



NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON

"Fostering Environmentally Conscious, Decision Making Young Adults"

October 25, 2011

YOUR School Is Invited!

Envirothon is a competitive, problem-solving natural resource event for high school students intended to challenge the students about the environment. The objectives are threefold: (1) to test the environmental knowledge and understanding of high school students regarding natural resource issues: (2) to cultivate within students to consider careers in environmental fields: (3) students learn about team building and enhance their communications skills.

In North America, most K through 12th grade environmental education is delivered in non-formal programs outside traditional curriculum and instruction. Programs like the **Northeastern Illinois Envirothon**, the Illinois Envirothon and the Canon Envirothon exemplify current initiatives, providing quality education training and hands-on learning activities in the areas of **soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and current environmental issues**. With over 500,000 participants from across North America annually, the Envirothon program is quickly becoming a primary vehicle for promoting environmental literacy in America's youth.

The **Northeastern Illinois Envirothon** serves the counties of Lake, Winnebago, McHenry, Boone, DeKalb, Kane, DuPage, Cook and Will. The competition is held at two locations in this region. **Your school is invited to compete on April 5th, 2012** representing Cook County. This event will take place at the beautiful Danada House in Wheaton courtesy of the DuPage County Forest Preserve.

An award will be given to the **top scoring county winners**, with the **highest scoring team overall** going on to the Illinois Envirothon in May in Monticello, Illinois. Awards for **first, second, and third place overall** will also be given. The winning team from the Illinois Envirothon will represent our state **July 22 - July 28** at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania during the Canon Envirothon. The Canon Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental education competition featuring teams from across the United States and Canada competing for prizes and college scholarships.

The Event

Teams of five students prepare throughout the winter with study materials provided by the NE IL Envirothon Committee in the areas of **aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife**, and a **current issue** which changes each year. This year's current topic is "**Nonpoint Source Pollution/Low Impact Development**". At the Envirothon, teams are assigned to one of the five topic areas to begin the competition. Teams move through each topic station in a timed rotation. At each station students will listen to a **20-minute presentation from a professional** in the topic's field. Following each presentation students complete a **written test** and **lab practical** as a team. Teams are also required to give an **oral presentation** addressing a "Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries" scenario. This presentation requirement was developed to better prepare teams for the state and national competition, encourage team problem solving and advance students' communication skills.

While students are attending the competition **advisors** will have time to **network, share** how they prepared for the Envirothon **and attend a teachers' workshop**.

A light breakfast and boxed lunch will be provided at the event. Each team member and advisor will also receive a NE IL Envirothon participant t-shirt.

Transportation to and from the competition is the responsibility of the participating school.

The Resources

Once the Envirothon Committee has prepared all tests and labs, you will receive the study resources on five topic CDs. Resources are mailed during the first week of January. The current topic scenario will be released to all team advisors one month prior to your competition date.

Due to substantial ongoing cuts in state grant funding to Illinois' Soil & Water Conservation Districts and a reduction of SWCD personnel we are unable to provide team workshops this year.

The NE IL Envirothon committee consists of staff from the **Soil & Water Conservation Districts of northeastern Illinois**. Together the North Cook County SWCD, Boone County SWCD, DeKalb County SWCD, Kane-DuPage SWCD, Lake County SWCD, McHenry County SWCD, Winnebago County SWCD and the Will-South Cook Co. SWCD form the regional Land Use Council

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The Entry

Due to some schools not showing up or dropping out at the last minute, there will be a **\$75 refundable deposit** to attend the Envirothon. Your deposit check will be **returned** to you **when you attend** the competition. Please make your check **payable to the North Cook County SWCD *post dated* for April 5, 2012.**

Please submit your completed registration to the North Cook County SWCD office by December 1st. A registration form is enclosed. You do not need to commit student names at this time; we can collect their names the day of the event. However, once your materials have been sent you are committed to either enter a team on event day or forfeit your deposit. We are projecting 40 teams will attend during the two regional events.

We look forward to working with you and your students at this exciting event. If you have any questions please call me at (847) 468-0071, e-mail me at T.Canania@northcookswcd.org or check out the District's website for more on your Northeastern Illinois Envirothon at www.northcookswcd.org click on "Envirothon 2012" or click on "Soil & Water Conservation" and then "Education & Outreach".

Sincerely,

Tonya Canania

Tonya Canania
Administrative Coordinator
North Cook Co. SWCD

Enclosures:

- Rules, Regulations & Registration Guidelines
- Registration Form
- Brochure

AVAILABLE ON THE WEB:

Rules, Regulations & Registration
Timeline
Sample Agenda
FAQs