

The Envirothon

The Envirothon is a dynamic hands-on Environmental Education Program for high school students. Teams of students who wish to compete in the state-level Envirothon competition explore different natural resource related topics throughout the school year, including **soils, forestry, aquatics, wildlife ecology and current environmental issues**. As they strengthen their background in natural resources, students practice working in teams, considering information and differing viewpoints to reach a decision through consensus and teamwork. One of the purposes of this program is to encourage students to become better-informed, active participants in natural resource management and problem-solving.

The team advisor or “coach” facilitates team preparation for the competition. The Envirothon sponsors offer training and study guides for this preparation. Organized training sessions give students the opportunity to meet a wide range of professionals working in environment related fields. Hands-on activities outlined in the educational study guide acquaint students with the Envirothon testing format.

The online study guide can also be used to supplement regular lesson plans. Preparation for the Envirothon will help teachers meet New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.



Each year the Envirothon features a current environmental issue. **The 2012 Environmental issue is "Nonpoint Source Pollution / Low Impact Development"**.

Competition Structure

The New Jersey Envirothon competition is a one-day event that takes place near the end of the school year. Teams will be tested on environmental topics through hands-on interactive problem-solving at five testing stations. Test questions may cover any information in the study guide and suggested resource materials or web links. The contest will consist of hands-on questions along with some true/false, multiple choice and fill-in-the-blanks. There will be 30 minutes allowed at each station. Team presentations will last 10 minutes.



The team that best demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of natural resources, as well as teamwork and communication skills, moves on to represent New Jersey in the Canon Envirothon competition which is North America's Largest High School Environmental Education Competition. This multi-day event further tests the team's understanding of the environment and involves teams from all regions of the United States and Canada.

General Information

- ✓ Register on or before March 1, 2012.
- ✓ Upon registration, a study guide with information on natural resource topics and a list of suggested resource materials and contacts will be sent to each team.
- ✓ There is a resource problem to be researched during the school year and presented by the team before a panel of judges during the competition.
- ✓ A schedule of the activities on the day of the competition will be sent to each team in advance for travel preparations.
- ✓ Transportation to the event is the responsibility of each participating team.
- ✓ The winning team becomes eligible to compete in the Canon Envirothon. The second place team will compete if the first place team cannot attend.
- ✓ Jackets, sweaters and ponchos may be used as long as no school identifiers are visible.
- ✓ Schools may submit a registration form for a second team. A waiting list will be created and if there is space after the registration deadline, your school will be notified about entering the second team.

Rules

1. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible.
2. Each team must consist of five members from the same school or organization. One alternate is permitted to prepare with the team, **but cannot attend as a 6th member during the actual event.**
3. **Teams will not be permitted to carry any items not provided to them at the time of registration. This includes, but is not limited to, backpacks, cell phones, calculators, battery-powered, solar powered equipment or any other electronic devices during the competition.**
4. In the event of a tied score, the team with the highest score in the team presentation portion will be declared the winner.
5. Team advisors are prohibited from accompanying their team during any part of the competition. (This includes lunch.)
6. The lunch break is considered part of the Envirothon. No studying or use of other materials is permitted. All rules still apply during the lunch break.
7. Tobacco products, alcohol and other drugs may not be used by any team member during any part of the Envirothon.
8. No animal, other than a service animal on which the individual is physically dependent, will be allowed at the event.
9. Decisions of the contest oversight committee are **final**.
10. Any infraction of the New Jersey Envirothon Rules can result in disqualification and dismissal from the event and host site.

Consider Participating

Make an environmental investment that is both fun and educational! Register your team in the Envirothon competition by returning the form. Early registration is highly recommended to allow time for studying the guide and preparing for this exciting event.



Awards and Recognition

All students will receive certificates for participating in the Envirothon and T-shirts commemorating the event. The NJ Association of Conservation Districts will offer \$1,000 Scholarships to the members of the 1st place team. *Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and Kean University will also offer the first place team members Scholarships to attend their University or College.* The 1st place team will also receive a plaque in honor of their achievement. The team that represents New Jersey at the Canon Envirothon may also receive a cash award to help defray travel expenses.

To register for the New Jersey Envirothon

1. Complete the form on the reverse side of this brochure.
2. Make registration check for \$100 payable to the *New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts*.
3. ****If your team plans to eat at Camp Sacajawea on Friday night there will be an additional non-refundable fee of \$50 per team for dinner**.**
4. Mail both form and fee to:
State Soil Conservation Committee
NJ Department of Agriculture
PO Box 330, Room 204
Trenton, NJ 08625

**THE 2012 NEW JERSEY ENVIROTHON
WILL BE HELD AT:
Camp Sacajawea at
242 Adelpia Road Farmingdale, New Jersey
Saturday, May 5, 2012 and
Hosted by the Freehold Soil Conservation
District**
(Free tent camping will be available at *Camp Sacajawea*
on the evening of Friday May 4.)
For additional information about the NJ Envirothon,
contact your local conservation district, visit
www.njenvirothon.org
or contact
Rich Belcher, NJ Envirothon Coordinator
Richard.Belcher@ag.state.nj.us
609-633-2549

The 2012 New Jersey Envirothon



**A Natural Resources
Problem-Solving
Competition for High
School Students**

May 5, 2012

www.njenvirothon.org
Join us on Facebook

ENVIROTHON SPONSORS:

NJ Department of Agriculture

**NJ State Soil Conservation
Committee**

**NJ Association of Conservation
Districts**

15 Local Soil Conservation Districts

**USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

**NJ Department of Environmental
Protection**

Rutgers Cooperative Extension

A Message From the Sponsors

The conservation agencies and organizations who sponsor this program are dedicated to promoting awareness of the need to conserve and manage our soil, water and related natural resources, and conduct public programs to achieve this goal.

The Envirothon provides an educational format through which students can learn more about natural resource management, the environmental benefits which can result and the programs which can promote these benefits.

The sponsors of the Envirothon encourage your participation.

For further information regarding the NJ
Envirothon, call your local soil
conservation district:

Bergen SCD (201) 261-4407	Hudson, Essex Passaic SCD (973) 364-0786
Burlington SCD (609) 267-7410	Hunterdon SCD (908) 788-9466
Camden SCD (856) 767-6299	Mercer SCD (609) 586-9603
Cape Atlantic SCD (609) 625-1517	Morris SCD (973) 538-1557
Cumberland / Salem SCD (856) 451-2422	Ocean SCD (609) 971-7002
Freehold SCD (Monmouth & Middlesex) (732) 683-8500	Somerset-Union SCD (908) 526-2701
Gloucester SCD (856) 589-5250	Sussex SCD (973) 579-5074
	Warren SCD (908) 852-2579

State Soil Conservation Committee
(609) 292-5540

***Education is not preparation for life.
Education is life itself.***

— John Dewey

***Printed on recycled paper by the
State Soil Conservation Committee
and the NJ Department of Agriculture***

THE NEW JERSEY ENVIROTHON REGISTRATION FORM

Registration fee is \$100 per team and includes lunch. (Friday night meals will be an additional non-refundable fee of \$50 per team.)

Name of high school or group _____

Street, City and Zip Code _____

County _____

Advisor's Name _____

Address (if different) _____

Number of team members _____

Camping on Friday night? YES NO

E-mail Address _____

Do you have Internet access? YES NO

Make checks payable to: The New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts

Return form and fee to: State Soil Conservation Committee, NJDA, PO Box 330, Room 204, Trenton, NJ 08625

Must be received by March 1, 2012.