

2017 CENTRAL NEW YORK REGIONAL
ENVIROTHON
INFORMATION PACKET

DATE: APRIL 26, 2017



CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE:
Agricultural Soil & Water Conservation Stewardship



INTRODUCTION

Sponsored by the New York State Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), the Envirothon Program is designed to test each student's knowledge and understanding of natural resources and issues within New York State.

Mission:

To cultivate the desire to learn more about our natural environment through a competitive event.

- *To develop a greater appreciation for our dependence on the natural environment.*
- *To provide students with experience in environmentally oriented activities.*
- *To enable them to become environmentally aware, action oriented adults.*

Vision:

Students will develop knowledge of

- *The effects, both positive and negative, that individual action can have on environmental problems.*
- *The interactions and interdependence of our total environment*
- *Renewable and non-renewable resources*
- *Current environmental problems*
- *Local resource organizations and agencies available to assist them in environmental matters.*

With stimulated interest in environmental concerns, motivated students will further develop their knowledge and skills and evolve into environmentally aware, action-oriented adults. Envirothon activities begin locally with teams of five high school students competing for their County and Regional Envirothon titles. Local competitions are sponsored by each county's Conservation District and supported by local environmental or recreational civic groups or an environmentally conscious company. Teams are tested in five areas; aquatics, wildlife, forestry, soils and a current environmental issue. County winners then move on to the State competition where their knowledge is challenged in the same five areas. Once a team is recognized as State Champion, its members become New York State's representatives at the National Envirothon Competition.

Interest in the Envirothon has grown over the years. When the first Regional Envirothon was conducted in 1991, two counties participated. Since then, the idea has spread and about 30 teams representing 17 school districts and four counties participated in the 2016 competition held at Beaver Lake Nature Center in Baldwinsville. The Regional Envirothon is held at a different location every two years to give each Soil and Water Conservation District the opportunity to host the event and a way for each school district to share the burden of travel. The continuing success of the program is reflected in the participation and support of the county conservation districts, local groups and clubs, various state and federal agencies, and local businesses and industry.

INTENT FORMS DUE: JANUARY 20, 2017

CNY REGIONAL ENVIROTHON RULES

1. Students in grade levels 9 through 12 may participate.
2. A team will consist of a minimum of three (3) members and a maximum of five (5) members. Only one alternate per team will be allowed to attend the competition, but cannot participate. If your team does not meet the minimum requirements, you will not be allowed to participate.
3. A team is allowed one (1) alternate student. The alternate student will be designated at registration and can only be substituted for another student upon the approval of the Committee Chairperson.
4. The alternate must stay with the advisor during the competition and may not participate in the event, unless otherwise instructed.
5. Each school may send a maximum of two (2) teams. Team members may not be drawn from different schools (no all-star teams). BOCES teams are eligible to compete, as are members of sovereign Native American National Schools.
6. Cheating will not be tolerated. If a team is found cheating, the Committee Chairperson will decide upon disqualification.
7. During the Regional competition, each individual school team will stay together during the event. The team advisor or coach must travel with the team but must not assist the team in the actual competition.
8. In the event that the winning county team cannot compete in the State competition, the second place team for that county shall be allowed to enter the State competition.
9. The advisors will be responsible for a team's proper conduct at all times. Each team must have an advisor present at all times.
10. Competition will consist of six (6) stations - Soils, Wildlife, Forestry, Aquatics, Current Environmental Issue, and Oral Presentation.
11. Oral Presentations are a mandatory component of the event and scores will affect your final standing. Cooperating agencies and/or independent environmental organization personnel will conduct the competition.
12. The Regional Envirothon Committee's decisions are final regarding all events.
13. Transportation to the event will be the responsibility of each participating school.
14. The County and the overall winning team will be the team with the highest cumulative score for the six events. In the event of a tie, a tiebreaker question will be used to determine the winner. There will be no additional questions asked to determine winning teams for the individual categories of soils, wildlife, forestry, aquatics, and current issue.

15. Rules and regulations of the Regional Envirothon are subject to change. Any and all changes will be explained to all team members and advisors at the Envirothon site.
16. Cooperating agencies, advisors and team members involved in the competition will be requested to complete an evaluation of the program following the competition.
17. The Regional Envirothon Committee will consider any suggestions for improvement to the rules and regulations at a regularly schedule monthly meeting. All changes in rules and procedures are based on the general consensus of the committee.

SAMPLE TEST QUESTIONS

Soils:

Soils at the toe of slope at the base of a hill often have a thicker A horizon than soils on the summit or shoulder of the hill. Which of the soil forming factors is most related to this observation?

- a. Time
- b. Parent material
- c. Climate
- d. Topographic relief

Aquatics:

What anatomical feature allows for the detection of movement and vibrations in the water surrounding a fish, providing spatial awareness and the ability to navigate in space?

