



ND STATE ENVIROTHON **COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Adopted: June 21, 2024

1. Only students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 are eligible to compete in the ND State Envirothon.
 - a. This program is offered to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age or sexual orientation.
2. Each team must be affiliated with a Soil Conservation District or an equivalent conservation agency.
3. Each team will consist of five students with one alternate from the same school and/or organization/association. Members may not be drawn from different schools (i.e. no "all-star" teams).
 - a. A list of all the team members, advisors and alternates must be submitted at least one month before the ND State Envirothon competition to the North Dakota Envirothon Committee (NDEC).
 - b. Advisors must provide a Health and Photo Release Form for each Envirothon participant.
4. Registration forms must be typed or neatly printed and submitted along with a \$50 non-refundable registration fee two months prior to the ND State Envirothon competition. The fee will, in part, go toward the meals and other related expenses for the event.
 - a. Late registrations received after the deadline and one month prior to the Envirothon will have a late registration fee of \$50.00. Late or illegible forms may be rejected.
5. Meals, housing and T-shirts will be provided for a five (5) member team, alternate and two adult advisors. Additional guests may purchase meals, housing and a T-shirt at an established rate set by the NDEC. All team members must wear their Envirothon T-shirt during the Oral Presentation portion of the ND state competition.
 - a. The ND State Envirothon competition shall last two and a half days (two nights).
6. Each team must be accompanied by same gender chaperones, for male and female members at the ND State Envirothon competition. Advisors will be responsible to assure that teams display proper conduct during the competition and at the host facility. The NDEC will not be responsible for improperly chaperoned teams.
 - a. Teams must be accompanied by a Trail Guide during the competition. Advisors cannot offer assistance during the competition.
7. Rules will be strictly adhered to. The consequence for breaking any of the following rules will likely result in disqualification **of the student breaking the rules.**
 - a. Team members are not to use or be in possession of any cell phones, cameras, smart watches and electronic devices (except a calculator if required for the competition and provided by the ND Envirothon Committee) during the time they are taking tests, preparing for the oral presentation, presenting and the time in between unless such equipment is approved by the North Dakota Envirothon for use during the competition (for example to compensate for a physical or mental disability) prior to the start of the competition. Phones are to be given to advisors in the morning during breakfast and they can be returned after competition activities in the evening during dinner. No electronic devices will be allowed at lunch or anytime between breakfast and dinner on Thursday. Electronic devices are not allowed starting immediately after breakfast on Friday until after the top 3 teams are announced in the afternoon.
 - b. The General Regulations of the ND High School Activities Association apply to all Envirothon activities.
 - c. Tobacco, illegal drugs, alcohol, firearms, knives or any weapons are prohibited during the entire stay and competition.

- d. Cheating is not allowed.
 - e. Teams are not allowed in the dorms of the opposite sex (except during oral presentation preparation).
 - f. Team members are not allowed to look at the tests of other teams, even if you are from the same school.
 - g. Students are not allowed to take pictures, take notes, or record any information from their trail tests.
 - h. It is considered an infraction for an advisor or other non-team member to give input to students in any manner once their team has begun the official oral presentation portion of the competition. This does not limit advisors from interacting with their students but absolutely no discussion of the presentation topic or help with the presentation should take place Thursday after the presenter presentation or Friday at any time.
8. Transportation and meals in route to and from the ND State Envirothon competition will be the responsibility of each participating team.
 9. The dates to hold the ND State Envirothon competition shall be selected annually by the NDEC and shall be held between April 1 and July 1.
 10. The NDEC will provide materials and resources to sponsors which they may share with interested teams to prepare for the ND State Envirothon competition. Study and reference materials may not be used during the competition; however, the NDEC may provide identification keys or equipment to teams if necessary.
 - a. The competition will be held rain or shine. Participants should be prepared to encounter poison ivy, ticks, mud, water, etc.
 11. There shall be five (5) study areas: forestry, soils, water/aquatics, wildlife and a current environmental issue which changes each year.
 - a. The current environmental issue shall be announced no less than one year in advance.
 - b. The testing will be conducted by cooperating agencies and/or independent natural resource/environmental professionals.
 - c. The oral presentations will be a problem-solving exercise.
 12. All judges will be selected by the NDEC and their decisions are **FINAL** on all events.
 - a. Any and all appeals will be resolved by the Rules Committee in a timely manner. The Rules Committee consists of the Envirothon Coordinator and at least two members of the North Dakota Envirothon Committee (see Appeals Guidelines).
 13. Scoring for the ND State Envirothon will be as follows:
 - a. The winning team will be the team with the highest cumulative point total at the end of the events.
 - b. Each team will be given a problem-solving exercise and asked to give an oral presentation. Final placements will be the cumulative total of the test score, plus the oral presentation score.
 - c. If a student or advisor is caught cheating during the competition, the entire team will be disqualified.
 - d. A school may be billed for damages relating to an act of theft or vandalism committed by members of a team representing that school any time before, during or after the competition.
 14. Awards for the ND State Envirothon will be announced prior to the competition and may consist of:
 - a. Medallions will be presented to each member of the winning team.
 - b. The first place team will receive the ND State Envirothon traveling trophy to be held for one year. This trophy must be returned and passed on to the next year's first place team.
 - c. The NDEC may issue awards to the second and third place teams.
 - d. The winning team may attend the Canon Envirothon. If the winning team opts not to attend the Canon Envirothon, the team with the next highest cumulative score is eligible.

15. Rules and regulations of the ND State Envirothon are subject to change by the NDEC. Any and all relevant changes will be explained to all teams and advisors at an affected competition.
 - a. Any infraction of the rules and regulations of the ND State Envirothon and Host Site could result in disqualification and dismissal of the team from the event and host site.
 - b. Any suggestions or improvements regarding the rules and regulations will be gladly considered by the NDEC. All changes are based on the consensus of the NDEC.

16. NDEC member's children may participate in regional and state events; however, the NDEC member will not be allowed to participate in trail test creation or current issue scenario development.