

# ALABAMA ENVIROTHON

Educating Today's Youth to be Tomorrow's  
Environmental Decision Makers



Enhance  
Environmental  
Education  
in Your  
High School

## WHAT IS ENVIROTHON?

It is a national program for high school students designed to “Educate Today’s Youth to become Tomorrow’s Environmental Decision Makers”. Students are educated in current real-life environmental issues, incorporating concerns for soils, aquatics, wildlife, forests, and a current issue which changes annually. Teams compete at the local or regional level with winning teams invited to compete at the Alabama Envirothon in the Spring. Each year the competition is focused on a different national theme. Examples of those themes include acid rain, greenways, pesticides, and watersheds. The winning team represents Alabama in the National Envirothon in the Fall. Over 500,000 youth from 38 states and 3 Canadian provinces participate in Envirothon.





## WHAT HAPPENS AT STATE ENVIROTHON?

Get ready for lots of fun! The contests are held in the field with 5 stations. Each station deal with one of the five subjects. Teams go to stations for refresher training rotating to another station every 45 minutes. After training, the teams return to each station to take a written exam on that subject. The teams are then given a complex and current environmental issue to work on and are required to give an oral presentation of their recommendations. They integrate information from all of the disciplines in the competition, applying it to a real world situation.

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## HOW DOES ENVIROTHON WORK?

Envirothon is a team-based program. Teams of five high school students and up to two alternates, with the assistance of adult advisors, study resource materials to learn the fundamental of natural resource management in the five areas of study: soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. Team advisors (teachers, parents or volunteers) work with the team in planning activities for the year which may include forestry field days, field trips, classroom training, tree planting, presentations by local natural resource experts, etc. Teams compete at the local or regional level with winning teams advancing to the state competition.





## WHAT DOES ENVIROTHON DO?

Envirothon:

- Builds awareness about environmental concerns & issues.
- Emphasizes practical, hands-on conservation.
- Challenges students with real-life, environmental problem-solving situations.
- Develops an understanding of the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources.
- Brings awareness that personal actions have positive and negative effects on our future existence.
- Helps students learn where to seek information in dealing with environmental concerns.
- Develops critical thinking skills through which students learn how to think, not what to think.
- Acquaints students with environmental careers.
- Promotes teamwork.
- Develops leadership skills and personal responsibility.
- Offers lots of fun and meeting new friends!

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Envirothon teams are made up of five members and up to two alternates. All the members must attend the same highschool and be in grades 9-12. Schools may enter up to two teams.

## WHO TRAINS THE TEAMS?

The team advisor is responsible for helping teams to prepare for the contests. The Envirothon State Committee will give you a guide for subjects with a list of references. Your local Soil & Water Conservation District can provide you with much of the information and contacts you need. The Alabama Department of Conservation, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, and your school system can also help.



# STEP BY STEP

1. Decide if your school wants to participate in Envirothon.
2. Tell your county's Soil & Water Conservation District you are interested.
3. Put together your team. (FFA team, science clubs, environmental clubs, etc. have entered as well as teams put together of interested students.)
4. Get support from local businesses and agencies that have an interest in the environment.
5. Get your training materials from your local Soil & Water Conservation District.
6. Plan your Envirothon training year.
7. Invite local experts to help train your team.
8. Get out in the field to look at the environment where you will be tested.
9. Practice the team's presentations. This is an important part of the score.
10. Go to the Envirothon. Have fun and get ideas from other teams.
11. Send your winning team to the state contest.
12. Tell the State Envirothon Committee what you learned and express your ideas so they can be shared with others.

## WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE?

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64 Lee Rd. 415  
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334-749-2612

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Mike Cornett, Coordinator  
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Your local Soil & Water Conservation District

## THE ENVIROTHON

DO THE STUDENTS LEARN?	YES
DO THEY HAVE FUN?	YES
DOES IT WORK?	YES

## GET INVOLVED AND JOIN THE FUN!

### SPONSORS



ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF  
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