



# Introduction

## What is Envirothon?

**Envirothon** is a hands-on environmental problem-solving competition for high-school age students in the United States and Canada. Participating teams complete training and testing in **four** natural resource categories **aquatic ecology, soils/land use, forestry, wildlife and one current environmental issue**. The teams consist of five high-school age students.

Plus Envirothon works in partnership with local conservation districts, forestry associations, educators and cooperating natural resource agencies to organize and conduct competitions on the local, regional, state and/or provincial level. Winning teams from each state and province advance to the **North American Envirothon** for the opportunity to compete for scholarships and prizes.

## Benefits

Combining in-class curriculum and hands-on field experiences, the **Envirothon** program is an excellent way to supplement environmental education inside and outside the traditional classroom. Team trainings may include field trips to natural resource sites, museums or other areas of interest; listening to presentations given by natural resource professionals; and careful study of natural resource materials.

**Envirothon** participants gain valuable knowledge and training in ecology and natural resource management principles and practices. Many students come away from the **Envirothon** experience excited about learning and motivated to pursue careers in environmental studies, environmental law, natural sciences or natural resource management.

## Valuable and Fun!

**Envirothon** stimulates, reinforces and enhances students' interest in the environment and allows them the opportunity to get "up-close and personal" with their area's natural resources. Led by a volunteer advisor, teams usually meet from late autumn until spring. Teams work cooperatively to develop their knowledge of ecology and natural resource management, and to practice their environmental problem-solving skills in preparation for the competition.

# Mission, Goals and Objectives

## Mission

The mission of the Oregon Envirothon is to develop knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated citizens who are willing and prepared to work towards achieving and maintaining a natural balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

The Envirothon mission is accomplished by developing an understanding of the principles and practices of natural resource management and ecology, through dealing with complex resource management decisions. The following goals and objectives should be used as a guide to develop effective curricula, educational resources and testing scenarios.



## Goal 1

To promote a desire to learn more about the natural environment and equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to apply the basic principles and practices of resource management and ecology to complex environmental issues.

- Students should be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of concepts in natural resource management and ecology, especially in the areas of soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and current environmental issues.
- Students should be able to analyze soil, aquatic, forestry, wildlife and current environmental issues in problem-solving activities involving resource issues.

## Goal 2

To promote stewardship of natural resources and encourage developing critical thinking, cooperative problem-solving and decision-making skills required to achieve and maintain a natural balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

- Students should be able to identify environmental issues in a given situation and the various interests involved, while taking into consideration ecological, social and economic factors.
- Students should be able to investigate issues using both primary and secondary sources of information, and synthesize the data gathered. Additionally, students should demonstrate the ability to:
  - ✓ Listen with comprehension
  - ✓ Collect, organize and analyze information
  - ✓ Frame appropriate questions to guide their investigation
  - ✓ Use a range of resources and technologies in addressing questions
  - ✓ Critically examine information from a variety of sources

- Students should be able to assess the nature of information and materials from a variety of different viewpoints, and evaluate their respective implications.
- Students should be able to identify alternative solutions for various issues and their associated value perspectives. They should be able to evaluate alternative solutions with respect to their ecological and cultural implications. Additionally, the alternative solutions generated should attempt to take into consideration the variety of interests involved, while maintaining a healthy environment.
- Students should be able to identify and evaluate their own position on environmental issues, and their associated solutions. These positions should be based on balanced information, critical analysis and careful synthesis. Moreover, students should be able to test their position against new information, personal experiences and beliefs.
- Students should be able to evaluate the interaction of the proposed solution with other ecological and social factors, and anticipate having to plan ahead when evaluating the long- and short-term implications of possible solutions to environmental problems.

## Goal 3

To provide students with experience in environmentally oriented activities, enabling them to become environmentally aware, action-oriented citizens.



- Students should have knowledge of a wide range of action strategies in seeking solutions to environmental problems.
- Students should have a knowledge of agencies and organizations that can be used as resources to seek solutions to environmental problems.
- Students should be able to evaluate the impact of their own actions affecting a particular environmental problem, and devise alternative actions to work toward improving environmental conditions.
- Students should be able to work independently and/or collaboratively to solve environmental problems.

## Objectives

**Awareness:** Oregon Envirothon will help students cultivate an awareness of the total environment and acquire sensitivity to its limited natural resources.

**Knowledge:** Oregon Envirothon will help students develop a basic understanding of the earth's ecological systems and the interdependence of the human species with these systems.

**Attitude:** Oregon Envirothon will help students develop attitudes that embrace environmental sensitivity and instill the dedication and motivation to participate in activities geared towards protecting the environment.

**Application:** Oregon Envirothon will help students develop skills needed to identify, investigate and contribute to the resolution of environmental issues and problems.





