



ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON

RULES & REGULATIONS

The Illinois Envirothon, an activity of the AISWCD shall be conducted under the following rules and regulations:

I. The Illinois Envirothon will be held between the end of April and beginning of May, after all county/regional competitions have been completed.

II. Team Eligibility Requirements

1. The Illinois Envirothon is open to students enrolled in grades 9-12 and who reach age 14-19 by April 8 of the current competition year. Non-traditional schools and youth organizations must follow the grade level and age limitations as set above.
2. All registrations fees must be paid in full by the same deadline as registrations are due.
3. Each participating Land Use Council will send one champion team to the Illinois Envirothon, for a total of 16 teams. They may also send an FFA team for testing only (**please see FFA Rules regarding sending an FFA team as well as Land Use Team**)
4. The team members and any substitutions must have competed in a county or land use council (LUC) Envirothon in order to participate in the Illinois Envirothon. Contestants may participate in only one (1) county or one (1) LUC competition. This is the importance of having and alternate come with the team to their local competition.
5. The winning teams will be sponsored by the local SWCD. Participating SWCD must be in good standing with AISWCD, as defined by their by-laws, to participate in the Illinois Envirothon Program.
6. All team members, advisors/chaperones must read, agree to, and sign the code of conduct and release forms.
7. If male and female students are represented on a team, then male and female chaperones must accompany the team.
8. All teams **MUST** consist of 5 students from the same school, non-traditional school, or youth organization to be eligible to win and advance to the next level of competition. Each team **MUST** retain at least three (3) of the original five (5) team members to compete at the Illinois and National Envirothon. Two (2) alternates, if needed, may be pre-registered 2 weeks prior to the competition, by contacting the Illinois Envirothon office (contact listed) to be eligible for substitution to compete in the Illinois Envirothon.
If a team member becomes ill or must leave during the Illinois Envirothon Competition due to an emergency, a review panel will determine if a penalty should be assessed to a team in the oral presentation for the absence of a complete team of five.
9. Substitutes must follow all of the same eligibility rules as listed above and must have competed in the current year's local/LUC Envirothon competition.

III. Accommodations

1. All participants of the Illinois Envirothon will be provided with overnight on-site accommodations. 9 Person Cabins are assigned to teams, bedding will need to be brought with you. And some teams **MAY** be combined if small and or necessary for space.
2. FFA ONLY teams will not be provided overnight accommodations as they will only participate the first Day. (Please see FFA Guidelines)
3. Transportation to the Illinois Envirothon will be at the cost and responsibility of the participating teams.
4. No members or advisors are allowed to leave the competition site without approval from the Envirothon Coordinator.

IV. Competition Regulations

1. Illinois Envirothon study materials are available on our website at www.illinoisenvirothon.org 5th Category Study material needs to be printed and brought with the team to competition for use during Oral Presentation Preparation.
2. Illinois Envirothon competition will consist of five (5) written tests – soils, wildlife, forestry, aquatics and a current environmental issue to be determined each year by the National Envirothon committee. The five stations will be conducted by cooperating agencies and/or independent environmental professionals.
3. The Current Environmental Issue (5th Category) shall parallel the issue from the National Envirothon Committee as closely as possible in order to further encourage familiarity of the issue for the winning Illinois team in competition at the National Envirothon
4. State test questions will cover any information in the resource materials that were provided by the Illinois Envirothon Committee, as well as any information provided by the resource presenters at each station.
5. Students will travel as a five (5) member team and be allowed 20 minutes to complete their test after a 20 min presentation on the subject.
6. Student notes and materials will not be allowed during the competition. Students will need to only carry a clipboard and pencil with them during the competition. Any other materials will be provided at each of the testing stations.
7. No electronic, battery-powered, or solar powered equipment (i.e., cell phones) may be used by or be in the possession of team members during the instructional periods, field testing, or oral presentation prepping or presentation, unless such equipment is approved by the Illinois Envirothon for use during the competition (for example to compensate for a physical or mental disability) prior to the start of the competition
8. Any team, team member, team advisor/chaperone, or resource people associated with a team discovered on, near, or around the test site or testing stations prior to the competition may be subject to immediate disqualification.
9. Any team advisor/chaperone, or resource people associated with a team discovered on, near, or around the test site or testing stations during the competition may be subject to immediate disqualification.
10. Activities will be provided for coaches or they may have free time.
11. Resource presenters' decisions are final on all events. Contested decisions will be reviewed by the Illinois Envirothon Committee.
12. The Illinois Envirothon will be held rain or shine. Be prepared for any type of weather.
13. If a school forfeits or is disqualified they are responsible for reimbursing their SWCD the team registration fee.
14. Clothing – County T-shirt are to be worn on the first day and the Illinois Envirothon t-shirts received at the competition are worn on the second day.