- a. Adipose fin
- b. Lateral line
- c. Cycloid scale
- d. Striated ray

Forestry:

Measure the tree labeled number 4 for: D.B.H., merchantable saw-log height and, total height. (When you are near the tree, you will notice a line marked on the ground and various distances from the tree are marked along this line. You may use this as needed or not.)

- a. 18", 2.5 logs, 75 feet
- b. 14", 24 ft, 80 feet
- c. 24", 40 ft, 75 feet
- d. 18", 2 logs, 32 feet

Wildlife:

Many of the wildlife species of New York live in a certain habitat because of their needs to survive or physical adaptations that help them live in the habitat. From the following list, which are least suited for a swamp/marsh habitat?

- a. Woodcocks
- b. Redwing Blackbirds
- c. Wood ducks
- d. Woodchucks

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An outline with reference materials will be released shortly.

ORAL PRESENTATION

Rules, Scoring and Guidelines

As part of the North American Envirothon competition, teams are required to make a presentation regarding a specific environmental problem given to them by the host state. The New York State Envirothon has made the problem solving oral presentation a mandatory part of the competition. To help prepare teams for future competitions, the Regional Envirothon includes the oral presentation as part of the overall score of each team. The oral presentation scenario will be the same as the one used at the State Envirothon competition and will correlate with the current environmental issue station. A panel of judges will review and score the presentations. The judges will be scoring teams on the solutions based upon a rubric with specific talking points. The oral presentation is a mandatory component of the Regional Envirothon and scores will have an impact on your team's standing.

Below is a list of guidelines for teams while preparing and presenting their solutions to the panel of judges. Please be advised that these rules are set in place to make the scoring fair for all the teams participating. Should these guidelines not be followed, the team may be disqualified from the oral presentation aspect of the competition.

1. The panel will include 4 judges. The scores from each of the four judges will be averaged and this will serve as the total score for the oral presentation.
2. The oral presentation is based on a score of 200 points. As such, the final score will be halved so as to serve as 1/6 of the overall score of the competition.
3. Students may use two poster boards to assist in the oral presentations. No computer generated print outs or computer usage is allowed at this time. All artwork must be original.
4. Students must cite the sources of their information.
5. Students may not provide handouts to the judges for them to read and review. All information provided to the judges must be presented orally.
6. Students may use flash/index cards to assist their presentation.
7. All members of the team must have a speaking contribution to the presentation.
8. The presentations cannot exceed 10 minutes in length.
9. When the presentation is finished, judges will have 5 minutes to ask questions about the presentation.
10. The team's advisor may be present for the presentation but may not talk to judges or the students during the presentation.

11. Any infraction to the rules will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The Regional Envirothon Committee decision shall be final.

**The oral presentation problem is due to be released
February 2017**

THE DAY OF THE ENVIROTHON

We ask that advisors and team members arrive to the facility around **8:15** a.m. to register. There will be paperwork that must be signed and turned into the CNY Regional Envirothon Committee. This paperwork will be sent to you about a month before the event. A schedule of the day will also be provided. Each station runs about 45 minutes in length with six stations total. The testing portion is normally finished around **1:30** p.m. After a brief break for lunch, the Committee will present awards to the winning teams. This ceremony usually ends around **2:30** p.m.

BE PREPARED!

1. Dress warmly and in layers! The competition is in APRIL. Temperatures at the site of the competition may be cooler than at your home. Also, the temperature in the morning may be slightly cooler than in the afternoon. We hope that the program is fun and educational for all of us. If you are not dressed for the weather, you will NOT enjoy being there.
2. A catered lunch will NOT be provided, however there will be a period of about a half hour scheduled for students and teachers to eat. Bring your own lunch to the event. Remember, we do not have the facilities to store or refrigerate lunch items.

AWARDS

Each team member and advisor will receive a complementary event t-shirt. The team members who have the highest score in each category will receive a prize. Plaques will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place team from each county. A regional Envirothon Champion trophy will be awarded to the team with the highest overall score. The first place team from each county will go on to compete at the State Envirothon. If funding allows, cash awards will be given to teams as follows: 3rd place; \$25.00, 2nd place; \$50.00, 1st place; \$100.00. The champion team will receive the Bill Legg Award and a \$100.00 cash award.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Competing in the Regional Envirothon provides an opportunity for students to win scholarships for college. The Regional Envirothon committee offers a \$100.00 scholarship payable directly to a college or technical school, to all the team members who place first in their county. The State Envirothon offers a \$500 scholarship to all the members of the first place team, \$250 to the second place team members and \$125 to the team members who finish in third place.

REGIONAL ENVIROTHON COMMITTEE

THE REGIONAL ENVIROTHON COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES:

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ONONDAGA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED IN THIS MANUAL, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE REGIONAL ENVIROTHON COMMITTEE.