

Nebraska Envirothon News

October 2022

www.nrdnet.org

What is the Nebraska Envirothon?

The Nebraska Envirothon is a competition designed for high school students to test their knowledge about the environment. Teams of five compete at the regional level in seven environmental study subjects -- soils, aquatics, forestry, policy, wildlife, range and a special topic. For the state competition, an oral presentation is added to the testing on the special topic. The topic is selected by the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon Committee.

A growing number of career

fields involve natural resources. This an opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience working on environmental issues, and get exposure to a variety of careers.

Envirothon allows students to take their classroom knowledge and apply it to real-world situations. Students are given the opportunity to interact with resource professionals in environmental careers. The competition is a great link between academics and the business world.



Previous State Champions

- 2022: Concordia
- 2021: Ord
- 2020: *Canceled*
- 2019: St. Paul
- 2018: Concordia
- 2017: Concordia
- 2016: Concordia
- 2015: Concordia
- 2014: Concordia
- 2013: Concordia
- 2012: West Holt
- 2011: Superior
- 2010: Superior
- 2009: Ord
- 2008: Wauneta-Palisade
- 2007: Wauneta-Palisade
- 2006: Wauneta-Palisade
- 2005: Norris
- 2004: Norris
- 2003: Superior
- 2002: Medicine Valley
- 2001: Cambridge
- 2000: Nelson
- 1999: Nelson
- 1998: Cambridge
- 1997: Cambridge
- 1996: North Platte
- 1995: Chappell
- 1994: Norris

2023 Envirothon Competitions

Regional Testing

February & March 2023

Students will complete regional Envirothon testing in February or March (schedule on next page). Teams with five members will work together to take seven tests. Each test is timed at 15 minutes. Schools can bring multiple teams to compete. The winning team from each region along with eight wildcards (14 teams total) are invited to compete at the Nebraska State Envirothon.

Nebraska State Envirothon

April 26, 2023

Cedar Point Biological Station at Lake McConaughy
Ogallala, Nebraska

The State Envirothon Committee will host the Nebraska State Envirothon at the University of Nebraska's Cedar Point Biological Station at Lake McConaughy near Ogallala.

2023 Competition Locations & Contacts

Western Region

Feb. 1, 2023

Gordon City Hall, Gordon

Regional Contact: Kylan Armstrong, Upper Niobrara White NRD, 308.432.6190, armstrong@unwnrd.org

Mid-Plains Region

March 7, 2023

NE College of Technical Agriculture, Curtis

Regional Contact: Colleen Stone, Middle Republican NRD, 308.362.4281, cstone@mnrnd.org

Metro Region

Feb. 23, 2023 | 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Papio NRD Office, Chalco Hills Rec Area

Regional Contact: Kaylyn Kelley, Papio-Missouri River NRD, 402.315.1713, kkelley@papionrd.org

Central Region

Feb. 28, 2022

Central Community College, Columbus

Regional Contact: Brody Vorderstrasse, Central Platte NRD, 308.385.6282, brody@cpnrnd.org

Southeast Region

Feb. 15, 2023

Nebraska Assoc. Resources Districts Office, Lincoln

Regional Contact: Megan Grimes, NARD, 402.471.7672, mgrimes@nrdnet.org

Feb. 28, 2023

Southeast Community College, Beatrice

Regional Contact: Scott Theis, Lower Big Blue NRD, 402.228.3402, theis@lbbnrd.net

Feb. 28, 2023

Centennial High School, Utica

Regional Contact: Megan Grimes, NARD, 402.471.7672, mgrimes@nrdnet.org

Northeast Region

Feb. 27, 2023

Northeast Community College, Norfolk

Regional Contact: Beth Walsh, Upper Elkhorn NRD, 402.336.3867, bwalsh@uenrd.org

Nebraska State Envirothon Competition

April 26, 2023

Lake McConaughy, Ogallala, Neb.

Megan Grimes, NARD, 402.419.4235 or mgrimes@nrdnet.org

2023 Special Topic: Adapting to a Changing Climate

Students will learn about factors contributing to a changing climate, the effects of these changes on the environment and natural resources, and the unique challenges facing natural resource dependent communities. As they explore the impacts on human social and economic systems, they will learn about management strategies for mitigating and adapting to a changing climate, and the roles of innovative technologies and programs in responding to local and global changes.

Current Environmental Issue learning objectives include:

- Describe climate change and the process through which it occurs.
- Outline factors, both anthropogenic and natural, which influence climate and climate change.
- Describe major economic sectors that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.
- Describe major energy sources and explain how each contributes to climate change.
- Describe the history of international collaboration on climate change and analyze the successes and shortcomings.
- Describe the various sources of scientific data which are used as evidence of climate change and explain how we know this data

to be reliable.

