

What is Envirothon?

The Envirothon is an annual competition in which teams compete for recognition and scholarships by demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management. The teams, each consisting of five students from participating schools, home study groups and environmental clubs, exercise their training and problem-solving skills in a competition centered on five testing categories (i.e., soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and a current environmental issues). North Carolina has a Middle School and a High School Competition.

The Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental education competition. Reaching more than 500,000 students across North America annually, the Envirothon succeeds in its mission to develop knowledgeable, skilled, and dedicated citizens who are willing and prepared to work toward achieving a balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

Training for the Envirothon begins well in advance of the actual event. Each team arrives at the Area or State Envirothon as a result of extensive training and superior performance at local and/or regional Envirothon competitions.

The Envirothon program is an effective educational tool, capable of supplementing environmental education both inside and outside the classroom. Led by a volunteer advisor, teams usually meet from late autumn until spring. Teams work collaboratively to develop their knowledge of ecology and natural resource management and to practice their environmental problem-solving skills in preparation for Envirothon competitions.

Team training can include field trips to natural resource sites, museums, or other areas of interest; listening to presentations given by natural resource professionals; and careful study of natural resource materials. Through these learning activities, teams increase their knowledge of and their ability to understand complex environmental and natural resource issues.



"I'm very excited!
Envirothon gives us the
opportunity to learn outside
the classroom. This is a great
chance to visit actual
ecosystems and to meet and
compete with other students
who have a passion for the
environment."

Kate Harnish, Student