

MINNESOTA STATE ENVIROTHON



Part of North America's largest outdoor environmental learning competition

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

Aquatic/Wetlands



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

Forestry



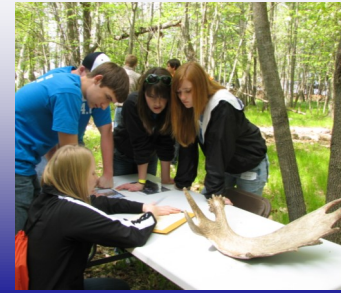
Forest management and silviculture, tree identification, and more.

Soils



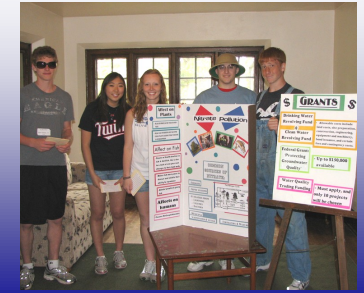
Soil classes, properties and profiles, erosion potential, and more.

Wildlife



Adaptation, species identification, survival needs, and more.

Current Issue



New topic each year.
2011 Topic: Salt and Freshwater Estuaries.

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 10 regional Envirothons.

For more info, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District:
www.mnevirothon.org

State

Third Monday in May:

Top 3 teams in each regional competition advance to the State Envirothon. May 16, 2011, Spirit Mountain, Duluth, MN

www.mnevirothon.org

North America

July or August (dates vary):

State winner goes to the Canon Envirothon, sponsored by Canon USA Inc., to compete against teams from all U.S. states and Canadian Provinces.

www.envirothon.org



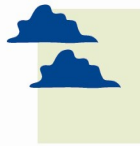
Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, representing the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Minnesota. Donations to MASWCD are tax-deductible.

Bottom Line

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

Fact Sheet/History

Minnesota State Envirothon



The Envirothon is an outdoor environmental learning competition for high school students grades 9 thru 12. Area competitions are administered by Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in partnership with conservation organizations, educators, and other natural resource agencies.

The Envirothon promotes a desire for students to learn more about Minnesota's natural resources, as well as public policy and roles of government and landowners in managing the state's resources. The program helps student develop critical thinking skills, cooperative problem-solving skills, and decision-making skills.

Schools and teachers benefit by providing a learning opportunity to students who excel in the sciences and ecology. The community and state benefit by having concerned and well-informed citizens who can make good decisions about the environment.

Each exam is administered by a local natural resource professional, who also gives the students a brief overview of the topic and explains some of the core concepts. Teams also prepare and give an oral presentation on the current issue.

Teams of students compete by visiting five learning stations and taking a 20 point exam on the environmental topics are as follows:

- Aquatics/Wetlands
- Forestry
- Soils
- Wildlife
- Current Issue

Past sponsors include: Minnesota Association of conservation District Employees, MASWCD, Board of Water and Soil Resources, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Society—MN Chapter, Great River Energy, Otter Tail Power Company, Canon USA, Inc.

Teams compete in one of ten Area Envirothons, and the top 3 teams from each Area advance to the State Envirothon. The winning team at the State Envirothon advances to the Canon Envirothon and competes against teams from across the U.S. and Canada.

The Envirothon program started in 1979 in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts sponsored the program as an outdoor

hands-on competition. Minnesota held its first Envirothon in 1993, with 100 students from the Twin Cities area participating. The following year, several Soil and Water Conservation Districts organized Area competitions.

With State budget cuts, the future of the Envirothon program in Minnesota is in jeopardy. To cover the costs of the running the State Envirothon, \$25,000 needs to be secured through sponsorships and grants. Please consider how you can keep this excellent educational program for high school students alive in Minnesota.



MN State Envirothon Winners 2010:
Rushford Peterson High School

The Minnesota team placed 3rd among 45 U.S. states and 9 Canadian provinces at the Canon Envirothon in Fresno, CA!