

# NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON

*"Fostering Environmentally Conscious, Decision Making Young Adults"*

September 2023

## **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 within students to consider careers in environmental fields: (3) students learn about team building and enhance their communications skills.

In North America, most K - 12<sup>th</sup> grade environmental education is delivered outside traditional curriculum and instruction. Programs like the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon, the Illinois Envirothon, and the NCF-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. **This year's competitions will be held March 12, 2024 (North Event - DeKalb County Farm Bureau, Sycamore, IL) and March 14, 2024 (South Event – Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL).** North event includes teams from Boone, DeKalb, Lake, McHenry, and Winnebago Counties. South event includes teams from Cook, DuPage, Kane, and Will Counties.

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 – May 8-9, 2024**. The winners of the Illinois Envirothon will represent our state during the **NCF-Envirothon, July 28 through August 3, 2024, at Geneva, New York**. National Conservation Foundation 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 "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future". 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 "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future" 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 NCF-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 February 12, 2024**, 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 Northeastern Illinois Envirothon committee consists of staff from the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Northeastern Illinois, collectively called Land Use Council 16. The District's within Land Use Council 16 include: Boone, DeKalb, Kane-DuPage, North Cook, McHenry-Lake, Will-S. Cook, and Winnebago.

## The Entry

**All teams:** registration form and fees are due by **December 1, 2023**. 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**.

**We have set a minimum of 20 teams for the competition to go on as scheduled. If registrations fall below 20, we will cancel the competition.**

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 1, 2024**.

**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 815-338-0444 x3 or e-mail: [Spring.duffey@il.nacdnet.net](mailto:Spring.duffey@il.nacdnet.net).

Sincerely:



Spring Duffey

Executive Director, McHenry-Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District

# NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON

*"Fostering Environmentally Conscious, Decision Making Young Adults"*

## **2024 Competition Registration Materials**

**North Event**

**March 12, 2024**

**DeKalb County Farm Bureau, Sycamore, IL**

**South Event**

**March 14, 2024**

**Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL**

# NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON

## Registration Guidelines

1. Registrations are due by December 1, 2023 to the McHenry-Lake County SWCD.
2. All registrations must include a \$25 non-refundable registration fee per team.

Make checks payable to:

McHenry-Lake County SWCD  
1648 S. Eastwood Dr.  
Woodstock, IL 60098

3. Schools / Organizations are permitted to enter up to 2 teams per school /organization. Although you do not need to include names with your initial registration, you must send a separate form & separate \$25 non-refundable registration fee for each team you wish to register. If you are entering two teams, you must indicate "Team 1" or "Team 2" on each form. FFA TEAMS: If you are registering a team affiliated with the National FFA Organization, participating in the FFA Career Development Events program, you must indicate this affiliation on your registration form.
4. A minimum of 20 and a maximum of 40 teams may compete in the NE IL Envirothon competition. Registrations will be accepted on a first come first served basis.
5. The procedure for entering teams into the competition will be as follows:
  - a. Schools' / Organizations' 1st team selections will be entered on a first come first served basis, not to exceed 40 total teams (20 per event location).
  - b. Once all 1st team registrations are entered, 2nd team registrations will be entered also on a first come first served basis, not to exceed 40 total teams.
  - c. Team Advisors will be notified in late December/early January as to which teams have been entered.
6. Team member names and Talent Release forms are due **March 1, 2024**.
7. A study materials link will be sent to the team contact email listed on the registration form in early January.
8. Oral presentation materials will be uploaded to the link **1 month prior** to the competition. Your team contact will be notified by email, when the materials are available.

**2024 COMPETITION**

# NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON

## Rules & Regulations

1. Students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in the current school year are eligible to compete.
2. Teams must consist of five (5) team members from the same school and/or organization/association and be registered for the competition. One (1) alternate may participate. The addition of an alternate must be noted on the registration form. You may substitute a team member at the beginning of the competition, but this substitution must remain for the entire week of the competition. It is HIGHLY recommended that you register an alternate. **Alternates will not be permitted to participate in testing or in the oral presentation if the original team members are available for competition.**
3. The Envirothon will consist of five subject areas: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and Current Issue. Students will participate as a five (5) member team.
4. Test questions will cover any information in the resource materials provided to the teams. Notes and materials will **not** be allowed at any time during the competition.
5. Students will work as a five (5) member team to answer test questions. One set of answers will be submitted.
6. The winning team is the team with the highest cumulative point total from the five testing areas and oral presentation. In the event of a tie, the highest score in Aquatics will break the tie. If there is still a tie, Forestry, Soils, and Wildlife areas respectively will decide the winner.
7. The winning team will represent us at the Illinois Envirothon. If the winning team opts not to participate in the state competition or the team consists of less than five (5) team members, the team with the next highest score is eligible. **As per Illinois Envirothon rules, alternates must have attended the current year's local event to compete in the Illinois Envirothon.**
8. The Northeastern Illinois Envirothon Committee will pay the entrance fee to the Illinois Envirothon for our Council winning team. The FFA winning team's entrance fee to the Illinois Envirothon will not be covered. All travel costs are the responsibility of the team.
9. Rules are subject to change and all relevant changes will be explained to the teams and advisors before the competition.

# NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON

## Registration Form

High School / Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Team Advisor/Coach \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Check all that apply:*

I am registering as a Council 16 (Northeastern Illinois Envirothon) Team only.

I am registering as both an FFA (National FFA Organization) and a Council 16 (Northeastern Illinois Envirothon) Team. I understand that my team will be required to complete an oral presentation. I also understand that if we are the overall winner, we will represent our Council at the State Competition.

