

# ENVIROTHON NEWSLETTER

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2016



## Past State Champs:

Year	Team
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
1993	Nelson
1992	Lincoln



State Envirothon 2015

## 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 studies: soil, aquatics, forestry, policy, wildlife, range and current issues. For the state competition, an oral presentation is added to the testing. The topic is selected by the North American 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 the environment. 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 2015 Nebraska State Envirothon! This is the third year in a row Concordia High School has taken 1st place. The contest was held at Camp Comeca in Cozad back in April.

Student teams consist of five members. They 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 11th place at nationals. This is the highest Nebraska has ever ranked at the competition.

"Envirothon is a great way for students to learn about their natural resources," said Larry Schultz, Education Specialist at the Lower Loup NRD. "Envirothon lets students get their hands dirty and gives them a taste of what it would be like to have a career in natural resources."

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. Sidney High School received \$1,000. Concordia High School Team 2 received \$500. 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. Members of the 2015 Concordia High School Team 1 are Sam Manning (12th grade), Matthew Kernen (12th grade), Michael Eesley (12th grade), Jackson Grasz (12th grade) and Trevor Grimm (12th grade). Their coach is Mike Ellis.

# Looking Back

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 youth participated in the Nebraska Envirothon in 2015.

**Champions:** Concordia High School-Team 1

**First Runner Up:** Sidney High School

**Second Runner Up:** Concordia High School-Team 2

### Category Results:

*Aquatics: Tie btwn. Sidney and Concordia Team 1 High Schools*

*Forestry: Milford High School*

*Policy: Concordia High School—Team 1*

*Special Topics: Concordia High School Team 1*

*Range: Aurora High School*

*Soils: Concordia High School Team 1*

*Wildlife: Concordia High School Team 1*

# Looking Ahead: 2016 Special Topic: Invasive Species

## A Challenge to the Environment, Economy and Society

Invasive species pose a serious threat to the stability of many North American ecosystems. Invasive species have been known to disrupt food webs, damage or destroy habitat and contribute to the decline of indigenous species at risk.

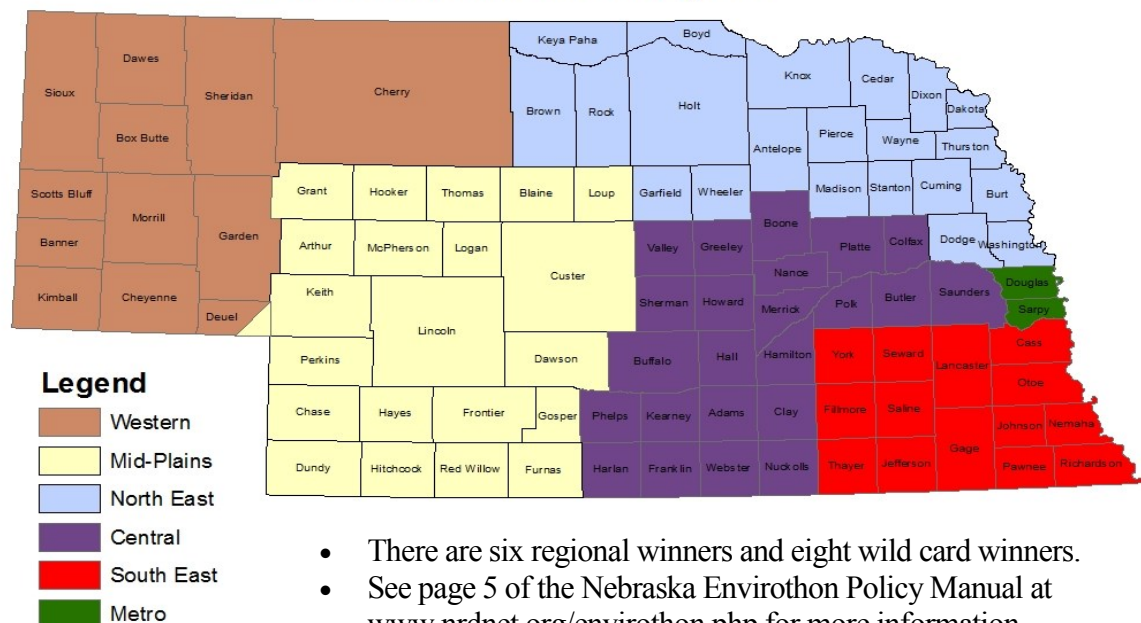
In addition to their environmental impact, invasive species can have a significant impact on local economies; in the United States alone it is estimated that invading alien species cause major environmental damage and loss adding up to almost \$120 billion per year (Pimentel, Zuniga, Morrison – 2005).

