



# ENVIROTHON NEWSLETTER

WWW.NRDNET.ORG

2019

## Past State Champs:

Year	Team
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



State Envirothon 2018

## What is the Nebraska Envirothon?

The Nebraska Envirothon is a competition designed for high school students (9-12th grades) to test their knowledge about the environment. Five-member teams compete at the regional level in seven environmental study subjects. They are soils, aquatics, forestry, policy, wildlife, range and a current issue topic called the special topic question. For the state competition, an oral presentation is added to the testing on a current issue. The topic is selected by the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon Committee.

### ***Why take the time to organize and coach a team for this competition?***

A growing number of jobs are being created that involve Nebraska's natural resources. This is an opportunity to give students hands-on experience working with the environment and exposure to a variety of careers working in and around the environment.

### ***What makes the Envirothon different from other extra-curricular activities students already participate in?***

The Nebraska Envirothon competition gives students the opportunity to take what they've learned in the classroom & apply it to real-life situations. Students are given the chance to interact with resource professionals who currently work in environmental fields and show students the link between academics and the business world.

## Envirothon in Review

Congratulations to Concordia High School's Envirothon team for winning the 2018 Nebraska State Envirothon! This is the sixth year in a row Concordia High School has taken 1st place. The contest was held at Niobrara State Park in Niobrara, Nebraska late last April.

Student teams first compete in one of eight regional contests around the state. The winners of each region then compete at the state level. The state winners compete at the NCF Envirothon. Concordia High School took 28th place out of 50 teams at nationals in July.

"Envirothon gives students the opportunity to work together in our natural resources," said Austen Hill, Metro region Envirothon coordinator. "It opens students' eyes to many new and exciting careers and fosters stewardship of our natural resources."

The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) Foundation is the annual sponsor of the Nebraska Envirothon. NARD congratulated the top three schools with award money that went to each school to be used for scholarships and furthering natural resources education. Concordia High School's Team 1 received \$1,500. Members of the 2018 Concordia High School Team 1 were Abigail Sharp, Blake Hawkins, Bridget Backer, Mackenzie Torosian and Peyton Cole. Their coach is Mike Ellis. Each team member on the winning team was also awarded a \$500 scholarship by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to be used towards a major in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Southern Valley High School received \$1,000 for getting 2nd place. Arapahoe High School received \$500 for earning 3rd place.

## NEW RULE!

All teams competing at the Nebraska Envirothon competition will be required to create **PowerPoint presentations** to present to judges on their Special Topic Question. No audio is allowed in the PowerPoint presentation.

Go to [nrdnet.org/](http://nrdnet.org/) Nebraska-Envirothon for more details on the rules and regulations.



Nebraska Envirothon—  
Range Testing Station 2018

## Award Info

Awards are given to the winning team of each testing station. A championship award is given to the team with the highest overall score. About 500 students participated in the Nebraska Envirothon in 2018.

## Looking Ahead: 2019 Special Topic:

### Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge & Technology to Feed the World

There are many articles that estimate the population of the Earth to be approximately nine billion by the year 2050. One of the primary concerns for the agricultural industry is how will farmers be able to grow enough food to feed this growing population, while also protecting natural resources such as soil, water, air, wildlife, and forestry resources.

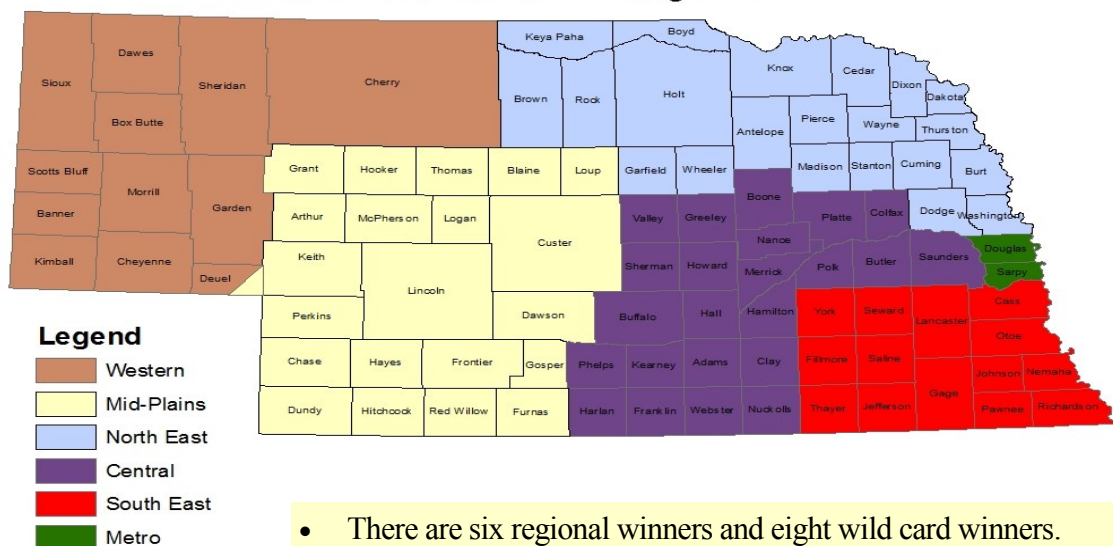
Students will learn the concepts of how agriculture and all natural resource areas are interrelated, and how the use of new technologies are key to increase food production.

