

Nebraska Envirothon News

October 2020

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.

2021 Competition Tentative Plans

Traditionally, the Envirothon regional competitions are hosted in February and March around the state. For the health and safety of competitors, we will be offering online regional Envirothon testing.

Online Regional Testing

Feb. 3-5, 2021 | Online Testing (~140 minutes)

Sometime during these three days, teams should make arrangements to meet for approximately 140 minutes to take the test together. A teacher/advisor should proctor the test to ensure resource materials/cell phones are not being used. An email with directions and testing links will be sent to the team captain only. The regional host will send a traditional registration request in 2021.

Nebraska State Envirothon

April 28, 2021 | Lake Wanahoo Rec Area (Wahoo, NE)

The State Envirothon Committee is optimistic to host a traditional Envirothon competition at Lake Wanahoo with appropriate health and safety measures. The committee will plan an alternative virtual format that can be deployed if pandemic conditions worsen or do not allow for large gatherings.



Previous State Champions

- 2020: Cancelled
- 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

2021 Competition Locations & Contacts

Online Regional Testing

Feb. 3-5, 2021 | Online Testing (~140 minutes)

The physical competition dates are listed below, but it is likely that most regional hosts will choose the online testing format on Feb. 3-5. The Envirothon Committee will update advisors on if and what regions will offer in-person testing as the dates draw closer.

Western Region

Feb. 3, 2021

Gordon City Hall, Gordon

Regional Contact: Tricia Goes, Upper Niobrara White NRD, 308.432.6190, goes@unwnrd.org

Mid-Plains Region

Feb. 10, 2021

Valentine High School, Valentine

Regional Contact: Megan Grimes, NARD, 402.419.4235, mgrimes@nrdnet.org

March 9, 2021

NE College of Technical Agriculture, Curtis

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

Metro Region

Feb. 3-5, 2021 (Online Option Only)

Regional Contacts: Austen Hill, Papio-Missouri River NRD, 402.315.1777, ahill@papionrd.org

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

Central Region

March 3, 2021

Central Community College, Columbus

Regional Contacts: Larry Schultz, Lower Loup NRD, 308.728.3221, larrys@llnrd.org

Marcia Lee, Central Platte NRD, 308.385.6282, lee@cpnrd.org

Southeast Region

March 2, 2021

Southeast Community College, Beatrice

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

Northeast Region

March 3, 2021

Northeast Community College, Norfolk

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

Nebraska State Envirothon Competition

April 28, 2021

Lake Wanahoo, Wahoo, Neb.

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

2021 Special Topic: Water Resources Management: Local Control & Local Solutions

Nebraska is fortunate to sit atop the Ogallala aquifer, one of the largest unconfined aquifers in the world. This natural resource provides drinking water for most of the state and has enabled Nebraska to lead the country as the No. 1 irrigated state, helping to sustain agriculture as the state's leading industry.

Managing and protecting this resource is the responsibility of Nebraska's unique Natural Resources Districts (NRDs). While NRDs have maintained groundwater levels near pre-development levels, competing uses and variable supplies have placed additional management requirements on locally-elected policymakers.

Students will learn the concepts of how water is managed in Nebraska, and how the Natural

Resources District system works to address integrated water management challenges. Key topics will include:

- Understanding the ability of Natural Resources Districts to implement local policy and local management to protect water users;
- Understanding administrative structures and processes for managing water uses and supplies;
- Understanding ground and surface water hydrology and connectivity;
- Understanding the economic, social and environmental impacts of projects and policy decisions.

Find study resources for the 2021 special topic at www.envirothon.org.

2021 NCF-Envirothon | Lincoln, Nebraska

Due to the 2020 cancellation, Nebraska now will be hosting the 2021 NCF-Envirothon in Lincoln July 25-31, 2021. Although the competition may look slightly different with increased health and safety measures, we look forward to welcoming guests from around the country to compete. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the NCF-Envirothon, please contact the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts at nard@nrdnet.org

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. In 2021, regional tests will be offered online with the possibility of a few regions hosting in person.

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 Envirothon competition will be required to create PowerPoint presentations to 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

