



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

The Envirothon is a five-member team, hands on, environmental science education program. It is a fun filled, back to nature, competitive event where the team members learn about their environment and associated environmental problems.

The Envirothon is the largest high school environmental competition in the US. It is geared to make the students aware of environmental conditions and to get them started thinking responsibly about their environment and the natural world.

North Carolina has started a Middle School Envirothon Program to go with the High School Envirothon. At the national level, only the high school participates.

The Envirothon revolves around five subject areas.

**Wildlife** - challenges teams on habitats, identification, foods, rules & regulations, diseases, animal signs, and management;

**Aquatics**- aquatic ecology, stream ecology, water quality, aquatic plants & animals, pollution, wetlands, BMPs, groundwater, stormwater, and macro invertebrates;

**Forestry**- tree identifications, plant physiology, forest ecology, forest insects & diseases, forest management, and forest measurements;

**Soils**- classifications, formation, erosion, soil surveys, site suitability, land use, current issues, soil characteristics, BMPs, conservation practices; and

**Current Environmental Issues**- current and newsworthy environmental issues are explored through newspaper, magazine, and internet articles.

At the start of the school year, teachers get a copy of the resources that will be used that year. They then advise and/or train their team. Teams can go on field trips; have resource people come and give presentations; go to museums, state parks and educational state forests; search the web and study the resource materials. Many training opportunities can be found at [www.eenorthcarolina.org](http://www.eenorthcarolina.org) and through the team's local soil and water conservation district <http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/findyourdistrict.html>.

In the early spring qualifying Area Envirothons are held where the teams take written tests on subject resources. The seven highest scoring teams in each Area get an opportunity to advance to the State Envirothon competition that is held near Burlington in April. Teams have the choice to camp out at the state event and have fun while learning.

The highest scoring high school team at the state event goes on to the North American Envirothon competition. This event is held in different states and Canadian provinces. The top scoring high school FFA team competes at a national FFA event.

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