



MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Education and Envirothon Committee

tish carr, MACD Education Program Coordinator
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207.495.2392 email:tish.carr@maineswcds.org



October 2011

Dear Educator / Envirothon Advisor:

I am writing to invite you and your students to participate in the 2012 Maine Envirothon. Last year, we had over 60 teams from over 30 Maine high schools/home schools registered for this program. We look forward to seeing these veteran schools again in 2012 and welcome new schools to take part in this valuable learning experience.

Envirothon is a state- and nation-wide environmental competition where high school students test their knowledge of natural resources and current environmental issues. Teams consisting of 3-5 students compete first at a regional level, answering questions and solving hands-on problems at five stations: Wildlife, Water/Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, and a Current Natural Resource Issue. This year's Current Issue is "**Nonpoint Source Pollution/Low Impact Development**". The top four teams from each Regional Envirothon then compete at the State Finals May 31st at the University of Maine, Orono. The state's winning team will travel to Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania for the 2012 International Competition.

Envirothon is an academic program that is aligned with the Maine Learning Results. As well as advising teams for competition, teachers throughout Maine successfully incorporate Envirothon concepts and hands-on activities into their science curricula. The program raises students' awareness of local and national environmental issues. Envirothon integrates math, language arts, cultural land-use history, and science in ways unique to the field. Students build critical thinking and decision-making skills as they practice solving real environmental problems.

In addition to learning about the environment, applying new knowledge, collaborating to address natural resource issues, and meeting young environmentalists from around the state and nation, Maine participants are eligible for **scholarships from the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture at the University of Maine, Orono**. Winners of the National Envirothon receive individual college scholarships valued at over \$1000. Through this program, students have an opportunity to meet and learn from state soil scientists, biologists, foresters, and other natural resource professionals.

We greatly appreciate advisors' interest in natural resources, commitment to environmental education, and time spent preparing teams for competition. As an Envirothon team advisor, it is not necessary that you be an expert in environmental areas nor be a full time teacher. Natural resource professionals from Maine's 16 Soil and Water Conservation Districts may be available to assist teams with resource materials and preparation. If you are interested in the program, but are not yet ready to form a team for competition, please contact us for more information and an opportunity to attend a preparatory Fall Field Day hands-on training session. Please note that advisors can be teachers, parents, and/or community members.

The deadline for registration is March 15, 2012. **To receive your coveted Maine Envirothon team t-shirts, we need registration by March 1, 2012.** Once your team is registered, we will send you additional information and a resource packet to guide preparation for the Regional Envirothon. You will be notified about workshops and/or hands-on training sessions for your team. Please register as soon as possible to ensure you receive this information with plenty of time to study and practice. **However, there will be NO REFUNDS or rollovers to future Envirothons once a team has registered if the team has to cancel.**

Please mail your registration form and fee(s) made payable to MACD State Envirothon to: MACD State Envirothon, c/o Dale Finseth, Fiscal Manager KCSWCD – 21 Enterprise Drive, Suite #1, Augusta ME 04330.

ON-LINE registration is also available. If you would like to register on-line please email www.maineswcds.org/envirothon.htm and follow the instructions on-line.

You may contact me with questions at 207.485.0219 or email me at tish.carr@maineswcds.org. I look forward to receiving your registration packet and seeing your team at Envirothon!