V. Oral Presentations

1. Team Captains will choose a token at registration with a number on the bottom. The number will be given to the registration desk and will indicate what time and location you will present. Please see the second day rotation schedule in your packet that you receive at registration, to find your number to indicate your time and location. (**No schedule change requests will be accepted before or during the competition**)
2. Preliminary Round
 - a) A ten (10) minute oral presentation will be given on the current environmental issue (5th Category) before a panel of judges. Followed by ten (10) minutes maximum for judges questions after the team has finished their presentation. Teams will receive 20 mins prior to their presentation time to gather their items and practice their presentation one more time before going in front of the judges. (see scoring)
3. Final Round
 - a) The top 3 overall teams based on the scoring rules will re-present before a new panel of judges in a final round. The final round will receive 10 mins prior to their presentation to practice one last time. They will give the 10 minute presentation which will be followed by (5)

minutes maximum for judges to question after the team has finished their presentation. This final round will help to determine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placement. (see scoring)

4. The Illinois Envirothon will provide material packet for each team which will include:
 - a) Judges Scoring Sheet
 - b) A list of items that are in each bag of materials.
 - c) Presentation tips and hints
 - d) All material needed to complete the presentation and make visual aids is provided. ONLY the material which is in the bag can be used to make the presentation.
 - e) The items list will be checked when the bag is returned after prep time to make sure ALL items have been returned. Teams will only receive back what is part of the actual presentation the next morning for their presentation time.
5. Visual aids must be prepared on-site by team members using only materials provided by the Illinois Envirothon.
6. All five (5) team members must participate orally in the presentation. If a team is participating with less than five team members, that team may receive a two-point deduction per each missing team member.
7. During oral presentations, all team members must wear the Illinois Envirothon T-shirt.
8. Oral presentation scores will be based on criteria provided in the judges scoring sheet which can be found on the website for reference.
9. Camcorders, tape recorders, and other audio/visual equipment are not allowed by the participants during testing. Team advisors may videotape their team's oral presentation. Students will not be allowed to carry any electronic devices such as cell phones, two-way radios, laptops etc. during testing and oral presentations.
10. Judges decisions will be final.

VI. Scoring

1. Scoring for the Illinois Envirothon will be as follows:
 - a) Each of the five station tests will be 1/7th of the total score.
 - b) Preliminary Oral Presentation score will be 2/7th of the score.
 - c) Tie breakers shall be as follows: Current Issue written test score; Aquatics score; Forestry score; Soils score; Wildlife score.
 - d) The scores from 1 (a) and 1 (b) will be totaled together to determine which teams will advance to the final oral presentations round.
 - e) Final team placements will be determined by adding the five station test scores to the final oral presentation score. (Preliminary oral presentation scores will not be used to determine team placement in the final round.)

VII. Awards

1. Participation Certificates for all participants
2. Awards appropriate for display at school for the top three (3) teams
3. Certificates for the team with the highest score in each of the resource topics
4. Team Spirit Award will receive the traveling Rain Stick. During the competition, students select a team that demonstrates a friendly, outgoing and fun attitude towards the competition. The winning team receives the traveling trophy. The trophy, a rainstick, is very fragile so please use caution while it is in your possession. Please make arrangements to get the rainstick back to next year's competition for the next winning team. Thank you.
5. T – Shirt awards are given for the best T-shirt design. During the competition, students will vote for another teams t-shirt which demonstrates creativity and excellent design. The winning team will receive a certificate and 5 - \$10 Gift Cards.

VIII.

National Envirothon Competition

1. The winning team from Illinois Envirothon will meet with the Envirothon Coordinator following the awards ceremony to cover National Competition details and receive packet of information. The winning team will represent Illinois at the National Envirothon. The location and date will be announced annually. In the event that the first place team cannot represent Illinois at the National Envirothon, the second place team will represent Illinois and so forth.
 - a) The same rules of eligibility apply at National as they do at the state level.
 - b) The entry fee required for the Illinois state team to attend National Envirothon will be paid by the Illinois Envirothon. This fee covers entry fees, accommodations, and on site meals for the winning teams, including five (5) team members and two (2) chaperones (one for each gender, if needed). Transportation costs to and from the National Envirothon will be the dual responsibilities of the winning team and the Illinois Envirothon Committee.
 - c) This five day event is held during the period mid-July to early August at a location in the United States or Canada. Dates are determined by the National Envirothon Committee and the host location representatives.
 - d) Illinois Envirothon will pay the registration fee for the team and two chaperones. The Illinois Envirothon will provide financial assistance for travel arrangements.
 - e) The Illinois Envirothon t-shirt will be worn on specific days during the National Envirothon Competition.

**2025 NCF- Envirothon
Calgary, Alberta, Canada**

July 20 - 26th, 2025

2. **TRADING ITEMS:** During the National Envirothon students participate in a trading session with all other participating students from around the US and Canada. We ask that your students bring with them at least 5 (total) trading items that the winning team can take to National Competition. And any trading items that were given to you at the State event by other teams. Please don't feel like you have to purchase items, they can be donated by someone in your community. Items could include t-shirts, hats, cups, lapel pins, writing pens, pencils, etc. Make sure your school name and contact information is attached to items for appropriate acknowledgement.
- IX. The Rules and Regulations of the Illinois Envirothon are subject to change. Any and all changes will be explained to all teams and advisors before the competition begins. Any suggestions or improvements of the Rules and Regulations will be considered by the Illinois Envirothon Committee. Remember that each team member is responsible for his/her behavior and actions. No tobacco products, intoxicants, illegal drugs, or weapons, are allowed on site or will be used, or in his/her possession. Discriminatory behavior, sexual misconduct, or harassment will not be tolerated. Theft or destruction of public or private property will not be tolerated. Fighting is forbidden and other acts of violence that endanger the safety of the participants or threatening another person will not be tolerated. Engaging in any activity, which is illegal or disruptive, will not be tolerated. Each team needs to remember that they are representing their school and county during this competition and should conduct themselves in a proper manner. Any violation of this rule will result in disciplinary action as stated in the "Code of Conduct" form signed by the participating student, their team advisor, and legal guardian. This policy will be enforced and carried out by the Envirothon Coordinator and/or designated member of the Illinois Envirothon Committee.