



2026 NCF-ENVIROTHON
MISSISSIPPI

ORAL PRESENTATION

RULES, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES

STARKVILLE, MS 2026

Non-Point Source Pollution-
It Begins At Home!



Table of Contents

2026 Oral Presentation Rules, Guidelines, and Procedures	3
2026 Oral Presentation Method, Procedure, and Rules	4
Oral Presentation: Equipment and Supplies	5
Oral Presentation: Team Training	6
Oral Presentation: Team Preparation (Sequestration)	6
Oral Presentation: Preliminary Round Procedures	7
About OP Scores and Overall Awards Determination	8
Oral Presentations: Announcements and Final (Top 3) Oral Presentations	9

2026 NCF-Envirothon Oral Presentation Rules, Guidelines, and Procedures

The 2026 NCF-Envirothon Oral Presentation Rules, Guidelines, and Procedures will be used in conjunction with the NCF-Envirothon Annual Competition Rules and Regulations to govern how the Oral Presentation (OP) component of the annual competition will be conducted. Teams should be familiar with both.



2026 Oral Presentation Method, Procedure, and Rules

The Oral Presentation times and Team Numbers will be assigned to teams during team registration on Sunday, July 19, 2026.

The Oral Presentation (OP) scenario will be provided to teams on the morning of Thursday, July 23, 2026, during the Team OP Training session. Teams will begin working on the OP problem during the OP Preparation (Sequestration) period on Thursday afternoon.

Each team will have **6 hours** to develop and practice their presentation.

In the 2026 NCF-Envirothon Oral Presentation portion of the competition, teams will utilize the **Microsoft PowerPoint** program to generate the visual portion (slideshow) of team presentations for judging.

2026 OP PowerPoint Development and Presentation Rules

1. Teams will not have access to the internet during the OP preparation period.
2. Only resources, maps, data, images, and pictures that have been loaded on the provided flash drive may be used in the creation of the slide presentation. Resources, graphics/images¹ may be cropped, screen captured, colored, or resized for use on slides. Teams can access the snipping tool to edit the images/graphics found on the flash drive.
3. The use of videos or sound, and stock images on PowerPoint slides is prohibited.
4. Slides may use the shapes, icons, backgrounds, word art, animation and slide transition features that are available within the PowerPoint software though keep use to a minimum. Teams are judged on how they solve and present the OP scenario problem, not the glamour of the visual display.
5. A maximum of 35 slides can be used per presentation. This total includes the title slide and a slide for citations for reference material.
6. PowerPoint presentations are final at the time they are turned in on Thursday at the end of the preparation/sequestration time. No changes can be made during the practice session on Friday.
7. Pens/pencils will **NOT** be present in the team OP practice area on Friday. All note cards are final when they are turned in on Thursday and cannot be amended.
8. During the Preliminary and Final (Top 3) rounds of OP judging on Friday, July 24, 2026, all team members must wear the NCF-Envirothon OP shirt provided.
9. During the team's presentation(s) on Friday, July 24, 2026, no verbal or written identification of the team's state, provincial, or partner nation is permitted. Name tags must be removed. Students should take care when answering judges' questions to not reveal where they are from.

¹ Please note official logos of agencies, organizations, etc. should **NOT** be cropped or recolored in any way, as they may be trademarked.

Oral Presentation: Equipment and Supplies

The items listed below are the **only** items a team is permitted to use to develop and present its presentation, including all visuals and graphics that will be used for the slideshow. Absolutely **NO** study materials, extra pens, notebooks, flash drives, electronic devices, watches (smartwatches or other), or any other supplies and/or resources not provided on the preparation day will be allowed to be brought into the sequestration room. Use of any other material is prohibited. Bags are not allowed into the sequestration rooms. Exceptions on devices and supplies for medical needs must be registered with NCF-Envirothon and the Host Committee before the competition.

2026 Team Equipment and Supplies

The following items will be provided to each team during Oral Presentation Team Preparation (Sequestration):

- **1 Laptop Computer, along with power cord and mouse per team.**

- Each PC laptop will utilize the Windows operating system with a recent version of Microsoft PowerPoint, Snipping Tool, Photo Viewer, and Adobe Reader installed on it.

NOTE: Students may **only** use Microsoft PowerPoint and other software installed on the laptop. Use of any other program is prohibited. Students are allowed to make graphics, charts, etc., to add to their presentation within the PowerPoint Program and/or by using the snipping tool.