I am registering as an FFA (National FFA Organization) Team only. I do not wish to participate as a Council 16 (Northeastern Illinois Envirothon) Team. I understand that my team will not be required to complete an oral presentation and will not be eligible for the overall "County Winner" or the top three team awards.

***(Required!)*** I have read and understood the "Rules & Regulations." I understand that if our team does not abide by the rules, we will be disqualified and may not be allowed to participate in future events.

Team 1

Team 2

Team Member \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ M F

Team Member \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ M F

Team Member \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ M F

Team Member \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ M F

Team Member \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ M F

ALTERNATE \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ M F

# NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON

## Talent Release Form 2024 Northeastern Illinois Envirothon Competition

\_\_\_\_\_ Team Name or High School

I authorize the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon Committee and their designated representatives to take photos, film, video, and/or audio recordings of

\_\_\_\_\_ and use those images and recordings in  
(***PRINT*** Student's Name)

promoting the educational program titled: The Northeastern Illinois Envirothon. I understand that he/she will not be paid and that no further claim of any nature will be made.

### *Parent/Guardian Consent*

**Guardian SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guardian PRINTED NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to minor \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail or Email forms to:

Spring Duffey  
McHenry-Lake County SWCD  
1648 S. Eastwood Dr., Woodstock, IL 60098  
Email: [spring.duffey@il.nacdnet.net](mailto:spring.duffey@il.nacdnet.net)

Questions?: Spring Duffey (815) 338-0444 x 3

**PLEASE NOTE:** Forms **MUST** be received **by March 1, 2024**. No team photos will be released if a student's form is missing. All photos without proper releases will be destroyed within one month following the competition date.

**2024 COMPETITION**



## Northeastern Illinois Envirothon Timelines:

December 1, 2023: all team registrations and registrations due to McHenry-Lake SWCD.

Early January 2024: study materials are accessible on Google Drive for download.

February 14, 2024: current topic scenario is accessible on Google Drive for download.

March 1, 2024: deadline for student name & talent release form submissions.

March 12, 2024, North Event Competition: North event consists of teams from Boone, DeKalb, Lake, McHenry and Winnebago County high schools.

March 14, 2024, South Event Competition: South event consists of teams from Cook, DuPage, Kane and Will County high schools

March 14, 2024: Top scoring team from Northeastern Illinois Envirothon will be determined.

May 8 - 9, 2024: Illinois State Envirothon Competition at Allerton Memorial Park in Monticello, Illinois. Winning team goes to North American Envirothon.

July 28 - August 3, 2024, North American Envirothon: winning team from Illinois Envirothon will spend one week at the National Conservation Foundation North American Envirothon at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York. Scholarships awarded to winners!

North Event:  
March 12, 2024  
DeKalb County Farm Bureau  
1350 W. Prairie Drive  
Sycamore IL 60189

South Event:  
March 14, 2024  
Morton Arboretum  
4100 IL-53  
Lisle IL 60532



McHenry-Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District  
1648 S. Eastwood Drive  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
Phone: 815-338-0444 x3  
E-mail: [spring.duffey@il.nacdnet.net](mailto:spring.duffey@il.nacdnet.net)

# Northeastern Illinois Envirothon March 12 & 14 2024



***“Fostering Environmentally Conscious, Decision Making Young Adults”***

## What is Envirothon?

The Envirothon is an exciting and fun way for high school students to learn about the environment. It combines in-class curriculum with hands-on field experiences, while demonstrating the role people have in environmental concerns, like sustainable agriculture, forest management, soil erosion, water quality and wildlife management.

Resources are provided to students in topics of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current environmental topic. The 2024 environmental topic is **“Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future.”**

Students compete as a team consisting of five to six individuals from the same high school or organization. Teams are tested in the five subject areas through written tests, laboratory tests and an oral presentation.

The Envirothon experience provides students with the ability to think critically and enhance their problem solving skills. It gives students the opportunity to be role models in their community. Lastly, it prepares student for future careers in natural resource areas.



Belvidere High School Oral Presentation

## Areas of Study



**Aquatics:** students will learn about aquatic organisms, water quality and watersheds. Key ideas include laws and methods used to protect water quality and to understand best management decisions.



**Forestry:** students will learn about basic forest management concepts and tools , such as the use of tree measuring devices, best management practices and forest ecology concepts.



**Soils:** students will learn how to determine basic soil properties and limitations, such as mottling and permeability. They will be able to identify types of soil erosion and discuss methods for reducing erosion.



**Wildlife:** students will learn to describe major factors affecting threatened and endangered species, and methods to improve species populations. They will be able to discuss ways the public and wildlife managers can aid in protection and conservation.



**2024 Current Topic- “Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future”:** Students will learn about the different sources of renewable energy; the challenges facing the transition from traditional fossil fuels to renewables; the environmental, economic and social impacts of energy consumption; and how individuals can affect change in their communities.

## Sponsorships

Each year Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Northeastern Illinois, collectively called Land Use Council 16, seek funding to support the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon. Funding provides students and advisors with educational workshops, lunches, t-shirts and awards for top placing teams. It is sponsors that allow the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon to continue to raise awareness of environmental issues and provide positive impacts in local communities.

For over 25 years, the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon has continued to be a successful event and brings together diverse groups of students. We hope organizations, like yours, considers a contribution towards the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon competition. Your donation is tax deductible and will aid in continuation of environmental awareness. Become part of the environmental education movement in your community today!



Adlai E Stevenson High School, Northeastern Illinois and Illinois Envirothon winning team 2023. Sponsored by Land Use Council 16.