WAKE COUNTY ENVIROTHON

2026-2027 HANDBOOK

Everything you need to know to get started with Envirothon!

For teachers and students in Wake County









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Wake Soil and Water Conservation District

TABLE OF CONTENTS

What is Envirothon? 3

Why Envirothon? 4

Wake County Envirothon History 5

How does it work? 6

What is Area 4? 7

Timeline - A Year in Envirothon 8

Starting a Team 9

Tips for Meetings 10

Area 4 Envirothon 11

Rules for Area 4 Envirothon 12

NC Envirothon Overview 13

NC Envirothon Schedule & Awards 14

Rules for North Carolina Envirothon 15

NCF Envirothon 16

The Tests 17

Oral Presentations 18

The Role of Advisors 19

Training for Advisors 20

The Role of Wake SWCD 21

Learning Resources 22

Tips for Students 23

Important Links 24

Template Student Information Form 25

Template Student Presentation Rubric 27

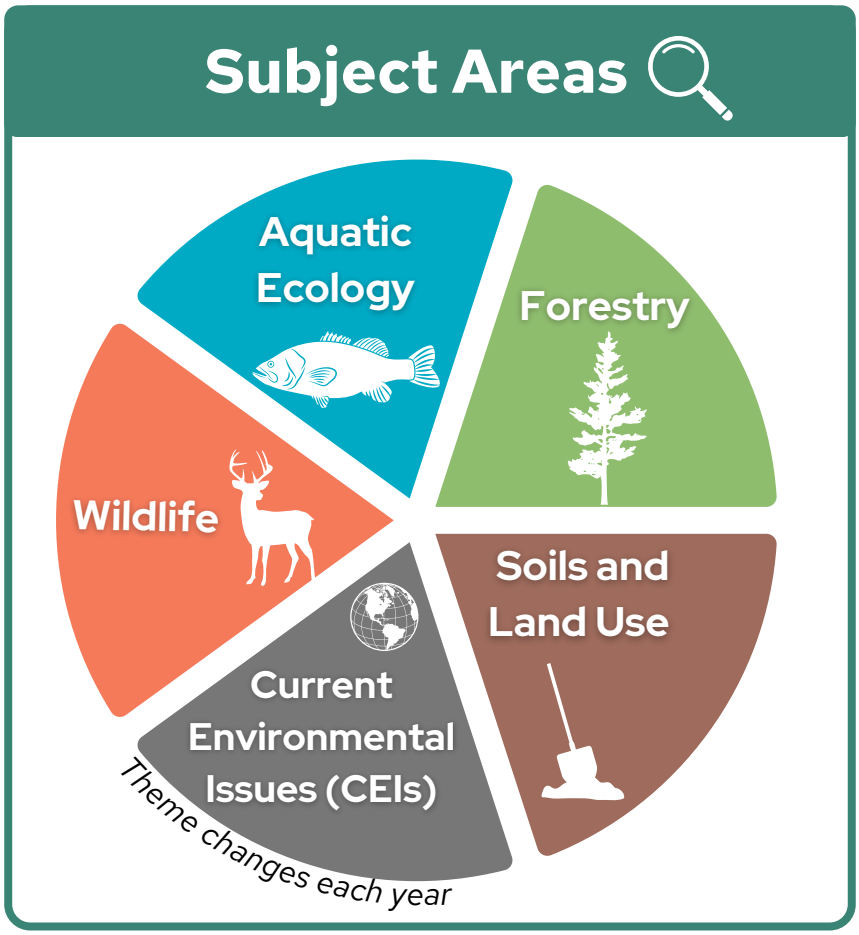
Template Flyer 28

What is Envirothon?

An annual competition for middle and high school students testing their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management

Students compete in teams of 3-5 with the support of an adult advisor

Students study a provided curriculum of 5 subject areas:



CEI Theme for 2026-2027:

"Soil Health Management: Agricultural Principles and Stewardship"

The program challenges students to **think critically** about **real-world environmental problems** and develop **solutions.**

Why Envirothon?



Develops life skills - leadership, accountability, communication, adaptability



Opportunities for recognition and scholarship money



Deepens understanding of local environment and natural resources



Fosters community and friendships with like-minded people



Builds resumes while supporting science standards



Opportunities for hands-on learning from professionals in a variety of fields



Broadens horizons with travel and connecting with teams from other counties, states, and countries!

