It is up to the teachers when they start studying. All eight Areas now hold their Area Envirothons in the spring.

By January 31, the State Envirothon Committee will set the date for the State Competition. The State Competition is normally held in mid to late April. In 2013, the date is April 19th-20th.

Area Registration:

Teams register for the Envirothon via an Area Envirothon Registration form, which the Area Envirothons have. Each Area sets team registration deadlines. The top seven winning Area teams from both the high school and middle school divisions are allowed to travel and participate at the State Competition. The Area Envirothon Coordinators must send the State Envirothon Coordinators, copies of the registration sheets and medical consent forms and the video/photo consent forms for the top seven winning high school and middle school teams and the highest scoring FFA Team.

State Participation Fees:

The State Envirothon requires a participating team to pay a \$50.00 participation fee to help offset the costs associated with holding the State Event. In most cases local Soil & Water Conservation Districts pays these fees. In some cases the schools pays these fees.

Contest Procedure:

The State Competition will be held on a Friday and Saturday. Friday is a training day with teams registering and picking up their registration packets. Friday is also the day of the high School Oral presentation. The oral presentation is conducted during the station rotation on Friday afternoon.

On Friday afternoon, there is a resource station set up for each of the five subject areas: soils/land use, forest resources, aquatic ecology, wildlife and one on current environmental issues. From 2:00 until around 6:30 the teams rotate from station to station and attend training sessions held by resource professionals at each station. Resource professionals may include some of the material presented at their station on the state exam the next day. They can do this as long as the same material is presented to all the teams. Registration on Saturday will begin at 8:00A.M. with the competition starting at 9:45 A.M. More information will be on the web site at

www.ncenvirothon.org

The contest consists of five resource stations:

- **Wildlife** - challenges teams on habitat knowledge, identification, foods, rules & regulations, birdcalls, diseases, management, animal signs.
- **Aquatic ecology** - ecology of water, non-point sources of pollution, wetlands, stream buffers, water chemistry, plants & animals living in or around water, pollution, conservation, macroinvertebrate id, erosion problems.
- **Forestry** - tree identification, improvement of timber stands, forest ecology, insects, diseases, forest management, forest measurements, functions of trees.
- **Soils/land use** - classification, erosion, soil surveys, site suitability, current issues, profiles, soil characteristics, Best Management Practices, erosion.
- **Current Environmental Issues** - any current or newsworthy environmental issue.

Teams will visit each resource station and be given a written test. Questions are answered as a team. The written test will last for 25-30 minutes and will have approximately 25 questions. After finishing one station, and at a set time, teams will rotate to the next station.

Test answers are graded and scores tallied to select the winner. The high school team with the highest score will be declared the state winner and will be eligible to compete in the North American Canon Envirothon competition. The middle school team state winner stops at the state competition.

The oral presentation will be set up again as three separate stations. One station for the presentation and two for preparations of the presentation.

Competition Preparation:

Once a team has pre-registered for the Area Envirothon, information will be sent by the sponsoring District to each advisor listing the source of materials that will be needed for study. Written materials or cds with resource materials will be sent. The resource study materials will also be placed on the Envirothon web site (ncenvirothon.org). Questions will be developed from resource materials or from information supplied during the station training on Friday. Prior to April, teams should hold or participate in local, county, or regional competitions to gain experience.

Area Competitions:

Each of the eight Areas of the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts holds an Area Envirothon competition. This is to give the teachers an opportunity to evaluate the progress of their team's study efforts and to get a feel as to how the state Envirothon operates. These Area Envirothons are also qualifying events. The top seven scoring teams from the Area Envirothons, in both the middle school division and the high school division, are eligible to attend the State Envirothon Competition. The highest scoring FFA team is also eligible to go to the state Envirothon Competition, even if they are not part of the top seven teams. The FFA uses our State Envirothon Competition as their state competition for the FFA Environmental Awareness event.

Community Service Learning Projects

The State Envirothon Committee has decided to do a voluntary Community Service Learning Project. This project can be a data sharing project, a physical project or a service project.

The project is a team project, is voluntary and a great opportunity for the Envirothon team to show what they have learned about our natural resources from studying the Envirothon resource materials.

The teams must prepare a write up of their project and give a fifteen-minute oral presentation to a public body. They must videotape this presentation and send it with the write up to (high school projects) Steve Bennett by March 1 and (middle school projects) to Sandra Weitzel by March 1.

Examples of Projects:

Data sharing- collect data on a subject such as monitoring a stream and tracking water quality parameters such as DO, pH, macroinvertebrates collected, water level, volume of flow. Other possibilities are to present research of a topic like "what are problems associated with storm water runoff".

Physical Project- building a physical project like an outdoor classroom, nature trail, wildlife habitat area, mini-pond, butterfly area, etc.

Service Project- Starting a recycling program at your school, starting a stream watch group, picking up trash along a stream.

AREA ENVIROTHON CONTACTS

Area 1—Contact Leanna Staton at Clay SWCD (828-389-9764)

lstaton@claync.org

Area 2---Contact Linda Hash at Alleghany SWCD (336-372-4645)

linda.hash@nc.nacdnet.net

Area 3---Contact Millie Langley at Guilford SWCD (336-375-5401)

millie.Langley@nc.nacdnet.net

Area 4---Contact Charles Bass at Franklin SWCD (919-496-3137))

charles.bass@nc.nacdnet.net

Area 5—Contact Bryan Evans at Pitt SWCD (252-752-2720)

bsevans@pittcountync.gov

Area 6---Contact Pam Hawkins at Craven SWCD (252-637-2547)

Pamela.Hawkins@nc.nacdnet.net

Area 7---Contact Kay Bullard at Cumberland SWCD (910-484-8479)

kbullard@co.cumberland.nc.us

Area 8---Contact Andy Miller at Davidson SWCD (336-242-2075)

amiller@davidsoncountync.gov

STATE ENVIROTHON CONTACTS

Steve Bennett at Raleigh Regional Office (919-715-5822)

Steve.bennett@ncagr.gov

Sandra Weitzel at Raleigh Regional Office (919-715-6680)

Sandra.Weitzel@ncagr.gov