

Nebraska Envirothon News

October 2021

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

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

2022 Competition Tentative Plans

The Envirothon regional competitions are hosted in February and March around the state. We are tentatively planning to host these events in person while monitoring health and safety guidance.

Regional Testing

February & March 2022

Students will complete regional Envirothon testing in February or March (schedule on next page). Students are tested in seven areas and each test is timed at 15 minutes. Teams are only allowed to compete in one regional contest.

Nebraska State Envirothon

April 27, 2022 | Camp Comeca (Cozad, Nebraska)

The State Envirothon Committee will host State Envirothon at Camp Comeca near Cozad. The highest scoring team from each region and eight wild cards will qualify for State Envirothon.

2022 Competition Locations & Contacts

Western Region

Feb. 2, 2022

Gordon City Hall, Gordon

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

Mid-Plains Region

March 2, 2022

NE College of Technical Agriculture, Curtis

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

Metro Region

March 1, 2022 | 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Papio NRD Office, Chalco Hills Rec Area

Regional Contacts: Kaylyn Kelley, Papio-Missouri River NRD, 402.315.1713, kkelley@papiornrd.org

Central Region

March 1, 2022

Central Community College, Columbus

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

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

Southeast Region

Feb. 17, 2022

Nebraska Assoc. Resources Districts Office, Lincoln

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

March 1, 2022

Southeast Community College, Beatrice

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

Northeast Region

March 2, 2022

Northeast Community College, Norfolk

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

Nebraska State Envirothon Competition

April 27, 2022

Camp Comeca, Cozad, Neb.

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

2022 Special Topic: Waste to Resources

As a byproduct of our population, states are faced with the responsibility of managing different types of waste generated by individuals, households, communities, businesses, manufacturing, agriculture, and industry. Waste of all kinds has the potential to affect the environment and our natural resources. From the water we drink to the land we live on, our decisions about how to manage waste impact our communities and the world around us. How can we make responsible choices about our waste? How can we manage our growth in a way that is sustainable? How can we turn our waste into resources?

Current Environmental Issue learning objectives include:

- Describe different types of landfills and explain how they are regulated.
- Identify examples of hazardous materials and toxic substances and describe their proper disposal and handling.
- Explain how the practices of reusing or recycling products conserves natural resources.
- Describe how recycled materials can be repurposed and further diverted from landfills.
- Explain how waste can be repurposed.
- Describe composting processes and identify how composting supports waste diversion efforts.
- Explain how composting improves soil health and provide evidence for how composting supports water conservation efforts.
- Identify examples of closed-loop energy systems and facilities.
- Compare methods of carbon sequestration



Papio-Missouri River NRD hosts an E-waste collection in Dakota City to recycle 47,000 lbs of waste.

and describe their potential as an energy source.

- Evaluate the differences between municipal waste treatment and home sewage treatment systems.
- Compare and contrast the methods of waste treatment for human waste versus animal waste.
- Describe the impacts to ground and surface waters when fecal waste is not effectively managed.
- Identify innovative methods for managing fecal waste to lesson the impact to natural resources.
- Define a brownfield and identify the impacts of brownfield materials on soil and water quality.
- Explain methods for removing brownfield toxins and the role of federal and state entities in restoration.
- Compare “green” approaches to reusing degraded lands and identify the benefits these methods provide to local communities.

Find study resources for the 2022 special topic at www.envirothon.org.

2022 NCF-Envirothon will be hosted in Oxford, Ohio

The 2022 NCF-Envirothon will be hosted at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, July 24-30, 2022. Ohio is one of the most densely populated states, with just over 11.6 million people calling it home. Like many populous areas, Ohio is tasked with serving its residents while also sustaining its natural resources across diverse geographic regions.

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.

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 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