The 19th and 20th centuries have seen an exponential increase in the number of invasive species being intentionally and unintentionally introduced to North America and around the world through a variety of methods. The vast majority of invasive species that have established themselves in North America did so through unnatural or “human-assisted” means, including being introduced by early settlers for agricultural purposes. However, many others have been inadvertently transported to North America through trade and travel, as stowaways on ships or in packaging materials, and through horticulture. With the expected increases in exports and trade in the future, we can likely expect greater challenges and introductions of new species not yet known to occur in North America.

Students will learn about invasive species prevention, introduction, impact and management.

**RULE CHANGE:** Teams may compete at ANY regional contest in Nebraska they choose, but are only allowed to compete at one regional contest per year.

### 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.

# 2016 Locations and Contacts

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>
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## ***Western Region***

February 3, 2016                      9:30 a.m.                      Gordon City Hall, Gordon  
 Regional Contact: Sheri Daniels, Upper Niobrara White NRD, (308) 432-6190 daniels@unwnrd.org

## ***Mid-Plains Region***

February 10, 2016                      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 1, 2016                      9:00 a.m.                      NE College of Technical Agriculture, Curtis  
 Regional Contact: Amy Houser, Middle Republican NRD, (308) 367-4130 Ext. 3, Amy.Houser@ne.nacdnet.net

## ***Metro Region***

February 23, 2016                      10:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.                      Chalco Hills Recreation Area  
 Regional Contact: Christine Jacobsen, Papio Missouri NRD, (402) 444-6222, cjacobsen@papionrd.org

## ***Central Region***

March 1, 2016                      9:00 a.m.                      CCC - Platte Campus, Columbus  
 Regional Contacts: Larry Schultz, Lower Loup NRD, (308) 728-3221 larrys@lnrd.org and  
 Marcia Lee, Central Platte NRD, (308) 385-6282 lee@cpnrd.org

## ***Southeast Region***

March 1, 2016                      9:00 a.m.                      Southeast Community College, Beatrice  
 Regional Contact: Scott Theis, Lower Big Blue NRD, (402) 228-3402 theis@lbbnrd.net

## ***Northeast Region***

March 2, 2016                      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 & National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon***

Wed. April 27, 2016                      Nebraska Envirothon                      Steinhart Lodge at Lied Lodge and Conference Center,  
 Nebraska City, Nebraska

July 24-July 29, 2016                      NCF Envirothon                      Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada  
 Nebraska 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/envirothon.php](http://www.nrdnet.org/envirothon.php).

**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



NCF Envirothon

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

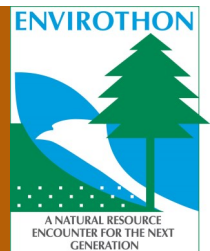
- The first Nebraska Envirothon was held in 1992.
- High School students in grades 9-12 are eligible to compete.
- Five member teams compete in forestry, soil, aquatics, wildlife, range, and environmental policy and current issues.
- Envirothon, unlike other high school contests encourages students to truly participate as a team, fully engaged 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 can be downloaded from the Nebraska Envirothon Website, [www.nrdnet.org/envirothon.php](http://www.nrdnet.org/envirothon.php).

### Guide Book—List of Objectives

Agency Contacts - References - Rules & Regulations - Practice Tests

- Sample Questions - Contest information

Download the guide from [www.nrdnet.org/envirothon.php](http://www.nrdnet.org/envirothon.php)



Nebraska's  
Natural Resources  
Districts

[www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org)

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