- All laptops will have internet access blocked.
- Extra laptops will be available at the preparation/sequestration site in case of equipment failure.
- **1 Flash Drive per team.**
 - Each flash drive will be labeled with a team number.
 - Each flash drive will contain folders of additional resources, maps, data graphics, and pictures for use in creating PowerPoint slides.
 - OP Scenario
 - OP Rules and Guidelines and Official NCF-Envirothon OP Score Sheet
 - Handouts from morning OP Training
 - Extra flash drives will be available at the preparation/sequestration site in case of equipment failure.
- **1 bag per team (labeled with team number) containing:**
 - 50 blank note cards
 - 5 large paper clips (for securing each team member's note cards.)
- **1 notebook/folder containing:**
 - OP Scenario
 - OP Rules and Guidelines
 - Official NCF-Envirothon OP Score Sheet
 - Handouts from morning OP Training (included by students following OP Training)
 - List of additional resources/maps/data available on Flash Drive
 - Paper copies of additional resources/maps/data
 - 25 sheets of scrap paper
- **5 pencils and 1 pencil sharpener**
- **5 black pens**
- **1 stopwatch**

Oral Presentation: Team Training

Before sequestration, all students will attend the Oral Presentation (OP) Training Session.

Advisors are not allowed to be in the OP Training Session. No Advisors or Guests may have any contact with their teams during this time and until the team OP materials have been officially returned to the Host committee at the end of the Sequestration period.



Oral Presentation: Team Preparation (Sequestration)



Team Sequestration Snacks

Advisors may provide a basket or bag of snacks/ goodies/ drinks for the students during preparation time.

Advisors should bring those items to the MS Host EOC- (2026 NCF- Envirothon Mississippi Operations Center) before 11 am that morning, and they will be delivered to your team.

Each team will have **six (6) hours** to develop and practice their presentation during the designated OP Team Preparation time, also referred to as team sequestration. Each team will be assigned to an individual room space to allow privacy as they consider the scenario and develop their presentations.

Before sequestration, each team will be assigned a volunteer 'Team Buddy' by the Host to act as a team monitor during this period. **Except for emergencies, the team advisor, chaperone, and/or other adult guests will have no contact with the team during this time.** Teams are not allowed to bring anything with them into the preparation/sequestration space, except for a water bottle for each team member. A container to hold any medication or personal care items is permitted and will be held by the team's buddy until needed. Cell phones and other personal electronic equipment/devices, including watches of any kind, are **strictly prohibited, unless** approved by the NCF-Envirothon Operating Committee and the Host Committee before the start of the competition to accommodate a medical need or disability. All items being brought in will be checked.

When the Sequestration period concludes, work on the presentation must immediately **STOP. The PowerPoint presentation file must be saved on the flash drive (NOT THE COMPUTER).** All notecards, paperclips, and the team's flash drive should be placed in the bag labeled with the team's number. The notebook/folder should contain the other items, including any scrap or wastepaper and unused note cards or scrap paper. Each team's equipment and supplies will be checked in prior to being dismissed from the preparation/sequestration site. **No team member may have any contact with their advisor, chaperone, and/or guests until the team OP materials have been officially returned to the Host committee.**



Reminder for all Advisors, Chaperones, & Other Non-Team Members (Guests)

It is considered an infraction of the Competition Rules for an advisor or other non-team member to give input to students in any manner once their team has begun the official OP portion of the NCF-Envirothon Annual Competition.

The OP portion of the Competition includes the following:

- OP Training and Preparation/Sequestration(Thurs am & pm)
- Preliminary OP Judging (Fri Morning), and the
- The Top 3 OPs (Fri Afternoon)

This does not limit advisors &/or chaperones from interaction with their students, but absolutely NO discussion of the presentation topic or help with the presentation should take place during this time!



Oral Presentation: Preliminary Round Procedures

On the morning of Friday, July 24, 2026, teams will present their OPs to a panel of 5 judges for a Preliminary OP score. (Team Numbers and Presentation times will be assigned to teams during team registration on Sunday, July 19, 2026.)

Upon team check-in at the OP Judging Area at the preassigned time, each team will receive the oral presentation materials they prepared the day before. They will be escorted by a volunteer Team Guide to an OP Practice Area where the team will have **30 minutes** to review and practice their presentation. **NO** changes can be made to the saved OP PowerPoint file or the note cards.

There is to be **NO** contact between advisors, chaperones, and/or other guests and the Teams during the practice time.

After the 30-minute practice time, the team will be escorted to their assigned Judging Room by their volunteer Team Guide. Upon entering the room, the team will have **5 minutes** to prepare for the presentation, including opening and projecting their saved PowerPoint file using the provided equipment. Each Judging Room will have a volunteer present to help the team with technological issues if needed. Once the team is set up and ready to begin, the team can notify the room's timekeeper they are ready to start (even if it has been less than five minutes), or the timekeeper will tell them it is time to begin after five minutes have passed.

