October, 2019

Your Team is Invited!

Envirothon is a competitive, problem-solving natural resource event for high school students intended to challenge the students about the environment. The objectives are threefold: (1) to test the environmental knowledge and understanding of high school students regarding natural resource issues; (2) to cultivate consideration in students of careers in environmental fields; (3) students learn about team building and enhance their communications skills.

In North America, most K-12th grade environmental education is delivered outside traditional curriculum and instruction. Programs like the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon, the Illinois Envirothon, and the North American Envirothon exemplify current initiatives, providing quality education training and hands-on learning activities in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soils, wildlife, and current environmental issues. With over 500,000 annual participants from across North America, the Envirothon is quickly becoming a primary vehicle for promoting environmental literacy in America’s youth.

The Northeastern Illinois Envirothon serves the counties of Boone, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Winnebago, and Will. The competition is held at two locations in this region. Your school is invited to compete on April 9th, 2020 representing Kane or DuPage Counties. This event will take place at the Danada House in Wheaton courtesy of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District.

An award will be given to the top scoring county winners. Awards for first, second, and third place overall will also be given. The overall highest scoring team will compete during the Illinois Envirothon on April 29-30, 2020 at Allerton Park’s 4-H Memorial Camp in Monticello, Illinois. The winners of the Illinois Envirothon will represent our state during the North America Envirothon on July 26 through August 1, 2020 at Nebraska State University in Lincoln, Nebraska. The North America 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.
The Event

Teams of five students prepare throughout the winter with study materials provided by the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon Committee in the areas of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current issue, which changes each year. This year’s current topic is “Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions”. Each team is required to have a sixth team member, considered an alternate; however, the alternate student does not actively participate in the competition process.

At the Envirothon, teams are assigned to one of the five topic areas to begin the competition. Teams move through each topic station in a timed rotation. At each station students will listen to a 20-minute presentation from a professional in the topic’s field. Following each presentation students complete a written test and lab practical as a team. Teams will also be required to give an oral presentation addressing an “Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions” scenario. This presentation requirement was developed to better prepare teams for the state and national competition, encourage team problem solving, and advance students’ communication skills. While students are attending the competition, advisors will have time to network, share how they prepared for the Envirothon, and attend a teachers’ workshop.

If you are registering as an FFA team, oral presentation requirements have been updated. See the registration materials for further details.

Upon registration, a light breakfast snack will be provided. Advisors and teams are expected to stay onsite for the entirety of the event. Lunches will be provided during the event. Currently, we are unable to accommodate all specialty diets, except for a vegetarian option. If a student has a special dietary need or food allergy, they should bring their own lunch. T-Shirts will be provided to the winning Northeastern Illinois Envirothon team, prior to the Illinois Envirothon.

Transportation to and from the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon competition is the responsibility of the participating school / organization. All students must come and leave with their school / organization. If your team advances to the Illinois State Envirothon and National Envirothon, travel is also the responsibility of the participating school / organization. All event registration fees are the responsibility of the participating school, with exception of the Illinois State Envirothon registration fee being paid by Land Use Council 16 for the winning Northeastern Illinois Envirothon team. See registration materials for further details.
The Resources

Once the Envirothon Committee has prepared all tests and labs, advisors will receive the study resources via Google Drive for download. Resources are released during the first week of January. The current topic scenario will be released on the Google Drive to all team advisors by March 9, 2020, about one month prior to the start of the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon competition. Your team contact will be notified by e-mail, when the materials become available.


The Entry

**All teams:** registration form and fees are due by December 2, 2019. A non-refundable $25 registration fee for entry into the event is required to secure a team’s spot in the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon competition. Please make checks payable to McHenry-Lake SWCD. Advisors/teachers do not need to submit student names at this time. Collection of student names and **ALL** talent release forms must be submitted before March 30, 2020.

**FFA teams:** FFA teams that will **ONLY** participate in the FFA portion of the Illinois Envirothon are required to indicate their affiliation on the registration form. See registration materials for further details.

Thank you for your interest in the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon. If you have further questions about the event, please contact our office at 630-584-7960 x3 or e-mail: elizabeth@kanedupageswcd.org

Sincerely:

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