

*North America's largest high school  
environmental education competition*




**Local natural resource professionals facilitate 5 hands-on learning stations:**

**Aquatic/Wetlands**




Aquatic habitat, hydrologic cycle, water quality, wetlands, and more.

**Forestry**



Forest management and silviculture, tree identification, and more.

**Soils**



Soil classes, properties and profiles, erosion potential, and more.

**Wildlife**



Adaptation, species identification, survival needs, and more.

**Current Issue\***



\* New topic each year—2018 Topic: *Western Rangeland Management*

**Competitions**

Teams of 5 students compete by taking **exams** and giving an **oral presentation**.

**Local**

**Late April - early May:**

High school students compete each year at 8 regional Envirothon's.

For more info, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District:

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

*Click 'SWCDs On the Web'*

**State**

**Third Monday in May:**

Top 3 teams in each regional competition advance to the State Envirothon, May 21, 2018, at Shetek Lutheran Ministries Camp in Slayton (south west Minnesota).

<http://www.maswcd.org/envirothon.htm>

**National**

**Typically July or August**

The national Envirothon will be held July 22-26, 2018, at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho.

For more information about the national Envirothon, please refer to their website.

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



Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, representing the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Minnesota. Donations to MASWCD are tax-deductible.

**Bottom Line**

**Participating students learn about Minnesota's natural resources, collaborate with fellow team members, and discover career options in natural resource management.**



# MINNESOTA STATE ENVIROTHON

The Envirothon is an environmental education program for high school students. It combines classroom learning with outdoor activities. Through the Envirothon, students develop an understanding of effective teamwork, as well as learning about Minnesota's natural resources. They also gain valuable exposure to a range of disciplines while exploring possible career paths.

This exposure to nature from a critical perspective, and its inter-relationship with human impacts on the natural world, provide invaluable lessons, and develops an understanding of ecosystems and our environment. The Envirothon also teaches students about Minnesota's public policy, and the roles of government and landowners in managing Minnesota's resources.

Regional area competitions are hosted and managed by local **Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)** staff members. The SWCDs partner with conservation organizations, educators, and other natural resource agencies to assist with the regional events.

These natural resource professionals develop the exams, and administer them the day of the competition. Students are exposed to various approaches to environmental concerns, while also receiving the opportunity to learn more about environmental career opportunities and responsibilities.

## *Combining in-class curriculum with hands-on field experiences*

Students are tested on their knowledge in five topic areas:

<b>Aquatics</b>
<b>Forestry</b>
<b>Soils</b>
<b>Wildlife</b>
<b>Current Environmental Issue</b>

Each team is also required to give a 10-minute oral presentation. The oral presentation challenges teams to work together and communicate their solution to a complex environmental issue in front of a panel of judges.

Before competing at the State Envirothon, teams must first compete in a regional Area Envirothon. The top 3 teams from each Area advance to the Minnesota State Envirothon.

Past sponsors of the Minnesota Envirothon have included: MASWCD; the Pentair Foundation; CHS; MACDE; Minnesota Corn Growers Association; Great River Energy; MN Trappers Association; Land O'Lakes; Soil & Water Conservation Society; Otter Tail Power Company; MN Erosion Control Association; Armour-Eckrich Meats, LLC; and various SWCD's throughout the state.

*For more information about the Envirothon, or for sponsorship opportunities contact:*

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**Hopkins High School** from the Metro Area competed at the North American Envirothon in Emmitsburg, Maryland in July of 2017.