Once ready, the team will begin presenting, at which point the room's timekeeper will start the official timer. The team will have **20 minutes** to present to the judges. The timekeeper will hold up **5-minute**, **2-minute**, **1-minute**, and **STOP** warning cards to let the team know how much time is remaining.

If the team is still presenting at the **20-minute** mark, the timekeeper will immediately **STOP** the team presentation and allow the judges exactly **10 minutes** for questions and answers from the team regarding their presentation.

STUDENT TEAM MEMBERS



On Friday, July 24, during the Preliminary Final (Top 3) rounds of OP judging, all team members are **REQUIRED** to wear the Envirothon OP Shirt!

(T-shirts will be provided to students team members at check-in on Sunday)

OP PRACTICE AREA EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

The following items will be available for each team to utilize during their OP practice session:

- Electronic Presentation Equipment
- 1 Stopwatch
- 1 bag containing the team's note cards and a Flash Drive containing their presentation will be given to them by their team guide upon reaching the practice area.

OP JUDGING ROOMS EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

The following items will be available in each OP Judging Room:

- Electronic Presentation Equipment
- 1 Stopwatch (for room timekeeper's use)

Oral Presentation: Preliminary Round Procedures

After the 10-minute question and answer period, the team will be dismissed from the room while the judges deliberate and mark their scores. The team will return their OP material to the Host Committee at the designated location and then be dismissed to await the announcement of the top 3 scoring teams.

Judging Room Guests

With permission of the team, “Judging Room Guests” (advisors, chaperones, and/or other guests) may observe and/or record ONLY the presentation of the team they have accompanied to the NCF-Envirothon annual competition. No flash photography or moving around the room for different angles while the Team is presenting or answering questions from the judges. There is to be NO contact made between the Judging Room Guests and the Team or the room judges, especially during the team’s presentation! Judging room guests must sit at the back of the room and remain seated and quiet until the end of the Q&A period to not be a distraction and can only leave the room once the team is packing up. All cell phones, smart watches, and other electronic devices of Judging Room Guests should be turned OFF or set to SILENT (with no vibrations or dinging notifications).

Approved volunteers, media, Competition Advisory Team (CAT) members, NCF-Envirothon staff, and Operating Committee members, and/or other approved individuals (beyond guests) may sit in on any team’s presentation to ensure competition consistency and/or take photos/videos for promotional purposes. These individuals will be as unintrusive as possible in the room.

Additional Guidelines and Procedures for Judging Room Guests can be found in the NCF-Envirothon Preliminary Oral Presentation Judging Room Guests: Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines document.

About OP Scores and Overall Awards Determination

During the Preliminary Oral Presentation round, teams will receive a preliminary score on their presentation from the panel of judges. The Station Award for Oral Presentation will be awarded to the team with the highest preliminary OP score.

To determine the Top 3 teams that will advance to the Final (Top 3) Oral Presentations round, each team’s preliminary OP score is added to the scores from the 5 station tests taken by the team on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. The combined total (or *cumulative*) score will determine the overall Top 3 highest-scoring teams, which then advance to the Final (Top 3) Oral Presentation round of the competition.

Oral Presentations: Announcements and Final (Top 3) Oral Presentations

On the afternoon of Friday, July 24, 2026, all teams, advisors, chaperones, guests, and volunteers will attend the Top 3 Team Announcements to learn which three (3) teams have the highest overall score and are qualified to participate in the final round of oral presentations.

The teams will be announced in a random order by their team number. Upon the announcement, the 3 teams will immediately report to the designated area for further instructions from the NCF-Envirothon Competition Advisory Team. Each team will have up to 30 minutes to practice their presentation prior to their presentation time but can make no changes. This time includes getting to the presentation area.

After a short intermission, the Top 3 teams will, one at a time, present their presentation to a new panel of judges, as well as all attending teams, advisors, volunteers, and guests, for a Final Oral Presentation Score. This new Final OP score will replace the team's Preliminary OP score and will then be added to the scores of those teams' 5-station test scores for a new cumulative score to determine the final placement for the overall awards.

The NCF-Envirothon's [YouTube channel](#) will live-stream the Top 3 Team Announcements and Final (Top 3) Oral Presentations for public viewing.

Judges' decisions for all events will be final, unless submitted to the NCFE Operating Committee for review (Section IV.9 NCF-Envirothon Competition Rules and Regulations).