

NEBRASKA ENVIROTHON NEWS

OCTOBER 2019

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.



A LOOK BACK AT ENVIROTHON 2019

Congratulations to St. Paul High School on winning the 2019 Nebraska Envirothon, which was hosted in April at Pibel Recreation Area near Erickson, Nebraska.

The team went on to compete at the NCF-Envirothon in July at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) Foundation sponsors and organizes the annual Nebraska Envirothon competition.

The 2020 Nebraska Envirothon will be hosted in Wahoo, Nebraska, at Lake Wanahoo.



Above: Marissa Baker of St. Paul High School carries the Nebraska flag at the NCF-Envirothon.
Left: St. Paul High School competes at the NCF-Envirothon in Raleigh, North Carolina, Aug. 2, 2019.

ENVIROTHON



NEBRASKA

PREVIOUS STATE CHAMPIONS

- 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

2020 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 2020 special topic at www.envirothon.org.

2020 NCF-ENVIROTHON | LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Nebraska will be hosting the 2020 NCF-Envirothon in Lincoln July 26-31, 2020. We expect more than 500 people from 46 states, Canadian provinces and China to visit Nebraska for the annual competition.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the NCF-Envirothon, please contact:

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, 402. 471.7670 or email 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. If your team chooses to compete at a new location, please notify Megan Grimes at mgrimes@nrdnet.org | 402.471.7670.

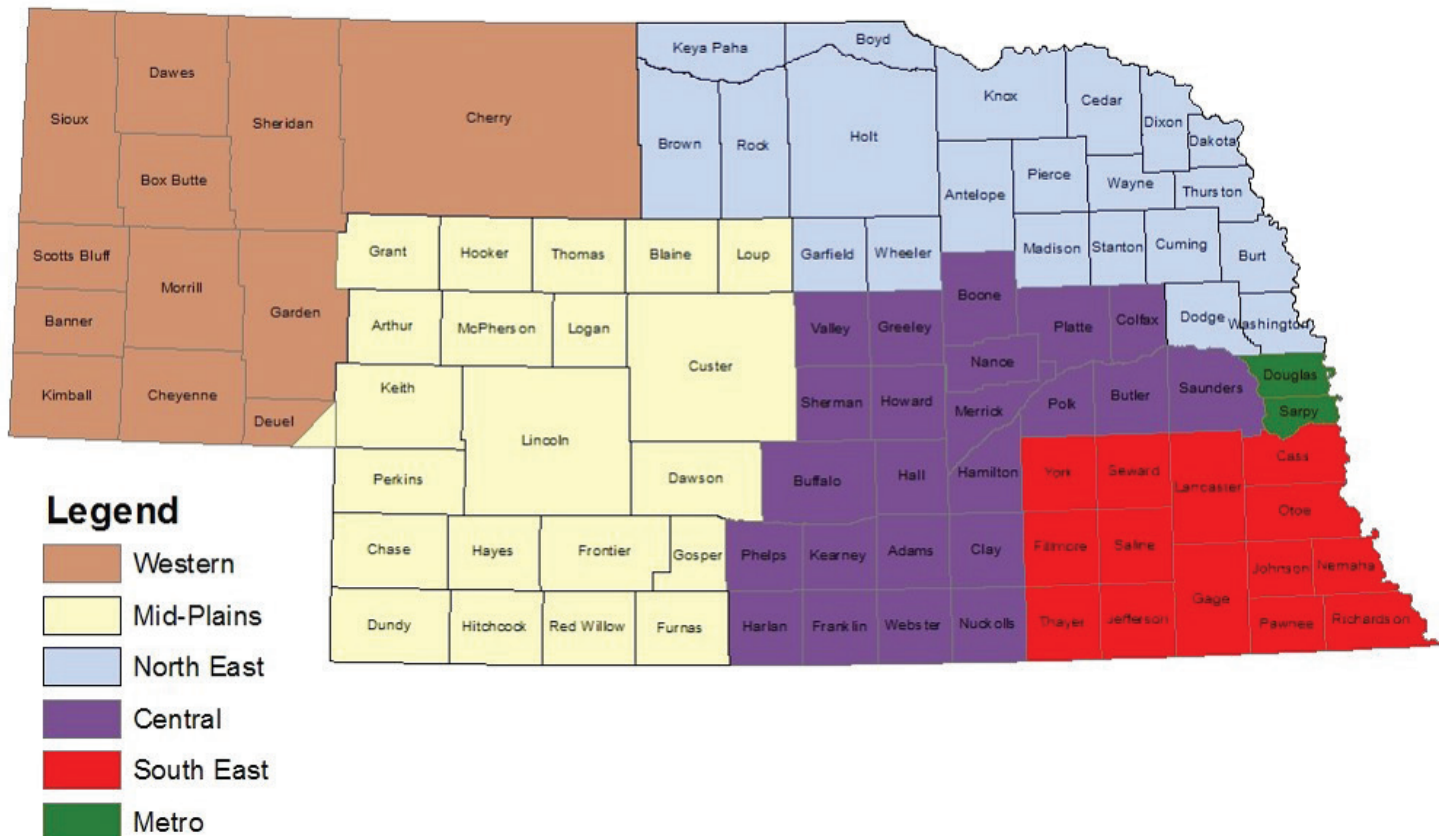
Nebraska allows for six regional winners and eight wild card winners to compete in the State Envirothon. See page five of the Nebraska Envirothon Guide Book for more information.

All teams competing at the Nebraska Envirothon competition will be required to create PowerPoint presentations to present to judges on their 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



2020 COMPETITION LOCATIONS & CONTACTS

Western Region

Feb. 5, 2020 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)

Feb. 5, 2020 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. North Platte Community College, North Platte
Regional Contact: Bill Carhart, Twin Platte NRD, 308.535.8080, bcarhart@tpnrd.org

March 10, 2020 9 a.m. NE College of Technical Agriculture, Curtis
Regional Contact: Colleen Stone, Middle Republican NRD, 308.362.4281, cstone@mrnrd.org

Metro Region (2)

Feb. 25, 2020 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Chalco Hills Recreation Area, Omaha
Regional Contact: Austen Hill, Papio-Missouri River NRD, 402.444.6222, ahill@papiornrd.org

Central Region

March 3, 2020 9 a.m. Central Community College, Columbus
Regional Contact: Larry Schultz, Lower Loup NRD, 308.728.3221, larrys@llnrd.org
Regional Contact: Marcia Lee, Central Platte NRD, 308.385.6282, lee@cpnrd.org

Southeast Region

March 3, 2020 9 a.m. Southeast Community College, Beatrice
Regional Contact: Scott Theis, Lower Big Blue NRD, 402.228.3402, theis@lbbnrd.net

Northeast Region (2)

March 4, 2020 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Northeast Community College, Norfolk
Regional Contact: Beth Walsh, Upper Elkhorn NRD, 402.336.3867, bwalsh@uenrd.org

Nebraska State Envirothon Competition

April 29, 2020 8 a.m. Lake Wanahoo, Wahoo, Neb.

July 26-31, 2020 NCF-Envirothon University of Nebraska-Lincoln

State & National Contact: Megan Grimes, 402.471.7672 or mgrimes@nrdnet.org

Although many of the regional Envirothon competitions are held in conjunction with FFA agriculture education contests, any group of students associated with a high school, 4-H group, science club, etc., are eligible to compete.