

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can participate?

Students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in the current school year are eligible to compete. Teams must consist of five members from the same school and/or organization/association and be registered for the competition. Teams must be accompanied to the competition by an adult advisor/teacher.

What does an advisor do?

Advisors serve as coaches, educators, primary contacts and chaperones for their team. However, advisors will not accompany their team to the testing stations. Activities will be planned for advisors during the competition. Advisors **MUST** stay on-site for the day's events.

How can I receive registration materials?

Contact your county Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to be sure your school/organization receives a registration packet. You must register with *your* SWCD.

Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Land Use Council 16 Contacts:

North Cook County SWCD: Serving Cook County (N. of Cermak Ave./22nd. St.)

Tonya Canania 847-468-0071 / Tonya.Canania@il.nacdnet.net

Will/South Cook County SWCD: Serving Cook County (S. of Cermak Ave./22nd. St.) & Will Co.

Kim Mitchell 815-462-3106 ext. 3 / Kimberly.Mitchell@il.nacdnet.net

Kane-DuPage County SWCD: Serving Kane & DuPage Counties

Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller 630-584-7961 ext. 3 / Elizabeth.Hagen@il.nacdnet.net

DeKalb County SWCD: Serving DeKalb County

Sandra Warner 815-756-3234 ext. 3 / Sandy.Bell@il.nacdnet.net

Boone County SWCD: Serving Boone County

Michael Fouth 815-544-2677 ext. 3 / Mike.Fouth@il.nacdnet.net

Winnebago County SWCD: Serving Winnebago County

Melisa Long 815-965-2392 ext. 3 / melisalong@comcast.net

McHenry County SWCD: Serving McHenry County

Spring Duffey 815-338-0099 ext. 3 / Spring.Duffey@il.nacdnet.net

Lake County SWCD: Serving Lake County

Nick Spittlemeister 847-223-1056 / nspittle@sbcglobal.net

Counties outside of Land Use Council 16: Contact the Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts at 217-744-3414 or find your SWCD at www.aiswcd.org.

What should we study?

Teams receive ALL study materials, web links and topic objectives from the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon committee. As tests are created from these documents only, it is extremely important that teams use the materials provided to prepare for the competition. Study resources are mailed the first week of January. In addition to the resources provided, workshops are held in the months prior to the competition. Workshops are free to all participating team members and their advisors. Participants are responsible for transportation & bringing a sack lunch. Typically, two workshops are held. One workshop will cover Wildlife & Forestry the other workshop will cover Aquatics & Soils. These workshops are given by professionals in each respective field and provide hands on learning opportunities.

Is the competition held indoors?

This is an OUTDOOR event that takes place rain or shine or snow. Please make sure that your team is aware of current weather forecasts and dresses accordingly for the day. If the committee concludes that weather conditions are unsafe, or that the site has become inaccessible due to weather conditions the event may be moved inside. However, you will not be notified prior to arrival and need to ensure that everyone is prepared to compete outside.

What is the registration fee?

Although there is no fee to enter the competition a deposit check is required with your initial registration. When the team signs in on competition day the check is returned. If a team fails to withdraw their registration prior to the deadline and / or does not show up on competition day they forfeit their deposit. Likewise, if a team is disqualified from the competition they forfeit their deposit. Forfeited deposit checks are placed into the NE IL Envirothon operating funds to offset operating expenses. Teams that show up and follow the rules compete for free!

Is transportation provided?

Unfortunately we are unable to provide transportation. Transportation to and from workshops and competitions is the responsibility of the team members and their advisor.

Will lunch be provided during the competition?

Yes! On competition day participants are welcome to breakfast snacks, morning beverages, boxed lunches, soda pop and water. We'll make every effort to accommodate participants with special dietary requirements, if notified in advance.

Will lunch be provided during workshops?

Sorry, we are unable to provide lunches for workshop participants. Teams are STRONGLY encouraged to bring a sack lunch when attending workshops.

What should we bring? What shouldn't we bring to the competition?

The seasons can change by the day around here! Watch current forecasts and bring the appropriate accessories. For example, if it's a cloudy 70 degree day with scattered showers, do NOT show up in shorts, flip flops and a sweatshirt. You will be very uncomfortable! Teams will be given one clipboard and a pencil for use during the competition. All materials and display items needed for oral presentations will be held by staff until your presentation time. If additional materials are needed to complete a lab or test, they will be provided at the testing station. Camcorders, tape recorders, digital cameras, cell phones, pagers, or any other audio, visual equipment are not allowed by the participants during the competition. Team photographs will be taken for you during registration and throughout the day. If you *must* take your own photos during lunch, leave your camera with your advisor. They will see you during the break. NO photos should be taken of test stations and / or labs, of course. Stay clear of testing stations during lunch to avoid any unfortunate misunderstandings and subsequent disqualifications. Backpacks and purses are also prohibited during competition. Again, if you *really need* to have them you must leave them in the car or give them to your advisor. Notes and materials will not be allowed at any time during the competition. Any team member & / or advisor found to have materials or notes at the competition will immediately disqualify their team from participation and forfeit their team's deposit. If you're reviewing on the ride to competition, be safe; leave it ALL in the car. No tobacco, intoxicants or drugs of any kind are allowed at the site of the competition. Students are representatives of their respective schools and will follow their schools' policies while participating in the competition.

How is the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon funded?

The NE IL Envirothon committee continually seeks financial support from community sponsors. At present, shortfalls in sponsorship are funded by the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Land Use Council 16.

Sponsorship Opportunities & Community Donations

Council 16 has opened a 501c3 fund with the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. This fund will allow us to more effectively seek sponsorship and long term funding solutions for this growing natural resource education program. Donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated. The foundation sends receipts for all donations made.

Donations may be sent / payable to:

Community Foundation of Northern Illinois

946 North Second Street

Rockford, IL. 61107

Be sure to specify "Northeastern Illinois Envirothon- Donation (your county name)" in the memo line of your check or money order.

To find out more about the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon and / or *corporate sponsorship opportunities* please call Tonya at our District office 847-468-0071 or email Tonya.Canania@il.nacdnet.net

For more information about the foundation call 815-962-2110 or check out www.cfnil.org.