



Delaware Envirothon
 c/o Delaware Association
 of Conservation Districts
 1679 S. DuPont Highway
 Dover, DE 19901

ENVIROTHON

A Learning Tool for Advisors and for Students

The Delaware Envirothon is a problem-solving, natural resource education program for high school age students. It provides students with an integrated approach to exploring six natural resource categories and it tests their creativity, analytical thinking, and team building skills in a competitive format.

Solutions to today's natural resource issues may well come from a grassroots concern for nurturing our quality of life. The Envirothon is a ready-made program available to help advisors teach environmental education. It affords a unique approach to teaching environmental education and it's fun!

Tomorrow's problems will be more challenging, but the solutions will be more apparent if students are encouraged to become environmentally aware, action-oriented adults. The competitive nature of the program motivates students to expand their knowledge of natural resources and realize their responsibility as stewards of our natural resources.

Advisors who sponsor teams have the opportunity to use training materials and expertise provided free of charge. This results in the opportunity to share their newly gained expertise with all of their students and not just Envirothon team participants.

The Envirothon competition is a 'day-in-the-field' where students are challenged as they conduct hands-on investigations of a variety of environmental issues and answer written questions in the following areas:

- Air Quality
- Aquatic Ecology
- Forestry
- Soil/Land Use
- Public Speaking
- Wildlife
- Current Environmental Issue (changes annually)

Many Delaware Envirothon participants have gone on to pursue environmentally-related careers as a result of their participation as an Envirothon team member. Even more exciting is the fact that Delaware's program has come 'full circle' in that a few past participants are now Delaware high school science teachers serving as Envirothon advisors or as resource professionals.

For More Information

Contact your local conservation district:

- New Castle Conservation District: (302) 365-8970
- Kent Conservation District: (302) 608-5370
- Sussex Conservation District: (302) 856-2105
- Delaware Envirothon Administrative Assistant

jen.nelson@resourcesmartllc.com

Becoming a Delaware Envirothon Sponsor

Many different agencies, businesses, organizations, and individuals support the Delaware Envirothon through financial contributions, donated materials, and/or dedicated staff time.

The Delaware Envirothon program runs entirely on donations solicited each year with 100% of the donations going directly into the program, i.e. training materials, the state competition, promotional items, etc.

For more information about becoming a sponsor, please contact one of the numbers listed above, or click on the Sponsor heading at www.delawareenvirothon.org. Credit card donations can be made using the secure PayPal portal on our website.



Hands-on training throughout the year prepares Delaware Envirothon participants for the spring competition.



www.delawareenvirothon.org

History and Sponsorship

The Envirothon concept began in Pennsylvania in 1979. In 1988 the first National Envirothon was held in Pennsylvania with five states participating. The program has grown over the years and is now a North American event with 47 states and nine Canadian provinces participating. China has even sent two teams the past few years. This event is sponsored by the National Conservation Foundation and is now called the NCF Envirothon.

The first Delaware Envirothon competition was held in 1996. Since that year, Delaware has sent the state champions to represent Delaware in the challenging North American competition, which Delaware won in 2008.

The Delaware Association of Conservation Districts (DACD) sponsors the Delaware Envirothon. The planning committee is comprised of environmental professionals from the following agencies and groups:

- ◆ Delaware Department of Agriculture
- ◆ Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- ◆ Delaware Forest Service
- ◆ Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve
- ◆ Delaware Solid Waste Authority
- ◆ Kent Conservation District
- ◆ New Castle Conservation District
- ◆ Sussex Conservation District
- ◆ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Hands-on Training



Delaware's champions go on to represent the state at the challenging North American event.

Delaware Envirothon Goals

The goals of the ENVIROTHON program include:

- ◆ Promoting environmental awareness and stewardship;
- ◆ Developing students' skills in critical thinking, cooperative problem solving, and decision making;
- ◆ Presenting balanced options for management of our natural resources; and
- ◆ Providing awareness of and accessibility to resource organizations offering assistance in environmental issues.

Benefits of Envirothon Participation

The ENVIROTHON prepares our future leaders for environmentally related careers, and provides an environmental knowledge base for all participants, regardless of future careers. It allows adult advisors to interact with and instruct students in multiple learning situations, and provides expert instruction and materials for both advisors and students. Experience in preparing for and participating in state and international ENVIROTHON competitions gives all participants experience in real world situations which fosters sound decision making, problem solving, and critical thinking.

Eligibility for Participation

Students must be enrolled in grades 9-12. They may comprise a team from their high school or other youth group. Advisors are generally high school teachers, FFA advisors, 4-H leaders, or other youth group leaders. Teams are composed of five students and a suggested two alternate students. The program is open to all and no prior experience is necessary. Diversity amongst team members is highly encouraged to take advantage of differing student experiences with, interests in, and perspectives about the natural world around us.

Training/Competition Schedule

Orientation sessions are offered early in the school year to prospective advisors and other interested individuals or groups.

Trainings for each tested area are held on Saturdays during the school year with two or three topics being covered during each session. These trainings are held between the months of October and February.

The state competition is typically held the last Thursday in April. The winning Delaware team is awarded an all expenses paid trip to represent Delaware at the NCF Envirothon, which is held in late July or early August.



Competition Scenes

Yes, I am interested in helping to educate Delaware's students to conserve our natural resources. Please accept my support:

Diamond Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000	<input type="checkbox"/> _____(Other)
Platinum Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 <input type="checkbox"/> _____(Other)
Gold Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750 <input type="checkbox"/> _____(Other)
Silver Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> _____(Other)
Bronze Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> _____(Other)

DACD is designated a 501(c)(3) organization

Name _____
 Address _____
 Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Credit card donations via PayPal™ may be made by visiting www.delawareenvirothon.org and clicking on the Sponsor button.

A gift in memory of: _____

A gift in honor of: _____

Return in envelope to:

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