Envirothon History

International:

- Created in 1979 by Pennsylvania Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Limited to Pennsylvania, then called "Environmental Olympics"
- Name changed to "Enviro-Olympics," then to "Envirothon" in 1988 when the first multi-state competition took place.
- Canada joined in 1992, China in 2016, Singapore in 2023, and U.S. Virgin Islands in 2026
- The international event was called "Canon Envirothon" from 1997-2013 in recognition of the camera company's sponsorship of the event
- In 2014, the Envirothon became a program of the National Conservation Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization. The international Envirothon is now known as "NCF-Envirothon" and is the largest environmental science competition in the world!

→ Visit the NCF-Envirothon website for more information.

North Carolina:

- First N.C. Envirothon was in 1991
- In 1999, the State Envirothon Committee voted to start a middle school program that prepared students for the high school program

→ Visit the NC Envirothon website for more information.

Area 4:

- Regional competitions began in the early/mid 1990s that followed the 8 state regions established by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (see page 7)

→ Visit the Area 4 Envirothon website for more information

Wake County:

- A Wake County team has won 1st place at the NC Envirothon 9 times since 2001
- Envirothon in Wake County began in 1992!

→ Visit the Wake County Envirothon website for more information

How does it work?

Middle school teams (grades 5-8) compete against other middle school teams only.

High school teams (students enrolled in grades 9-12 who also reach age 14-19 by August 8 of the current competition year) compete against other high school teams only.

REGIONAL	STATE	INTERNATIONAL
Area 4 Envirothon March 18, 2027	**North Carolina Envirothon** April 23-24, 2027	**NCF-Envirothon** July 25 - 31, 2027
(11 Counties)	**(8 Regions)**	**(United States, Canada, China, Singapore, Virgin Islands)**

Top 7 teams move on

1st place winner moves on

AREA IV ENVIROTHON

WAKE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NC ENVIROTHON
A NATURAL CHALLENGE

ENVIROTHON®
A NATURAL RESOURCE ENCOUNTER FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

$ WHAT IS THE COST OF PARTICIPATION? $

Students attend the competitions for free! The Wake Soil and Water Conservation District (Wake SWCD) sponsors and pays the registration fees for Wake County's teams for both the regional and state competitions. The North Carolina Envirothon Committee pays for the state champion team's registration for the NCF-Envirothon.

Advisors are responsible for handling fees for transportation, lodging, and food for the competition events.

Envirothon is primarily sponsored and administered by Soil and Water Conservation Districts and partnering organizations including the Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