tish carr, MACD Education Program Coordinator

Programs sponsored by the MACD Education and Envirothon Committee

Envirothon • Natural Resources Institute • Conservation Awards • Poster Contest

MAINE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

USDA – NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICES

Androscoggin Valley

254 Goddard Road - PO Box 1938
Lewiston, ME 04241-1938
Phone: 753-9400 x3; Fax: 783-4101

Central Aroostook

735 Main Street Suite #3
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Phone: 764-4153; Fax: 764-4753

Cumberland County

35 Main Street
Windham, ME 04062
Phone: 892-4700; Fax: 892-4773

Franklin County

107 Park St
Farmington, ME 04938
Phone: 778-4279; Fax: 778-5785

Hancock County

190 Bangor Rd
Ellsworth, ME 04605
Phone: 667-8663; Fax: 667-3585

Kennebec County

21 Enterprise Drive, Suite #1
Augusta, ME 04330
Phone: 622-7847; Fax: 626-8196

Knox-Lincoln

191 Camden Road
Warren, ME 04864
Phone: 273-2005; Fax: 273-2228

Oxford County

17 Olson Road
South Paris, ME 04281
Phone: 743-5789; Fax: 743-6256

Penobscot County

1423 Broadway, Suite 2
Bangor, ME 04401
Phone: 990-3676 x3; Fax: 992-1782

Piscataquis County

42 Engdahl Drive
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
Phone: 564-2321; Fax: 564-2570

St John Valley

139 Market St, Suite 106
Ft. Kent, ME 04743
Phone: 834-3311 x3; Fax: 834-6435

Somerset County

12 High St
Skowhegan, ME 04976
Phone: 474-8324; Fax: 474-0638

Southern Aroostook

304 North St
Houlton, ME 04730
Phone: 532-2087; Fax: 532-4379

Waldo County

266 Waterville Rd
Belfast, ME 04915
Phone: 338-1964; Fax: 338-4972

Washington County

51 Court Street – PO Box 121
Machias, ME 04654-0121
Phone: 255-4659; Fax: 255-6817

York County

21 Braden Street
Springvale, ME 04083
Phone: 324-0888; Fax: 324-4462

2012 MAINE ENVIROTHON REGISTRATION

HIGH SCHOOL: _____

TEAM ADVISOR: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

TOWN/STATE/ZIP: _____

SCHOOL PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE DAY OF EVENT _____

EMAIL (School): _____ EMAIL Home): _____

PLACE ONE CHECK BELOW NEXT TO THE REGIONAL COMPETITION YOU WANT TO ATTEND. ON THE REVERSE SIDE, INDICATE YOUR SECOND CHOICE (LIMIT 20 TEAMS PER REGION).

<u>Northern Regional:</u>	_____	May 10; Aroostook State Park, Presque Isle
<u>Southwestern Regional:</u>	_____	May 17; Seeds of Peace, Otisfield
<u>Downeast-Central Regional:</u>	_____	May 24; Eastern Maine Community College, Bangor
<u>Mid Coast Regional:</u>	_____	April 26; Thomas College, Waterville
<u>State Finals:</u>		May 31, University of Maine, Orono

REGISTRATION FEE: \$75 PER TEAM.

This fee covers the regional event as well as the state finals if your team is a finalist. The top four teams from each region compete at the State Envirothon. **Please note that there will be NO REFUNDS once a team has registered. In addition, there will no roll over to future Envirothons if the team has to cancel.**

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
MAIL THIS FORM AND FEE(S) TO:

MACD State Envirothon
Maine State Envirothon Fiscal Manager
c/o Dale Finseth, Fiscal Manager
KCSWCD – 21 Enterprise Drive, Suite #1
Augusta, ME 04330

OR

ON-LINE REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE BY VISITING: www.maineenvirothon.com AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON-LINE!!

SHORTLY AFTER REGISTRATION, WE WILL EMAIL A TEAM RESOURCES PACK (STUDY GUIDE) AND REFERENCE MATERIALS. TEAMS WILL ONLY RECEIVE THESE MATERIALS IF A REGISTRATION CHECK ACCOMPANIES THIS FORM OR AN ON-LINE PAYMENT HAS BEEN TRANSACTED. UNLESS YOU STATE OTHERWISE, WE WILL ONLY EMAIL THE RESOURCE PACKET.

- YES, I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A HARD COPY OF THE RESOURCE PACKET TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE!

FINAL DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: MARCH 15, 2012.
To receive the Team T-shirts: March 1, 2012

For additional information, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District (see attached brochure).



NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL _____

Names of Confirmed Team Members (**if available**). It is not essential to list all names of your team members on this form. However, if you are sure of the members, fill in this section.



TEAM I

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

6. Alternate: _____

TEAM II.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

6. Alternate: _____

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY ADVISORS

Because there will be a limit of 20 teams per regional competition, please indicate below your **second** choice for the regional competition you would like to attend. This will only apply if you register after 20 other teams have already registered for your first choice location appearing on the front of this form. Shortly after you register, you will be notified as to your choice of regional competitions.

2nd CHOICE (Check one)

Southwestern _____
Downeast/Central _____

Northern _____
Mid-Coast _____

T-SHIRT ORDERS

Each team receives 6 Envirothon short sleeve t-shirts as part of the registration fee if registration is received by March 1, 2012. T-shirts are 100% cotton.

Long sleeve t-shirts are available for an additional \$12.00/t-shirt.

Available sizes are small, medium, large, and x-large. A check must accompany the order. PLEASE INDICATE YOUR TEAMS' T-SHIRT SIZES (write *total number* of shirts next to each size)

Short Sleeve _____ SMALL _____ MEDIUM _____ LARGE _____ X-LARGE

Long Sleeve _____ SMALL _____ MEDIUM _____ LARGE _____ X-LARGE

If you are ordering additional t-shirts for team member(s) or advisors, **a check must accompany this order.**

_____ Amount enclosed for **additional** t-shirts at \$10.00 per short sleeve shirt and \$18 per long sleeve shirt.

Indicate sizes above.