- Evaluate climate data and draw conclusions based on that data.
- Explain the use of modeling in forecasting climate and the sources of uncertainty in climate projections.
- Explain the consequences of climate changes on aquatic, forest, wildlife and soil ecosystems.
- Describe the social and economic impacts of climate change.
- Explain how various levels of government, non-governmental organizations and individuals are involved in mitigating and adapting to climate change at local, national and international levels.
- Describe innovative technologies and programs designed to combat climate change.
- Describe the unique challenges faced by regions largely dependent on primary resources (forestry, agriculture, fisheries), and how climate change influences these challenges.

Find study resources for the 2023 special topic at www.envirothon.org.



During 2022, an ongoing drought caused Nebraska's Platte River to run dry at various points during the summer. Pictured is the dry Platte River bed near Fort Kearny State Recreation Area on Sept. 4, 2022.

New Brunswick, Canada, Hosting 2023 NCF-Envirothon

The 2023 NCF-Envirothon will be hosted at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, July 23-29, 2023. New Brunswick relies heavily on primary resource sectors like forestry, agriculture, fisheries, mining and energy production. Climate change is expected to have direct and indirect impacts on the natural environment, which pose a threat to the viability of many New Brunswick resource-dependent communities.

A Look Back at the 2022 Nebraska Envirothon

High schoolers from across Nebraska met in Cozad for the 30th annual Nebraska State Envirothon April 27. Concordia Lutheran of Omaha took home the championship along with \$1,500 and represented Nebraska at the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon in July.

The 2022 oral presentation theme "Waste to Resources" challenged teams to propose a solution on a panel of judges.

The NARD Foundation awarded cash prizes to the top three teams at the state competition:

- **First Place (\$1,500):** Concordia (Omaha)
- **Second Place (\$1,000):** Norris
- **Third Place (\$500):** Milford

Additional prizes were awarded to the top teams in each testing category:

- **Aquatics:** Concordia and Dawson County Envirothon Club
- **Forestry:** St. Paul and Milford
- **Policy:** Loup City
- **Range:** Burwell
- **Soils:** St. Paul and Concordia
- **Wildlife:** Norris
- **Oral Presentation:**

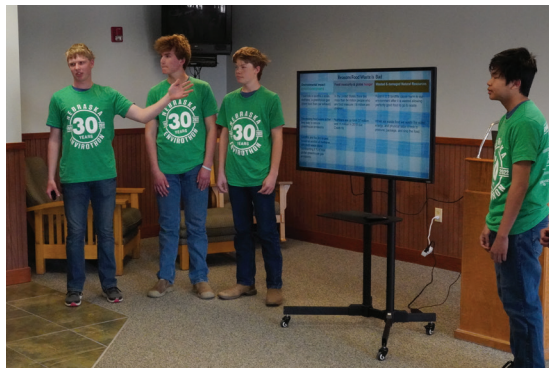
Omaha Zoo Academy
Seventy-five teams competed in the regional contests in February and March and 14 teams qualified to participate at the state competition.



Omaha Zoo Academy students work to identify a snake at the wildlife station April 27, 2022.



Right: Norris students problem solve at the Envirothon range station. Norris took second place and a top score in wildlife.



Right: Milford students work together at the wildlife station. Milford took third overall with a top score in forestry.

Left: The Chadron team gives their oral presentation to a panel of judges in Cozad.



Concordia Competes at NCF-Envirothon in Ohio

After taking the top spot at the State Envirothon, Concordia Lutheran High School from Omaha, went on to represent Nebraska at the NCF-Envirothon July 24-30, 2022, at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

The NCF-Envirothon included 40 teams from the U.S., Canada and China.

Nebraska finished 21st taking 10th in Wildlife; 12th in Soils and 14th in the Oral Presentation.

Top places went to the following states:

- **First:** Massachusetts
- **Second:** Maryland
- **Third:** Florida

The 2023 NCF-Envirothon will be hosted in New Brunswick, Canada.



Right: Concordia Lutheran High School of Omaha was named 2022 Nebraska Envirothon champions and competed in Oxford, Ohio.

Competing in the Nebraska Envirothon

Teams may compete at ANY regional contest in Nebraska they choose, but are only allowed to compete at one regional contest per year. The score will be counted in the region that the school/club is geographically located in.

Envirothon teams are composed of FIVE students per team. A school may bring multiple teams to a regional competition.

Nebraska allows for six regional winners and eight wild card winners to compete in the State Envirothon. See page five of the Nebraska Envirothon Guide Book for more information.

All teams competing at the Nebraska State Envirothon competition will be required to create a slide deck and present to judges on the special topic. No audio is allowed in the presentation.

Awards are given to the winning team of each testing station. A championship award is given to the team with the highest overall score. The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) sponsors the winning Nebraska team at the NCF-Envirothon competition in July.

The Nebraska Envirothon Guide Book and study materials are available on the Nebraska Envirothon website. For more information visit: www.nrdnet.org/nebraska-envirothon

Nebraska Envirothon Regions