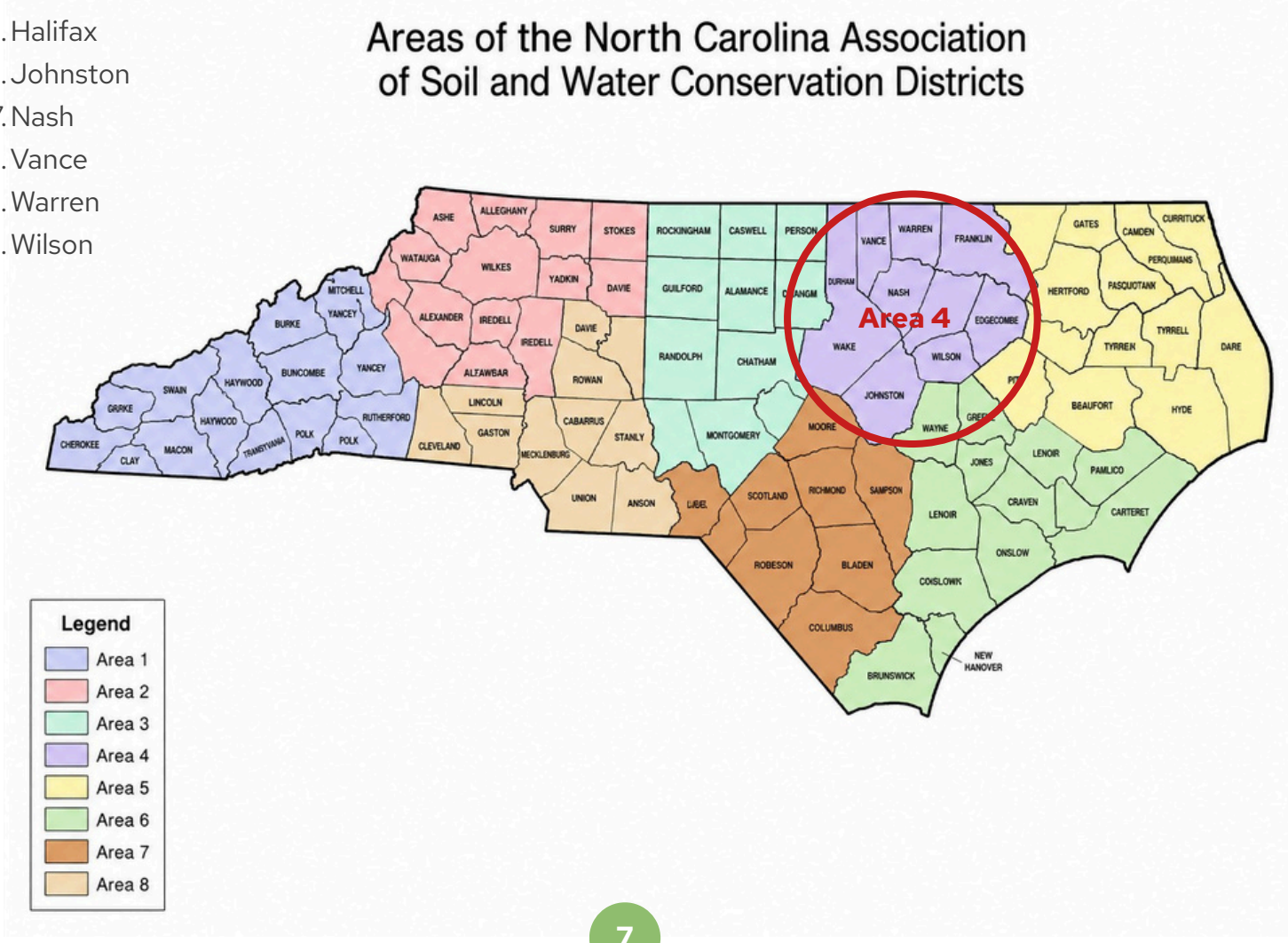
What is Area 4?

The North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NCASWCD) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports districts in a variety of ways, including administering education programs like Envirothon. The Association divides the state into 8 geographic regions, called Areas, that allow groups of counties to work together to address local concerns and hold educational contests. See the map below to understand where all 8 Areas are located.

The first level of the Envirothon competition is the regional competition, and each Area holds a regional Envirothon competition. The top 7 middle and high school teams from each Area qualify for the state-level North Carolina Envirothon.

The Wake Soil and Water Conservation District (Wake SWCD) belongs to Area 4 (often written using the roman numeral IV), along with the following other counties:

1. Durham
2. Edgecombe
3. Franklin
4. Granville
5. Halifax
6. Johnston
7. Nash
8. Vance
9. Warren
10. Wilson



Timeline - A Year in Envirothon





Fall	Winter	Spring
• Get organized • Recruit members • Topics training & field trips	• Continue training, review sessions, practice tests • Form teams • Register for Area 4 Envirothon by early Feb.	• Prepare for competitions • Area 4 Envirothon in mid-March • NC Envirothon in late April

September - November

- Create a club with at least one adult advisor as the facilitator and liason with Wake SWCD
- Recruit student members (3-5 students per team, no limit on # of teams for regional competition)
- Sign up for Envirothon with District (Wake SWCD) to get on email list for important updates throughout the year

December - February

- Host regular meetings with a variety of activities and field trips if possible
- Students study curriculum independently and practice in teams
- Attend training sessions offered by the District
- Have students take placement tests to determine their team (optional)
- Register for regional competition (Area 4 Envirothon) by early February
- Figure out logistics of getting to Area 4 Envirothon (permission/medical forms, vehicle rentals, substitute coverage, etc.)