GENERAL ENVIROTHON INFORMATION

Forming a Team: A team consists of a minimum of 3 students but no more than 5 students plus an alternate in grades 9-12. Interested students from a class may form teams or they may be members of a club. Team members must live in the same school district. Home schooler's are welcome too. Every school is allowed to send multiple Envirothon teams to regional competitions. The teams must attend the same regional competition.

Registering a Team: Registration materials are mailed to every high school no later than October of the prior year. The registration fee is \$75 per team. There are 4 regional competitions from which to choose and all competitions are held in late April or May. Teams can choose whichever regional competition they wish to attend. No more than 20 teams can participate at a regional competition. Therefore, teams who register early can be guaranteed their choice of regional competitions. A team would have to attend their second choice for the regional competitions if they are the 21st team to register for a particular region. Schools with two or more teams must attend the same regional competition.

Once registered, teams receive a Team Resource Pack from which to study. Approximately 4 weeks before the regional competitions, the Soil & Water Conservation District hosting the regional competition will send you a letter containing information about the competition and a map showing you how to get to the site. The top four winning teams at the regional competitions advance to the state finals. The top state team attends the Canon Envirothon National competition.

At the competitions, teams receive t-shirts that were ordered. Additional t-shirts may be ordered/purchased when a team registers. Usually, but not always, lunch is provided at the competitions. Lunch is provided at the state finals, the location of which changes yearly.

Please note there are NO REFUNDS if a school cannot make it once a team has registered, nor can the registration fee be rolled over to the following year, if the team has to cancel.

Testing Time/Stations: At the regional and state competitions, teams are tested for 30 minutes in an outdoor setting at each station (site): soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and a current issue. The current issue changes yearly. The 2012 Current Issue "**Nonpoint Source Pollution/Low Impact Development**". Occasionally, the testing time is extended to 40 minutes if there are more than 3 teams per station.

Types of Tests: Tests vary from station to station. Most tests include some multiple-choice questions, fill-in-the-blank, short explanations, and problems to solve. Judges try to make each test as site-specific as possible and hands-on activities/skills are included. Testing at the Current Issue station is conducted differently. At least one month before the regional competitions, teams receive by mail a problem to solve related to the Current Issue. Every team creates a poster(s) in advance which they bring to the regional competition. The poster should contain information about the problem they tried to solve. At this station during the regional event, each team makes a 5-minute oral presentation in front of the judges explaining how they solved the problem. Judges may ask the team questions if time permits, not to exceed two minutes. Each team also takes a written exam at this station at the regional event. There is no written exam at the state Current Issue Station. Oral Presentations are extended to 7-minutes with a 2-minute question period by judges. Some copies of former tests can be obtained from local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. When registered, all teams receive an extensive packet of reference materials for the Current Issue and oftentimes other references recommended by judges.

Reference Materials Used to Study For the Tests: Most Soil and Water Conservation Districts have copies of many of the reference materials that students are asked to study from for the competitions. A list of references is included with each study packet. Reference materials include pamphlets, books, brochures, magazine articles, government publications and videotapes. Most are free or inexpensive.

Regional Workshops: Some Soil & Water Conservation Districts may hold regional workshops or Fall Field Days for teams during the fall and winter. When you register for the Envirothon, you will be notified of these workshops and training sessions. There may be a Forestry Workshop for teams held in early 2012. You will be notified of this workshop. If you feel that you or your team need additional help studying for the tests, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District and ask if they know a resource specialist who may be of assistance.

Advisors/Alternates: Each team must have an adult advisor(s). Advisors may be teachers, parents, or members of the community. Advisors assist the teams in preparing for the competitions and make the necessary arrangements regarding registration, transportation, and when/ where/and how frequently team members will meet. Advisors help students determine the most desirable way to study for the competitions. At some competitions, advisors/alternates are allowed to accompany their team from station to station; however, they must not stand near the team or communicate with them in any way during the testing period. Advisors and alternates are not allowed to visit testing stations before their team(s) is tested at that station. Some advisors choose to bring work with them and only communicate with their teams during the 5-10 minutes between tests. At some regional competitions, the host district provides educational activities for the advisors. Each team is allowed to bring one alternate per team. Alternates may stay with their advisors during the testing. Additional individuals are discouraged from accompanying the teams to the competitions. They must ask the host district for permission to attend and may be charged a luncheon fee. At the State Finals, advisors are not allowed to accompany the teams through the competition. Educational programs for advisors are planned, however. Cell phones/pagers **MUST BE OFF** at both regional and state competitions.

