

What is Envirothon?

Envirothon is an environmental education program for high school students that combines classroom learning and outdoor activities.

It's a competitive opportunity for high school students to learn more about the natural environment. The activities are designed to help students become environmentally aware, action-oriented adults.

Five-member teams demonstrate their knowledge of environmental science and natural resources management on six topics – soil, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, range, and a current environmental issue.

History of Envirothon

Envirothon began in Pennsylvania in spring 1979. Since then, it has spread to other states and countries including Canada, China and Singapore.

Nebraska held its first State Envirothon in 1992, and hosted the international NCF-Envirothon in 1996 and 2021.

High school teachers and youth leaders across the country are recognizing the value of Envirothon as a means of strengthening the environmental awareness of students.



Soil

Students learn about soil structure, interpret maps, and evaluate land forms and soil characteristics that affect agriculture and development.



Aquatics

Students assess the quality of delicate aquatic ecosystems. They also learn to identify aquatic organisms, manage watersheds and determine nonpoint source pollution.

Range

A look at important uses and needs of rangeland. Students will learn the basics of species identification, ecosystems as well as management approaches.

Wildlife

A favorite for many Envirothon participants, students learn firsthand about animal populations, animal dynamics and the importance of habitat conservation.



Forestry

Develop an understanding on maintaining healthy forest ecosystems. Students learn the basics of species identification, forest structure as well as best management.

Current Environmental Issue

Students work as a team to explore the facets of current environmental issues and illustrate the complexity of real-life environmental decisions. The issue changes annually.

Oral Presentation

During the state competition, students prepare and present a 10-minute oral presentation on a real-world scenario related to the annual Current Environmental Issue.

Nebraska Envirothon

Envirothon teams consist of five students (9-12 grades) competing in a setting where cooperation is needed to achieve success.

Annually, regional competitions are hosted across Nebraska. The winning five-member team from each region is invited to compete at the Nebraska State Envirothon. The state champion represents Nebraska at the international NCF-Envirothon.

NCF-Envirothon

The international NCF-Envirothon competition is hosted in a different city each year. Teams rotate through testing stations completing written examinations.

The oral presentation challenges teams to work together and communicate a solution on a complex environmental issue before a panel of judges. The presentation is a major portion of the team's score.

Students also can unwind by participating in fun scheduled activities and exploring a new city.

Recent NCF-Envirothon locations:

- 2026: Starkville, Mississippi
- 2025: Alberta, Canada
- 2024: Geneva, New York
- 2023: New Brunswick, Canada

Nebraska Partners

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Nebraska Forest Service
Nebraska FFA - Department of Education
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
Nebraska Dept. of Water, Energy & Environment



GET INVOLVED!

For more information on the Nebraska Envirothon, contact the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts.

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