March - May

- Prepare for Area 4 competition - review the rules and make sure the students understand them too
- Compete at Area 4 competition in mid-March
- If your team(s) are in the top 7, they qualify for the State Envirothon held in late April/early May

June - July

- 1st place team at NC Envirothon studies new curriculum to prepare for NCF-Envirothon in late July

Starting a Team

* **Note: the following steps are *recommendations* based on what has worked well for advisors in the past. Find what works best for you and your students!**

To compete in Envirothon, you need:

- At least one team (3-5 members, with 2 alternates allowed per team)
- Team members should be from the same age group (middle school = grades 5-8, high school = grades 9-12).
- Team members must be from the same school/organization/geographic area (i.e. homeschool, 4-H, FFA, Scouts, science/Envirothon clubs)
- At least one adult advisor is needed, but 2 are recommended
- Computers & internet access – the Envirothon curriculum is entirely **online**

Step 1: Advertise*

- Post flyers throughout your school *(template provided on p. 28)*
- Ask other teachers to share information with students on Envirothon
- Put information about it in your school's newsletters/email updates
- If you have students who seem like they'd be interested in Envirothon, invite them to join

Step 2: Hold an introductory meeting

- Explain to students what Envirothon is, what the expectations are, the time commitment students will be undertaking

Step 3: Assign Specialty Subjects

- On each team, it is helpful if each student picks 2 subjects out of the 5 to learn especially well, rather than study all of the content. This way, students have deeper knowledge of a few subjects rather than superficial knowledge of many.
- A week or so after the introductory meeting, have students fill out a survey describing their current knowledge and interests around the Envirothon curriculum topics (template provided on p. 25-26)
- Make sure that students are aware of what each others' specialty subjects are, and those with the same subjects can work together to study if they wish

Step 4: Placement Tests (optional)

- In late January, have students take a 100 question test with 20 questions from each subject (questions can come from the provided practice questions from the Wake SWCD, Quizlets online, or you can make your own from the Envirothon study manuals)
- Design teams using the total scores from their tests as well as their strongest scores in each subject area and their specialty subjects/interests.
- Assign a captain to each team. Encourage the captains to facilitate their team's study sessions outside of school and keep track of their teammates study times. Each team will need a captain for the Envirothon competitions as well. Captains serve an important role as a leader of their team.

Tips for Meetings

Regular Meeting Ideas:

- Have students create presentations on particular topics from the curriculum and teach their peers
- Do mock tests/practice questions, encourage students to practice their communication skills to efficiently complete all the questions.
- Have student-led review sessions
- Go on field trips to learn from professionals about certain topics
- Provide hands-on activities that allow students to explore topics and have fun!
- Do community service projects related to the Envirothon curriculum



Student Presentations:

- Require each student to give two 5-minute presentations on their specialty areas during the fall months. Create a sign-up list and provide a rubric *(template provided on page 27)*.
- These presentations are great practice for students for the Oral Presentation Component and also motivates them to deeply learn the material they present on



Attendance and Accountability:

- Have an agreed upon form of communication with students and use it regularly to remind them about meetings, events, and forms that you may need from them for field trips/the competitions.
- Optional: create a spreadsheet or shared document where students can post how many hours they study each week, with a suggested minimum of 20 minutes each week. This helps with accountability and consistency.



Area 4 Envirothon

→ **Qualifier for the state Envirothon competition! The Top 7 middle school teams and Top 7 high school teams qualify for the state competition.**

There is no limit on the number of teams an Envirothon group can register for the Area 4 competition (in practice, most groups have 2-4 teams).

Registration must be done with the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District. Registration is due in early February each year. Several forms are required, including:

- Student information (name, grade, t-shirt size, special needs, etc.)
- Parent permission and medical release forms
- Student and adult code of conduct forms

The competition takes place in **one day** in **mid-March** each year at **Owens Recreational Park** in Louisburg, NC (499 Massenburg Baker Rd, Louisburg, NC 27549).

The event is hosted by either one or two local Soil and Water Conservation Districts within Area 4, and the hosting responsibility rotates between districts each year. The Area 4 Envirothon Committee facilitates the funding and planning of the event.

Logistics to consider:

- When checking in, students and advisors get free shirts for the event.
- Students can bring their own chairs or bring blankets to sit on when taking the tests. The event is held entirely outdoors - dress appropriately!
- A free pizza lunch is provided for students, advisors, and volunteers.



Tentative Agenda (for both middle and high school)

8:00- 9:00 am Registration for teams
9:00- 9:10 am Introductions and Announcements
9:15 - 9:40 am Test - Station 1
9:45 - 10:10 am Test - Station 2
10:15 - 10:40 am Test - Station 3
10:45 - 11:10 am Test - Station 4
11:15 - 11:40 am Test - Station 5
11:45 - 12:45 pm Lunch
12:45 - 1:00 pm Sponsor recognition and team introductions
1:00 - 1:20 pm Awards Ceremony



Note: the top-scoring FFA team qualifies for the state competition, even if they do not place in the Top 7.