# Structure of the Virtual Contest

## **Important Dates to Remember:**

### **Team Registration Deadline:**

**May 3, 2021**

### **Oral Presentation Video Deadline:**

**May 3, 2021**

### **Competition Dates:**

**May 3-7, 2021**

Teachers and students use the concepts and study areas presented through Oregon Envirothon as training tools throughout the year.

The **Virtual Oregon Envirothon Competition** will test each team's knowledge and problem-solving skills in five testing sessions: Soils/Land Use, Forestry, Aquatic Ecology, Wildlife and the 2021 Current Environmental Issue. The tests contain multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, diagram and short-answer questions. Each test consists of approximately 25 questions, which are written and designed each year by conservation-district and resource-agency experts.

**For 2021**, the teams will each submit a video of their 10-minute oral presentation by **May 3** to Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). The videos will be judged and scored. **The oral presentations may include PowerPoint slides, flip charts or other necessary props.** Teams will be encouraged to use computer technology to record while maintaining appropriate social distancing. Example: You can record a Zoom call or create a YouTube video. Creativity is encouraged.

At the end of the testing period, the team's video score will be combined with the test scores to determine the top five teams. Awards will be given to teams that place first through fifth overall, and also to the teams who have the highest score for each test. **The teams with the two highest video scores will be required to make a presentation before the judges** the following week. Each 10 minute presentation will be followed by a five-minute question/ answer with the judges. The virtual presentations with the judges' scores will be used to determine the winner of the Oral Presentation category, and will not be used to determine the overall winner of the competition.

**Oregon Virtual Envirothon** will take place the first week of May. As a team the students will need to decide what day of the week they will be taking the test. The students will need access to a computer and internet connection.

The yearly current environmental issue drives the educational focus of the contest. Oregon's event follows the North American Envirothon Current Environmental Issue.



# Day of the Virtual Contest

Prior to the testing day teams will pick a **date** during the first week of May to take the virtual test as a team. The team will need to identify a **student representative** to receive the virtual link for the test. The representative will send the link out to the rest of the team to start the test.

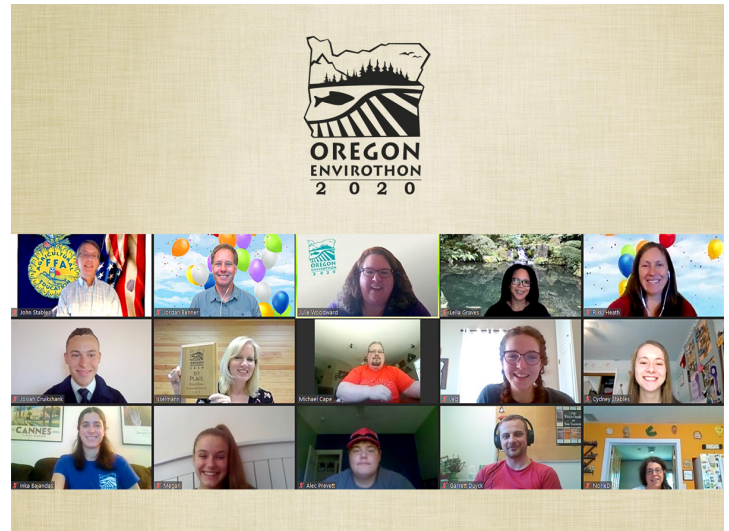
Teams will have a specified time frame to complete the test. They will answer approximately 25 questions for each of the five sections of test.

- Soils/ Land Use
- Forestry
- Aquatic Ecology
- Wildlife
- 2021 Current Environmental Issue

In the time allotted, teams will work collaboratively on a Google platform to fill in the answers on the test. Cooperative decision-making, free exchange of ideas and information-pooling among team members is desirable. To enable collaboration, students may need to be in a Zoom meeting or on the phone while taking the virtual test. After the allotted time is up, the test link will not be able to be edited.

**Every team that submits a video must be prepared to give their 10-minute oral presentation virtually** to a panel of judges that will ask questions at the end of the presentation. All team members should participate in the presentation. Visual aids are welcome and must be prepared in advance.

After the competition and scoring are completed, **overall results and presentation of awards** will be held virtually on **May 14**. Awards and T-shirts will be sent out to individuals or schools by the end of May. The champion of the Oregon Envirothon will have the option of representing Oregon at the **National Conservation Foundation's Envirothon** on July 25-31, 2021, at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska. This may be a virtual event this year.



