2019 Indiana Envirothon State Champs - Rossville FFA

Take Advantage Today!

Both teachers and students enjoy the Envirothon's in-class learning that combines hands on, outdoor activities. Student teams are exposed to scientists and experts in the field who coach and guide their learning experience. Teams compete in regional Envirothons and winners advance to the state contest. The state winner then represents Indiana at the North American Envirothon, a week-long competition hosted by one of the states, provinces, or territories in North America, where scholarships and prizes are awarded.

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The NCF-Envirothon and the Indiana Envirothon are not-for-profit organizations dedicated to environmental education of youth in the United States and Canada. For information on the Envirothon or becoming an advisor, volunteer or program sponsor, contact Indiana Envirothon President, Jan Came at jan.came@IN.nacdnet.net

INDIANA ENVIROTHON

The Envirothon

Thousands of teachers and professionals throughout the United States and Canada guide high school students through an environmental education program that combines classroom learning with outdoor activities.

Start on the Local Level First

Teachers from science disciplines as well as history and cultural studies participate. Some involve their entire classes, others just advise one or two teams of five members as a club or after school activity. Whatever works best. Open to high school students, a team may be sponsored by a high school, home schooled group, agricultural organization, scouts, or community service group.

Teams Are Tested in Five Areas

Early in the year, volunteer advisors begin to coach teams and are assisted by participating natural resource agencies. Ultimately, students are tested on their knowledge in five topic areas: soils and land use; aquatic ecology; forestry; wildlife; and a current environmental issue that changes each year. Through the program, students develop an understanding of effective teamwork, resource management and ecology. At the same time, they gain valuable exposure to a range of disciplines while exploring possible career paths.

1 Soil and Land Use

Professional soil scientists help students learn about soil structure, interpret maps, and evaluate land forms, and soil characteristics that affect agriculture and development issues.

2 Aquatic Ecology

Students work with marine and freshwater biologists to asses the quality of delicate aquatic ecosystems. They also learn to identify aquatic organisms, manage watersheds, and determine non-point source pollution.

3 Forestry

Students develop an understanding of the practices for maintaining healthy forest ecosystems through the help of professional foresters. They learn the basics of species identification, forest structure and dynamics as well as management approaches.

4 Wildlife

A favorite for many Envirothon participants, students learn firsthand from wildlife experts about animal populations, their dynamics, and the importance of habitat conservation.

5 Enviromental Issues

Challenged by field professionals, students work as a team to explore the facets of the current environmental issues and illustrate the complexity of real-life environmental decisions.

Top Teams Meet at Envirothon

Competitions from the local and state/provincial/territorial levels to the North American Envirothon test knowledge and skills in an exciting out-door environment. Teams rotate through testing stations where they complete written examinations. The oral presentation challenges teams to work together and communicate their solution to a complex environmental issue in front of a panel of judges. This presentation comprises a major portion of the team's score.

During the NCF-Envirothon, students work hard, but also enjoy themselves at fun scheduled activities. They are introduced to the local environment in training sessions guided by natural resource experts. The actual competition site typically is revealed on the testing day when teams are scored at the outdoor stations. Then they concentrate on the environmental issue, develop their solution, and prepare their own oral presentation for judging.

"I know the Envirothon makes us use our heads and think through complex issues. I hope the Envirothon keeps growing; it can never reach too many people."
Michael Mar n, Indiana student