AREA 4 ENVIROTHON IMPORTANT RULES

Complete List of Area 4 Rules

The following selected rules pertain to the Area 4 Envirothon competition, and are listed verbatim from the Area 4 Envirothon website. See the full list of rules at: https://www.ncarea4envirothon.org/competition-rules

- Middle school teams (grades 5-8) compete against other middle school teams only.
- Each team shall consist of three-five students from the same middle/high school, non-traditional school or youth organization, such as 4-H, science or Envirothon clubs.
- High school teams (students enrolled in grades 9-12 who also reach age 14-19 by August 8 of the current competition year) compete against other high school teams only. Non-traditional schools and youth organizations must follow the grade level and age limitations as described above.
- Each team may list 2 alternates on the registration form who may be substituted for team members at the Area Event.
- A team advisor and/or a Soil and Water Conservation District Representative must accompany teams to the competition.
- The advisor shall not assist their team in any way during the competition. During the testing competition, the advisors may not travel with the teams. No advisors or spectators are allowed in testing areas.
- No clothing or other identification of local schools, towns, cities, or counties will be permitted. Please dress appropriately for weather conditions.
- Advisors must bring the original team members' health form on the day of the competition. The Area IV Envirothon Committee Registrar must have original signatures on the medical consent forms before participation in the event.
- Students may not carry any personal items including purses, backpacks, cell phones. Exceptions will be made for chairs. If there are special needs, please have your advisors contact the host county. We encourage participants to bring bag chairs or portable stools to use during the event.



NC Envirothon Overview

→ **1st place high school team qualifies for the interntional NCF Envirothon!**

Takes place over **two days** in **late April/early May** each year at **Cedarock Park** in Burlington, NC. (4242 R Dean Coleman Rd, Burlington, NC 27215)

	FRIDAY - Training Stations and HS Oral Presentations	**SATURDAY - Testing and Awards**
MIDDLE SCHOOL →	Training stations - students get review of the material from resource professionals. *(Participating in the training is not required, but highly recommended for student success in the tests)*	• Testing stations • Lunch • Award ceremony
HIGH SCHOOL →	Training stations - students get review of the material from resource professionals. *(Participating in the training is not required, but highly recommended for student success in the tests)* High school teams do their preliminary Oral Presentations on this day (required).	• Testing Stations • Lunch • Award ceremony and final oral presentations to determine overall winner

Registration is handled for you by the Area 4 Envirothon committee, using the information you submit for the Area 4 competition. The forms you submit for Area 4 will be reused and the hard copies must be with you at the event.

The event is hosted by the North Carolina Envirothon Committee and Soil and Water Conservation District staff and volunteers from across the state.

Logistics to consider:

- Staying overnight in the area is recommended; camping is availalbe at the park and there are hotels nearby as well.
- When checking in, students and advisors get free shirts for the event.
- Students can bring their own chairs or bring blankets to sit on when taking the tests.
- A pizza lunch is provided for students, advisors, and volunteers on Saturday.







NC Envirothon Schedule & Awards

High School

***TENTATIVE* High School Teams schedule**

Friday

11:30 - 4:00 Team Registration

1:15 - 1:25 Welcome and Orientation for EARLY OP HS teams

1:40 - 1:55 Team Welcome and Orientation for HS teams

2:00 - 6:35 Resource Station Training / Oral Presentations for HS

Saturday

8:00 - 9:15 Registration - Saturday arrivals only

9:15 - 9:40 Assembly & Final Instructions to Teams

9:45 - 12:15 COMPETITION for HS

12:15 - 1:00 Lunch for all (Pizza)

1:30 - 2:00 High School Awards Program, Announce Top Three (For OP Finals)

2:15 - 4:00 Oral Presentation Finals (30 min each)

4:00 PM Final Place Announcements, Awards to Top Teams

Middle School

***TENTATIVE* Middle School Teams schedule**

Friday

11:30 - 4:00 Registration

1:40 - 1:55 Team Welcome and Orientation for MS teams

2:00 - 5:25 Resource Station Training for MS teams

Saturday

8:00 - 8:45 Registration - Saturday arrivals only

8:45 - 9:10 Assembly & Final Instructions to Teams

9:15 - 11:45 COMPETITION for MS

11:45 - 12:45 Lunch for all (Pizza)