# Oregon Envirothon 2021

## Rules & Regulations

1. Team members must be enrolled in grades 9-12 (home school, private school or public school).
2. Each team must have a maximum of five members and a minimum of three. Team members may not be drawn from different schools. One alternate is permitted for each team. **Teams with fewer than five members will not be allowed to advance to the North American Envirothon.**
3. Alternate team members may substitute for regular team members if properly registered.
4. Switching team members will not be allowed after the team is registered.
5. Teachers, team advisors or chaperone's may not assist their teams in any way once the competition is under way. Team representatives cannot share the testing link with team advisors.
6. The Oregon Envirothon shall consist of five tests based on soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and the current environmental issue, and one video oral presentation on the current environmental problem. Judges' and scorers' decisions are final on all events.
7. Scoring for the Oregon Envirothon will be as follows:
  - a. Each of the five tests will be worth 50 points, for a total of 250 points.
  - b. The video presentation will be worth 100 points.
  - c. Teams earning the **top two** video presentation scores will then present VIRTUALLY, and the LIVE scores will be used to determine the winner of the Oral Presentation category.
  - d. The **top five** teams for Oregon Envirothon will be determined using the scores from the five testing sections and the VIDEO presentation score.
  - e. The total competition will be worth 350 points.
8. Teams will be allowed to use notes, field guides or other resource materials to take the test. Most of the necessary materials will be provided virtually by Oregon Envirothon.
9. Team members will work together to complete the tests and submit answers virtually.
10. The winning team will be the team with the highest cumulative score from the six sections. The tie breaker will be the highest score from the oral presentation.
11. **Registration must be received by May 3, 2021.**
12. If your team receives an award, advisors must submit the Photo Parental Consent Form for each team member to Oregon Forest Resources Institute.
13. In the event that the winning team cannot represent Oregon at the North American Envirothon, the team with the next-highest score will be eligible to compete.
14. Rules and regulations of the Oregon Envirothon are subject to change. Any and all relevant changes will be explained to all teams and advisors.

# Example Envirothon Score Totals

Team Number\_\_\_\_\_

(Test Score/Possible Points)

Soils/Land Use Test \_\_\_\_\_/50

Forestry Test \_\_\_\_\_/50

Aquatic Ecology Test \_\_\_\_\_/50

Wildlife Test \_\_\_\_\_/50

Current Environmental Issue Test \_\_\_\_\_/50

TEST TOTALS \_\_\_\_\_/250

Video of Oral Presentation \_\_\_\_\_/100

FINAL SCORE \_\_\_\_\_/350



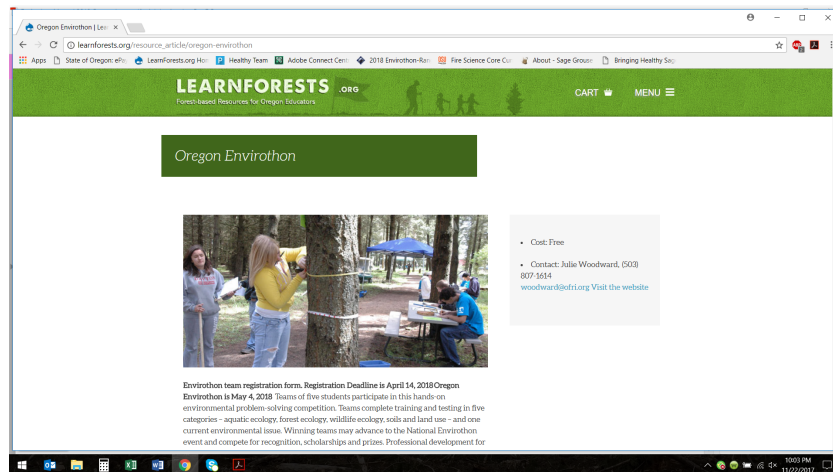


# Oregon Envirothon Team Registration

Registration will be available only online, at [www.learnforests.org](http://www.learnforests.org).

Registration will open on February 1, 2021, and close on **May 3, 2021**.

The registration fee of \$50 (payable to **Oregon Envirothon**) will need to be sent by the team's competition date. A school PO # is acceptable. The \$50 is nonrefundable, and goes to assist with the costs for the program and competition.



For more information, please  
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# Oregon Envirothon

## Parental Consent Photo Form

### 2021

#### PHOTOGRAPHY AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE

I hereby grant the Oregon Envirothon and Oregon Forest Resources Institute ("OFRI") permission to use, publish or display my minor child's likeness in any photographs and any reproduction thereof, or any video or voice recordings, in any of their publications, without payment or any other consideration. I understand and agree that such materials will become the property of Oregon Envirothon and OFRI and will not be returned. I hereby irrevocably authorize Oregon Envirothon and OFRI to prepare, edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish or distribute the photographs or video or voice recordings for purposes of publicizing programs of Oregon Envirothon and OFRI, or for any other lawful purpose. In addition, I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written, audio or electronic copy wherein my minor child's likeness or voice appears. I also give permission to Oregon Envirothon and OFRI to use my minor child's grade level in school, school name and school location as an accompaniment to the photo, video or voice recording. I hereby hold harmless, release and forever discharge Oregon Envirothon and OFRI from all claims, demands and causes of action that I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate may have by reason of this authorization.

I have read this authorization and release before signing below, and I fully understand its contents, meaning and impact.

**Signature of parent/guardian of minor:**

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**Date of signature:** \_\_\_\_\_