

New York State ENVIROTHON
Rules and Regulations
Adopted September 2018



General

1. English shall be the official language of the New York State Envirothon. All written (field) tests and oral presentation scenarios shall be in English.
2. Students in grade levels 9 through 12 may participate. Student teams may be formed from a high school, BOCES, 4-H club, FFA club, members of sovereign Native American Nations schools, home schools, or any other sanctioned local, regional, state, or nationally recognized club that sponsors youth in grades 9-12. All team members must represent the same educational unit.
3. Home Education students may form their own team specifically for participation in the New York State Envirothon, and they must petition their county conservation district for recognition to participate in an Envirothon event. All team members must participate in the same county event in order to participate at the state level (no all-star teams). How Home Education teams are organized to participate in a county Envirothon event is at the discretion of the County Conservation District or a NY Envirothon Committee approved sponsoring organization.
4. Each Soil and Water Conservation District and the five Burroughs of NYC may send one winning team to the NYS Envirothon. Teams shall have competed in a local and/or regional competition. A local competition will consist of a minimum of two (2) competing teams from that county. A regional competition shall involve at least two counties and shall include one team from each participating county.
5. A team will consist of a minimum of four (4) members and a maximum of five (5) members. An alternate may be utilized if a regular team member cannot participate. The alternate must represent the same educational unit as the team. Teams will be responsible for additional costs for this person. ***Please see rules for “The Winning Team #2”**
6. Once the County/Regional Envirothon competitions have taken place and winners identified, the teams representing their respective counties are prohibited from visiting the site of the NYS Envirothon competition.

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7. In the event the winning County team cannot compete in the State competition, then the second-place team from that county shall be allowed to enter the competition as long as the New York State Envirothon rules are met.
8. Each team must be accompanied at the competition by at least one advisor. Each team is encouraged to arrange for an adult male to chaperone male team members and adult female to chaperone female team members. For the purpose of housing, male and female team members will be assigned to different floors and/or buildings. The New York State Envirothon will not be responsible for improperly chaperoned teams.
9. **IMPORTANT!!!** Any team arriving the day before the event, with or without an advisor, will not be permitted to stay on the school grounds.
10. Advisors will be responsible to ensure that teams display proper conduct and respect during the competition and at the host facility. In most host facilities, overseeing final clean-up of rooms by the teams is also the responsibility of the advisor.
11. Because of liability, team members and advisors **MUST** honor specific rules put forward by the host facility. These rules will be spelled out in the first orientation and normally require such actions as whether the advisors and students remain on site, areas that are off limits, whether or not swimming/boating is allowed, etc. Details of these rules will be provided in writing to each advisor at that time. Failure to follow these rules can lead to legal problems if there is an accident.
12. The NYS Envirothon Committee requires a completed and signed health form and is to be informed of all participants taking prescription drugs and any medical condition including medication administered by an inhaler or mechanical device, special diets, allergies, and special learning and/or training disabilities. Upon such notification, the NYS Envirothon Committee will make any reasonable accommodations within their limits. All medications must be labeled with the name of the medication, name of the patient, name of the physician, date and directions (e.g. specific dose for administration). Prescription medication must be labeled by a registered pharmacist unless ordered from a pharmaceutical company. Safe refrigeration will be supplied by the committee if needed.
13. All snuff, tobacco, illegal drugs, alcohol and weapons (including but not limited to: fire arms, pocket knives, hunting knives, leatherman/all-purpose tools, and/or self-protection sprays) are not permitted. Any member of the team, including the advisor having possession of any of these items will cause disqualification of the entire team from the competition.
14. Meals and housing during the competition for the participating teams and advisors will be the responsibility of the NYS Envirothon Program.

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15. Transportation, meals and liability for team members en route to and from the NYS Envirothon will be the responsibility of each participating school or organization.
16. No animal, other than a service animal on which the individual is physically dependent, will be allowed at the New York State Envirothon Competition. Animals used for the purpose of training, testing, or demonstration will be permitted.
17. No electronic, battery-powered, or solar powered equipment may be used by or be in the possession of team members during the instructional periods, field testing, oral presentation preparation, or oral presentations unless such equipment is provided by the New York State Envirothon Committee for use during the competition, and/or approved by the New York State Envirothon Committee (for example to compensate for a physical or mental disability) prior to the start of the competition.

Written Field Competition

1. The competition will be conducted by the NYS Envirothon Committee.
2. There shall be five (5) test stations: Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and a Current Environmental Issue and one (1) non-test station: Photography.
 - a. The Current Environmental Issue shall parallel the issue from the NCF-Envirothon Committee as closely as possible.
 - b. The five station tests will be conducted by cooperating agencies and/or independent environmental professionals.
 - c. The five stations will be comprehensive in nature.
 - d. The five station tests will be 30 minutes in length with an additional ten minute review period.
3. Each individual county team will stay together during the competition. Team advisors will not travel from station to station with their team. Advisors will attend their choice of a workshops away from the testing site, if provided.
4. Teams will be issued a clipboard at each station of the competition. At each station they will be given a test to complete. All materials/guides/keys/equipment and other reference materials needed to complete the test will be available at the station. Teams are not allowed to carry any other materials/equipment etc. with them to the competition.
5. No backpacks or similar cases shall be taken on the testing circuit. A small device for carrying personal items, (i.e. lip balm, medications, sunscreen, etc.) may be allowed. The device may be subject to inspection prior to or during the testing.