12:45 - 1:15 Middle School Awards Program

High School Awards

- 1st place - $200 cash and a plaque, $500 scholarship per team member to **any** institution of higher learning (must be claimed within 6 years of winning), and the team has the opportunity to represent NC at the international NCF-Envirothon competition
- 2nd place - $150 cash and a plaque
- 3rd place - $100 cash and a plaque
- 4th place - $75 cash and a plaque
- 5th place - $50 cash and a plaque

High school teams must have 5 members to place in the top 10 at the state competition.

FFA:

- 1st place - plaque and an opportunity compete at the annual FFA National Environmental Quality Career Development Event

Middle School Awards

- 1st place - $125 cash and a plaque
- 2nd place - $100 cash and a plaque
- 3rd place - $75 cash and a plaque
- 4th place - $50 cash and a plaque
- 5th place - $25 cash and a plaque

Prizes are also given to the teams who earn the highest scores on each test for both MS and HS.





NC ENVIROTHON IMPORTANT RULES

Complete List of NC Envirothon Rules

The following selected rules pertain to the NC Envirothon competition, and are sourced directly from the NC Envirothon website: https://sites.google.com/site/envirothonnc/general-info/rules

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Each Middle School team can have up to two alternate members. Alternates will be assigned to an alternate team for testing on Saturday. Alternate teams are not eligible to win any prizes and cannot be included in the placement after final scoring.
- Teams must be accompanied by an adult team advisor to the competition.
- Team members are required to stay together during Friday's rotation and may not go to the resource stations individually.
- Teams or team members may not leave the resource stations except to visit the restroom or as a result of a medical or family emergency.
- During the Saturday testing competition, the advisors may not travel with the teams and shall not assist their teams in any manner. No advisors or spectators are allowed in testing areas on Saturday morning.
- At the Saturday viewing of the test questions and answers, photographing the test answer boards is strictly forbidden.
- The use of any devices for the purpose of videotaping, audiotaping, or picture taking during Friday training sessions is strictly prohibited. Team members are prohibited from carrying or using cell phones, iWatches, or other electronic devices capable of storing data at training and testing stations. If found, these items will be confiscated and returned to the students at the end of the day at the registration table.
- No clothing or other identification of local schools, towns, or counties will be permitted at the resource stations. This includes Area Envirothon t-shirts.
- Names listed on the pre-registration form may be changed on the day of registration. Team member substitutions may be made on a team selected to go to the state competition; but there must be at least three original team members who qualified at the Area Envirothon on the team that competes at the state level.
- Advisors must present each team members' medical and photo release forms to Area Envirothon Committee when registering for the Area Event. Advisors are responsible for having all team members' and alternates' medical and photo release forms in their possession at all times during the State Envirothon

HIGH SCHOOL - the above rules apply to high school, with the following additional rules:

- Only high school teams with five members will be allowed to place in the top three places at the State Envirothon after final scoring. Only a high school team with five members can be qualified to advance to the International NCF Envirothon.
- Teams or team members may not leave the resource stations, including the Oral Preparation station, except to visit the restroom or as a result of a medical or family emergency.

NCF-Envirothon

The NCF-Envirothon, coordinated by the National Conservation Foundation (NCF), is the highest level of the Envirothon competition that takes place in late July each year. It is sponsored in large part by Canon, Inc.

Hosted in a different state or Canadian Province each year at universities, this event provides a great opportunity for students to travel and meet people from many places! One team from each state/province may participate.

The 1st place winner at the NC Envirothon qualifies for the NCF competition and represents North Carolina at the event. Teams from all over the U.S., Canada, China, Singapore, and the U.S. Virgin Islands come together to compete at the NCF-Envirothon.

The North Carolina Envirothon is modeled after the NCF-Envirothon, with the main differences being in the amount of time allotted to the training sessions and Oral Presentation preparation sessions. The prize money is also much bigger, with 1st place earning $15,000, 2nd place earning $10,000, and 3rd place earning $5,000. Top score prizes are $1,500.

The NCF Envirothon Committee sets the theme each year for Current Environmental Issues, and provides a curriculum specific to each year's NCF competition.









