

New Jersey Envirothon 2013

Celebrating 20 Years!

High School Students Exploring:
Forestry Aquatics Wildlife
Soils Current Issues



Providing Experiential Learning for New Jersey High School Students for 20 Years

Today's world is a complicated and challenging place, and our environmental issues are equally challenging. For twenty years, the NJ Envirothon has encouraged students to step up to the challenge.

In preparing for the NJ Envirothon, high school students pursue in-depth knowledge about New Jersey's natural resources and gain skills needed to navigate the complex environmental issues of today and tomorrow.

Guided by a local teacher or parent, the participants use online study guides and attend in-person training workshops provided by natural resource professionals from the various sponsoring organizations. (See back page for a list of sponsors.)

Early in May, teams of five students convene for a day-long problem-solving competition, with honors, prizes, and scholarships at stake. Areas of competition include Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, and a Current Environmental Issue.

One week prior to the event, students are presented with an environmental issue or real-life scenario for which they must: 1) explore the natural resources, implications and stakeholders involved; 2) collaborate to

devise a solution; and 3) give a team presentation to a panel of judges on the day of the competition.

The NJ Envirothon was initiated in 1994 by the Mercer County Soil Conservation District. There were only four teams at the first event. Today, approximately 35 to 40 teams participate in the event.

Although this is a competition, many students are motivated to return each year for the camping and camaraderie they experience at the event.

Social Studies teacher Tom Miller advised the 1st Place team from Kittatinny Regional High School, Sussex County, in 1994. Twenty years later, he's still bringing teams back for the Envirothon experience.

"The Envirothon has taken my students all over New Jersey and North America, from Nova Scotia to the Gulf Coast, and even to the high country of the Grand Tetons. These will be some of the greatest experiences in their lives. Many have gone on to have successful environmental science careers."

- Tom Miller, Kittatinny Regional HS





Teamwork Required

“The Envirothon was a great experience for us. It was the first time anyone on our team had ever competed, but we found the set-up and rules easy to follow. We learned a great deal about topics we might not have chosen to study, such as aquatics and soils. The team presentation taught us to look at all aspects of an issue, its practicality, and its environmental repercussions. It also helped us learn to trust teammates, when we did not know the answers. The Envirothon taught us about both teamwork and the environment.”

By Monica Chelius and Alison Barton, Moorestown Friends School

Registration is Easy!

For registration information and details visit www.njenvirothon.org

- Registration Brochure
- Envirothon Rules and General Information
- Training Courses
- Online Study Guides
- NJN Classroom Close-Up videos from two past events



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Contact: NJ Envirothon Coordinator Richard Belcher, 609-633-2549 Richard.Belcher@ag.state.nj.us
For a directory of soil districts visit: <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/nrc/>

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