

2012 Erie County Middle School Envirothon Rules and Regulations

The purpose of the Middle School Envirothon is to encourage and challenge middle school students to explore and expand their knowledge of our natural resources. It is a fun-filled day aimed at giving student teams an opportunity to explore five (5) topics: Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, Aquatics, and a Current Issue. Each station will begin with a short exam to be completed as a team, earning points to work toward the title of County Champions. Following the test, students will engage in a hands-on activity related to the station's topic.

The fifth learning station challenges students to present a prepared presentation to a small panel. Prior to the event, students will be sent a current issue scenario and be challenged as a team to create a potential solution. The resulting scores are incorporated into the teams' cumulative score. The Envirothon experience gives students a chance to work as a team, expand their knowledge base of environmental issues, exchange ideas, and practice sportsmanship, all in the setting of one of Erie County's great natural resources, Headwaters Park.

- Student will be in teams of 3-5 students.
- Each school will have at least one advisor for their teams; the advisor may be a teacher, parent, coach or school-approved chaperone.
- Schools may have a maximum of 5 teams.
- Teams must be registered by ***March 1st, 2012.***
- Only team members will be permitted at learning stations during the event. Chaperones will not be permitted to coach or assist teams in any way during the event. No learning aids or electronic devices will be permitted at the stations. Any violation of these rules will result in a team's disqualification.
- The winning team will be the group with the highest cumulative score.
- Judges decision will be final on the day of competition

Advisors role:

1. The advisor's role is to assist and coach the students in the preparation for the event. One advisor may coach several teams.

A coach may be any adult authorized by the school district (teacher, administrator, parent, etc.).

2. Assistant coaches are welcome and encouraged!
3. Details of event preparation are up to each individual coach.

Depending on time and location, teams may meet once a week, several times a month, at school, at Headwaters Park, or options limited only to time and creativity. Each school is encouraged to prepare in the way that works best for the participants and allows them to get the most benefit from the experience.

Study packet – the study packet, provided by the Erie County Conservation District (ECCD) includes:

1. Set of resource CDs
2. Fish and Boat Commission issues of PLAY magazine
3. A listing of online resources

Environmental Issue Presentation – student will receive the Environmental Issue topic upon team registration (by March 1, 2012).

1. The sooner the team is registered, the more time students will have to explore the Issue topic.
2. Three weeks prior to the event, students will be sent the current issue scenario. During the following three week, students will create a feasible solution to the scenario and prepare a presentation. The students will then have a maximum of five (5) minutes to present their solution to the panel at the Envirothon. The presentation and content will be scored with a rubric, which will be sent to teams along with the Environmental Issue.

Awards!

1. All participants will receive a certificate of participation.
2. Top three teams will receive a display plaque for their school. Individual members of the winning team will receive gift cards to a local establishment.