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6. Bathroom Breaks – Team members **MUST** be accompanied by a Team Escort to and from the bathroom at all times. Any unaccompanied team members will not be allowed back to their team until time is called and all tests are collected.

Oral Presentation

1. The oral presentation scenario will focus on the current environmental issue, as set by the NCF-Envirothon annually.
2. The oral presentation scenario will be posted on the NYS Envirothon web site at the end of January.
3. The oral presentations will be judged by professionals from various organizations and agencies. The New York State Envirothon Committee will select the judges.
4. All five members **MUST** participate orally in the presentation. If all five members do not participate orally in the presentation, then the score will be reduced.
5. During the presentation, all team members must wear the current NYS Envirothon T-shirt and lanyard with assigned team number showing. No other team identification written, stated or worn is permitted.
6. Oral presentations will be 7-10 minutes in length. A score reduction will be assessed for less than 7 minutes or over 10 minutes.
7. During the presentation, minutes remaining signs will be shown to guide the team on their time.
8. Judges will have a maximum of 5 minutes questioning time.
9. No electronic equipment will be permitted.
10. Visual aids are limited to those listed in the rules sent with the problem scenario.
11. Oral presentation scores will be based on a criteria sheet approved by New York State Envirothon Committee. A copy of the scoring sheet will be included with the problem scenario.
12. Advisors and alternates may view their team's oral presentation with the permission of the team.
13. Competing Teams/Advisors are not allowed to observe other presentations.

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Scoring & Placement

1. Only authorized persons will be allowed in the scoring room.
2. Each station shall be scored on a 100 point basis.
3. The oral presentation shall be scored on a 200 point basis.
 - a. Each team will have five separate scores (one from each judge). The high and low score will be dropped and the remaining three averaged for the final score.
4. The final determination of winners will be the scores of the written field tests plus the final score of the oral presentation.
5. Tiebreakers for first through third place will be determined by category scores in the following order: Current Issues, Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife.
6. Tie breakers for the testing stations will be determined by two tiebreaker fill in the blank questions. These questions will be located at the end of each test for each category. In the event the tie cannot be broken using the tie breaker questions, the team having the most consecutive questions correct, beginning with question one, will win the tie.
7. Should a finding or awarding of points be disputed by an advisor, the Envirothon Committee has set up an independent jury* to hear the dispute and make a ruling. The decision of this jury will be final. Any disputes or concerns are to be formally presented in writing within one hour of the end of the competition, duly signed by the advisor or their representative (or as explained by the Envirothon Committee prior to the competition).

*The independent jury will consist of the NYS Envirothon Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and an independent party selected by the NYS Envirothon Chair. The Test Subcommittee Chair will act as an advisor to the independent jury.
8. **Tests will remain the property of the New York State Envirothon Committee.**

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The Winning Team

1. The winning team will have the opportunity to represent the New York State Envirothon at the NCF-Envirothon Event. The New York State Envirothon Committee may contribute towards the cost of attending the Envirothon. The winning team may substitute the alternate from its original Team Registration Form for one member of the team that won the state competition.

If a full contingent of the winning team is unable to attend the NCF-Envirothon, the Advisor shall notify the New York State Envirothon Committee within one week of the New York State Envirothon. The second-place team from the event will be asked to take their place.
2. The team representing New York State at the NCF-Envirothon must consist of (5) team members and two (2) adult advisors/chaperones. In the case of mixed gender teams, NCF-Envirothon rules require the team to have one male and female advisor/chaperone. NO exceptions.
3. Travel Reimbursement – The NYS Envirothon Committee will reimburse for travel expenses incurred by the winning team as per their annual budget. The Chair will let the winning team’s advisors know what the limits are. Anything above what the committee has in their budget for reimbursement is the responsibility of the team. Any exceptions should be brought to the NYS Envirothon Committee Chair.

Other

1. Rules and regulations of the NYS Envirothon are subject to change. Any and all changes will be explained in advance to all teams and advisors.
2. Any team or team member that breaks any rules will cause disqualification of the entire team.
3. Team Registration Payment is expected to be made prior to the New York State Envirothon Event by the Soil and Water Conservation District unless otherwise indicated.
4. For a full refund of the registration fee, the written request must be made no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the first day of the New York State Envirothon competition.

Requests for refunds shall be submitted to the Chairperson.
5. All decisions made by the New York State Envirothon Committee are final.

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