Rules and Regulations: Non-adherence to the rules and regulations may lead to a team's disqualification. For additional information, contact your local Soil & Water Conservation District or Tish Carr, MACD Education Program Coordinator: 207.485.0219 or email at tish.carr@maineswcds.org.



MAINE ENVIROTHON PROGRAM

Maine Association of Conservation Districts, Education and Envirothon Committee

tish carr, MACD Education Program Coordinator
693 Manchester Road Belgrade Maine 04917
207.485.0219 email: tish.carr@maineswcds.org



2012 ENVIROTHON • HOST CONTACTS • REGIONAL COMPETITIONS • DATES/SITES

SOUTHWESTERN: Oxford County SWCD, Jean Federico (743.5789); jean.federico@me.nacdnet.net; May 14, TBA, Oxford County
MID-COAST: Kennebec County SWCD; Josh Platt (622.7847); josh@kcsxcd.org; Date: April 26, Thomas College, Waterville
DOWNEAST-CENTRAL: Penobscot County SWCD, Chris Brewer (667.8663); Chris.Brewer@me.nacdnet.net; May 17, EMCC, Bangor
NORTHERN: Central Aroostook SWCD, Benji Lynch (764.4153); benjamin.lynch@me.nacdnet.net; May 10, Aroostook State Park, Presque Isle
STATE FINALS: MACD Envirothon Committee, tish carr; tish.carr@maineswcds.org; May 31, Location TBA

RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

For the sake of equity, honesty and fairness to all Envirothon teams, the State Envirothon Committee recommends the following:

1. Advisors and teams should not visit the location of regional or state competition sites within a week prior to the competitions. On the day of the competitions, teams are asked to remain in the reception/registration area until the beginning of the competition.
2. No less than 3 but no more than 5 team members, 1 alternate and 2 advisors/chaperons should be present at the Envirothon competitions. Other individuals who are interested in attending any of the competitions must obtain prior approval from the host district for regional competitions and the state coordinator for the finals. Fees for meals may be charged for any additional individuals in attendance.
3. Honesty and ethical conduct is expected of all teams. While teams are discussing answers to test questions at the station, care should be taken that other teams do not hear these discussions.

RULES AND REGULATIONS¹

1. Competitors must be enrolled in grades 9 through 12 at the time of registration.
2. Each team will have a minimum of three and a maximum of five team members. You may have only one alternate per team for regional and state competitions, but no more than five members compete. These same three to five team members compete during the entire competition and at the regional and state competitions. The alternate may not substitute unless one of the members becomes incapacitated at either the regional or state completion or if one team member is unable to attend the state competition. The alternate does not have to be present at the regional competition and his/her name must appear on the regional competition's team roster.
3. All team members must be from the same school. (No regional all-star teams)
4. Each team must have an adult advisor. During the competition *and while students move between stations*, the advisor(s) and alternates can *not* assist or *communicate with* their team in any way and must stay at least 20 feet from their team(s) during the testing. Non-adherence will result in the advisor and/or alternate not being allowed at any remaining test sites during the competition. No advisors will be allowed to accompany the teams through the competition at the State Finals.
5. Judges' decisions are final on all events.
6. Transportation to and from competition will be the responsibility of each team. **IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE WITH TRANSPORTATION OR OTHER COSTS, SEE IF YOU CAN GET A LOCAL SPONSOR TO HELP OUT.**
7. The top four teams from each regional competition can attend the state finals no matter what school they come from. Any number of teams may compete from one school at regional events, but only the top two teams from a school are allowed to participate at the state event. A local home school chapter is equivalent to one school. **Results from the Regional Competitions will not be posted or shared before the state competition.**
8. At each regional event, the 5th place team will be considered the alternate team to participate at the State Event if one of the top four regional teams drops out. Only the 5th place team will be the alternate, no matter how many teams drop out ahead of them for that region.
9. Each team may include **only** 1 alternate. Additional students accompanying a team will **not** be permitted to participate in Envirothon even informally, and should therefore not be in attendance. There will be **NO** alternate teams at the state finals.
10. High schools with 2 or more Envirothon teams must attend the same regional competition.
11. No team or team member will be allowed to leave the testing area while tests are being administered without judge's approval.
12. There will be no refunds or rollover to future Envirothon's once a team has registered if they have to cancel.
13. Cell phones/pagers must be given to the advisor during competitions.
14. Cameras are not allowed by either students or advisors during any regional or state competition.

¹ For a complete and up-to-date list of rules and regulations, please refer to the Maine Envirothon website at www.maineswcds.org/envirothon/rules.htm.