Envirothon School – Envirothon 101

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What is Envirothon?

– Awesome!
– “... a fun, hands-on, natural science academic event that engages and challenges students to think critically about the natural world and their role in it.”
– Combines in-class studies with outdoor training to help students learn and experience the natural world, its processes, and related current issues
State and National Envirothon stats

- NC Envirothon was founded in 1991, over 25 years ago
- Over 290 teams participate in NC each year
- North America’s largest high school environmental education competition
- Reaches more than 500,000 students each year
- Over $100,000 in scholarships and prizes awarded each year
- Participants come from the US, Canada, and China
Who organizes and supports Envirothon?
What are the Envirothon topics?

- Soils and land use
- Forestry and plant life
- Wildlife and habitat
- Aquatics and water quality
- Current environmental issues
- For high school teams only:
  Oral Presentation
What do I need to form an Envirothon team?

– 3-5 students from the same middle/high school, non-traditional school, or youth organization such as 4-H, FFA, science or Envirothon clubs.
  – Two optional alternates allowed – compete on mock alternate team
  – High school teams must have 5 members to place at State. Teams with 3-4 members may win station high score awards.
  – At least one volunteer advisor.
What does a year in Envirothon look like?

- **October-February: Topics training and team building**
  - Meet as a team regularly to study materials
  - Field trip opportunities to gain field experience
  - Review sessions and mock competitions
- **March-April: Area Competition**
  - 7 highest scoring middle & high school teams from each Area qualify for State
- **April: State Competition**
  - Two-day event
  - Cedarock Park, Burlington
  - At least 1 FFA team will advance
- **July: North American High School Envirothon**
Roles: Advisor

- Schedule meeting dates for your team(s)
- Ensure students are studying materials
- Secure resource professionals for enrichment
- Schedule field trips at local field sites
- Register team(s) for Area competitions
- Many advisors will:
  - Create supplemental study materials for their students
  - Decide who will act as team members and who will act as alternates
  - Attend Envirothon School for Advisors & Teachers in summer to increase knowledge
Roles: Districts and District Employees

*Varies by District*

- Provide supplemental study materials (lending libraries)
  - Skulls, pelts, forestry tools, macroinvertebrate samples, soil samples, soil manuals, etc.
- “Coach” teams
  - Share examples of Envirothon questions
  - Prepare high school teams for Oral Presentation
  - Develop sample tests for teams/lead mock competitions
- Disseminate information from Envirothon committees
- Many Districts will:
  - Pay State competition registration
  - Cover costs of travel and lodging
  - Host training events for teams
Envirothon Study Materials

- NC Envirothon Website
  NCEnvirothon.org
- NC Division of Soil and Water Website
  ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/envirothon
- Supplemental Materials
  - District Lending Libraries
  - Resource Professionals
  - Field Trips
    - Local parks/forests, museums, and EE centers
Service Learning Project

- Optional/voluntary and does not impact score but a great learning experience
- Open to middle and high school teams
  - Must compete at Area competition, but not required to advance to state Envirothon
- Three categories:
  - Physical Project: outdoor classroom, nature trail, wildlife habitat, etc.
  - Service Project: litter clean up, teaching younger students, etc.
  - Data-sharing Project: collecting and presenting weather/wildlife/other data
- Must be written and presented to public body
  - Presentation is recorded and send to state committee along with write-up
Why Envirothon?

- Because it’s a blast!
- Learn new and interesting material
- Spend time in nature
- Teamwork and leadership experience
- College application building
- Professional development
- Networking
- Scholarships and cash prizes
- Travel with your friends!
Questions and comments