Key topics will include:

Understand the importance of moving toward sustainable farming systems to conserve natural resources, mitigate climate change, reduce erosion and protect water quality and quantity, and promote pollination; Comprehension of farming practices that build soil organic matter such as composting, crop rotations, cover crops, conservation tillage, and management intensive grazing systems to improve soil health; Understand integrated pest management and biological pest control techniques used to prevent insect pest, disease, and weed problems; Understand the role of new technology: agricultural biotechnology; precision agriculture; and using UAV (drones, GIS, etc.) to increase farm efficiency for food production.

**REMINDER:** Teams may compete at ANY regional contest in Nebraska they choose, but are only allowed to compete at one regional contest per year. You must inform Erika Hill at [ehill@nrdnet.org](mailto:ehill@nrdnet.org) on the new location your team is

### Nebraska Envirothon Regions



- There are six regional winners and eight wild card winners.
- See page 5 of the Nebraska Envirothon Policy Manual at [www.nrdnet.org/envirothon.php](http://www.nrdnet.org/envirothon.php) for more information.

# 2019 Locations and Contacts

## Date

## Time

## Place

### Western Region

February 6, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Gordon City Hall, Gordon

Regional Contact: Tricia Goes, Upper Niobrara White NRD, (308) 432-6190 goes@unwnrd.org

### Mid-Plains Region (3 Regional Times)

February 6, 2019

9:00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

North Platte Community College, North Platte

Regional Contact: Bill Carhart, Twin Platte NRD, (308) 535-8080 bcarhart@tpnrd.org

March 5, 2019

9:00 a.m.

NE College of Technical Agriculture, Curtis

Regional Contact: Colleen Stone, Middle Republican NRD, (308) 334-5292 colleen.stone@ne.nacdnet.net

### Metro Region (2 Regional Times)

February 26, 2019

10:30 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Chalco Hills Recreation Area

Regional Contact: Austen Hill, Papio Missouri River NRD, (402) 444-6222, ahill@papiornrd.org

### Central Region (2 Regional Times)

February 18, 2018

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Central Community College – Grand Island

Regional Contact: Marcia Lee, Central Platte NRD, (308) 385-6282 lee@cpnrd.org

March 5, 2019

9:00 a.m.

Central Community College - Platte Campus, Columbus

Regional Contact: Larry Schultz, Lower Loup NRD, (308) 728-3221 larrys@llnrd.org

### Southeast Region

March 5, 2019

9:00 a.m.

Southeast Community College, Beatrice

Regional Contact: Scott Theis, Lower Big Blue NRD, (402) 228-3402 theis@lbbnrd.net

### Northeast Region (2 Regional Times)

February 27, 2019

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Northeast Community College, Norfolk

Regional Contact: Beth Walsh, Upper Elkhorn NRD, (402) 336-3867 bwalsh@uenrd.org

### Nebraska Envirothon Competition

April 24, 2019

8:00 a.m.

Pibel Recreation Area, Ericson, NE

July 28—Aug. 2, 2019

NCF Envirothon

North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

Nebraska Envirothon and NCF Envirothon Contact: Erika Hill (402) 471-7672 ehill@nrdnet.org

**Even though many of the Regional Envirothon Competitions are held in conjunction with FFA ag. education contests, any group of students associated with a high school, 4-H group, science club, etc. are eligible to compete!**

# Study Tips for Regional Contests

To assist teams in preparing for Regional Contests, the test writers have identified five to seven key terms for each area. The key terms should be used as a guide in studying for the Regional Contests. A study guide with a list of resources and information can be found at [www.nrdnet.org/nebraska-envirothon](http://www.nrdnet.org/nebraska-envirothon).

**Aquatics:** Surface and Groundwater Regulations, Water Chemistry, Aquatic Biology, Groundwater Aquifers, Water and Wastewater Treatment

**Forestry:** Windbreak, Compound Leaf, Tree or Log Scale, Site Index, Sapwood, Silviculture

**Policy:** Agriculture, Wetlands, Wildlife, Legislation, Government, Geography

**Range:** Range Plant Identification, Range Condition, Rangeland Wildlife, Sandhills vegetation and ecology, Prescribed fire as a management tool

**Soils:** Soil Color, Soil Texture, Soil Erosion, Soil Limitations, Soil Survey

**Wildlife:** Invasive Species, Succession, Adaptation, Game vs. Non-game, Symbiosis, Carrying Capacity, Habitat

**Special Topic Question:** [nrdnet.org/Nebraska-envirothon](http://nrdnet.org/Nebraska-envirothon)



NCF Envirothon 2018—Testing Day

## What you didn't know about the Envirothon Program...

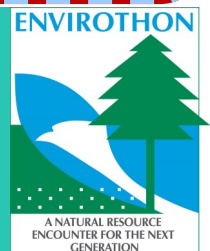
- The 2020 NCF Envirothon will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska! Students from the U.S., Canada, China and more will be competing.
- The first Nebraska Envirothon was held in 1992.
- High School students in grades 9-12 are eligible to compete.
- Five member teams compete in forestry, soil, aquatics, wildlife, range, and environmental policy and current issues.
- Envirothon encourages students to truly participate as a team and fully engage with one another during the competition.
- The top scoring regional teams are eligible to compete in the State Envirothon and the winner of the State Envirothon will represent Nebraska in the North American Envirothon.
- Nebraska Envirothon Guide Book and study materials are available on the Nebraska Envirothon Website. Go to [www.nrdnet.org/nebraska-envirothon](http://www.nrdnet.org/nebraska-envirothon).

### Guide Book—List of Objectives

Agency Contacts - References - Rules & Regulations - Practice Tests

- Sample Questions - Contest information

Check out the study guide listed at [www.nrdnet.org/nebraska-envirothon](http://www.nrdnet.org/nebraska-envirothon)



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