

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

# 15 YEARS OF PROVIDING HANDS ON LEARNING TO ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



**WHAT IS ENVIROTHON?** Envirothon is much more than a competition. It is a fun, outdoor, team-based program designed to help students better understand their environment through exploration of ecology, natural resource management, and current environmental issues. The **Illinois Envirothon** is co-sponsored by the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD), local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and cooperating state, federal and resource agencies. This coming year, 2009, the Illinois Envirothon will be celebrating 15 years of providing this great learning opportunity to students across Illinois.

**HOW DOES THE ENVIROTHON COMPETITION WORK?** The Envirothon program combines classroom learning with hands-on field experiences focused around five major topics - **Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and a Current Environmental Issue**. The five member teams rotate through five outdoor testing stations, where their knowledge is evaluated and scored through written examination. Additionally, the competition includes an oral presentation component that challenges students to effectively apply and communicate a solution to a complex environmental issue.

**MISSION OF THE ENVIROTHON** - The Envirothon experience:

- enhances a student's critical thinking and problem solving skills
- allows students to expand their knowledge concerning current environmental issues, along with showing the impact individual actions have on various environmental problems
- helps students become tomorrow's leaders, workers, and consumers who will make informed decisions
- gives students valuable exposure to careers in environmental science and natural resource management
- teaches students to become environmentally aware, action-oriented adults

**ENVIROTHON COMPETITIONS IN ILLINOIS** Local SWCDs and Land Use Councils (LUCs), in conjunction with partnership organizations and educators, organize local competitions in early to mid-April **reaching over 1,700 students**. The highest scoring team from each of the 16 LUCs (each council is made up of 5-8 SWCDs) advance on to the state competition May 14-15, 2009. The state winning team will represent Illinois at the **Canon Envirothon®** in North Carolina, August 2-8th. 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.



2007 Illinois Envirothon Participants

# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

## COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED

- *Envirothon has come to be my favorite extra curricular activity by far! It gives me the opportunity to learn about the environment and better prepare for the future. It is an amazing program that I have attended for the past 3 years of high school and loved it every time!*
- *I feel that I have increased by knowledge on all five categories and the jobs that people have in those areas. I know about the different problems that have arisen due to human active and how we can fix them.*



## COMMENTS FROM ADVISORS WHO PARTICIPATED

- *It has created a greater appreciation of all things included in our environment - water, land, plants, animals, etc. that we sometimes don't pay enough attention to.*
- *It has exposed my students to job/careers in the environment and made them more aware of their surroundings.*

## LISTING OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS IN 2008 BY LAND USE COUNCILS (LUC)

LUC 1: Morrison, Dixon, Dakota, West Carroll, Forreston, Stillman Valley, Sterling Newman, Amboy, Galena, Erie, Oregon, Eastland, Orangeville, Ashton Franklin Center, Warren, Lena, Prophetstown, River Ridge, Polo

LUC 2: Bureau Valley, Hall, Lamoille, St. Bede, Princeton, Midland, Putnam Co., Cambridge, Kewanee, Orion, Annawan, Alwood, Galva, Aledo, Westmer, Rock Island, RockRidge, Stark

LUC 3: Bradley-Bourbonnais, Cissna Park, Crescent-Iroquois, Donovan, Dwight, Herscher, Manteno, Morris, Newark, Ottawa, Pontiac, Prairie Central, Watseka

LUC 4: Abingdon, Illini West, Cuba, Galesburg, Lewistown, ROWVA, Southeastern, Spoon River Valley, United, West Prairie, Williamsfield

LUC 5: El-Paso Gridley, Midwest Central

LUC 6: Monticello, Paxton-Buckley-Loda, Bloomington, Lincoln Community, Lexington, LeRoy

LUC 7: Charleston, Paris, Oakland, Marshall, St. Thomas More, Shiloh, Cattlin, Chrisman, Georgetown, Arthur, Jamaica, Fisher, Martinsville

LUC 8: Calhoun, Pittsfield, Pleasant Hill, Barry/West Pike, AC Central, Brown County, Virginia, Griggsville-Perry

LUC 9: Taylorville, Rochester, Lutheran, Gillespie, Stauton, Auburn

LUC 10: Altamont, Beecher City, Cumberland, Neoga, Newton, Ramsey, Shelbyville, South Central, St. Elmo

LUC 11: Palestine, Oblong, Edwards, Lawrenceville, Red Hill, East Richland, West Richland, Wabash

LUC 12: Triad, East Alton WoodRiver

LUC 13: Flora, Okawville, Mt. Vernon Township, Christopher, Carlyle, Cisne, Sesser-Valier, Fairfield, Nashville, Sandoval, Central, Clay City, Salem, North Clay, Patoka, Woodlawn, Webber, Odin, Salem

LUC 14: Vienna, Goreville, Carmi-White Co.

LUC 15: Anna-Jonesboro, Murphysboro, Pinckneyville, Meridian, Marion, Century, Egyptian, DuQuoin, Cobden, Dongola

LUC 16: Belvidere, North Boone, Lemont, Proviso West, Rich East, Rolling Meadows, Streamwood, DeKalb, Hiawathia, Indian Creek, Sandwich, Sycamore, Driscoll Catholic, Waubonsie Valley, Westmont, Wheaton North, Willowbrook, Batavia, Dundee Crown, Elgin, Deerfield, Grayslake Central, Vernon Hills, Warren Township, Cary-Grove, Crystal Lake South, Boylan Catholic, Rockford East, Roosevelt Community, Plainfield Central, Plainfield South

LUC MAP



For more information on the Illinois Envirothon visit the AISWCD website - [www.aiswcd.org](http://www.aiswcd.org)