The Tests

The format of the testing is approximately the same at each level of the competition, with some exceptions at the international level.

At the regional and state competitions in NC, there are stations set up for each Envirothon subject area (Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, Current Environmental Issues, and Soils/Land Use). Students rotate to different stations with their teams, and at each station they take a multiple choice test as well as a short-answer/multiple choice test in response to questions about application-based/hands-on elements.

The multiple choice tests at Area 4 and NC Envirothon are usually 20-25 questions with 5 hands-on questions.

Examples of common types of hands-on questions:

- Identify an animal species based on its pelt or track
- Determine the height and diameter of a tree using a Biltmore stick
- Identify the soil horizon, texture, or color in a soil pit or sample
- Identify a fish, aquatic plant, or macroinvertebrate organism from a picture or preserved specimen
- Use a soil survey manual to determine the land capability classification of a given soil series

Oral Presentations:
At the state level, **high school students only** also participate in the Oral Presentation Component (OPC). Teams are given a prompt the day of that describes a realistic scenario, and tasks the team with developing a solution to the problems described in the scenario in 65 minutes. Teams then present their solution in a 10-minute presentation with a poster in front of 5 judges. The topic relates to the CEI theme of the year and requires thorough knowledge and application of the 4 core subject areas as well.

The Oral Presentation makes up 1/6th of the total score for the competition. Students are scored based on their content mastery as well as their presentation organization and public speaking skills.







Oral Presentations

The Oral Presentation Component (OPC) is required for high school teams at the North Carolina State Envirothon and at the NCF international competition.

Complete List of OPC Rules

Day 1 (Friday) – teams rotate between 7 training stations:

Aquatics **Wildlife** **Forestry** **Soils/Land Use** **CEIs**

OPC Preparation Station

(No advisors allowed)

- 65 minutes for teams to create their presentation and visuals.
- Materials provided:
  - printed copies of the problem
  - pencils & colored markers
  - 3" x 5" notecards (may not be used as props)
  - one poster board (both sides may be used)
- Students cannot use books, notes, electronic devices, or any other study materials to create their presentation.
- After this station, students go directly to the OPC Judging Station to give their presentation.

OPC Judging Station

(Advisors allowed, no talking or contact with judges, no photos or video recording)

- 5 minutes to set up presentation
- 9-10 minutes to present
  - Presentation is judged by panel of 5 judges using a rubric. The OPC counts for 100 points (1/6th of the total score for the Envirothon competition).
- 5-minute Q&A session after presentation. Judges ask questions that require students to explain their recommendations. Answers are scored based on students' ability to think on their feet and use their knowledge of the Envirothon curriculum and the year's CEI articles.
- 10 minutes for judges to complete their scoring. In the scoring process, the high and low scores from the 5 judges are thrown out and the 3 middle scores are averaged.

Keep in mind:

- *OPC stations take place during the afternoon starting at 1:25 pm, ending at 4:55 pm. (Teams, register no later than 1:00!)*
- *Team members may **not** wear clothing that identifies their school or county origin!*

Day 2 (Saturday) – core test stations, final oral presentations

- Scores from Friday's oral presentations are added to test scores from Saturday morning's test stations. The 3 teams with the highest total scores will repeat their presentations after the first part of the high school awards ceremony. This presentation will be given in front of a panel of 5 judges and the assembled Envirothon participants. The OP score from this final round replaces the OP score from Friday. This process helps to increase the fairness of the final OPC scores.
- New scores are totaled and the prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place are awarded!

The Role of Advisors

Advisors must be adults, and can be a teacher, parent, club leader, mentor, etc. It is recommended to have a primary and secondary advisor who share responsibilities.

Responsibilities:

- Sign up with Wake SWCD to participate in Envirothon at the beginning of the school year (available on the wake.gov/Envirothon webpage).
- Serve as a liaison between students and the Soil and Water Conservation District.
  - Ask questions on behalf of your students
  - Share updates with students
  - Sign up for trainings, schedule field trips
  - Collect information for registration forms and submit them on-time (and remind students to get forms signed and returned on-time as well).
- Coordinate the logistics of transportation to and from the Envirothon competitions (may include scheduling a substitute teacher, vehicle rentals, overnight lodging, bus drivers, field trip permission forms for your school, etc.)
- Motivate and inspire students to study the curriculum independently throughout the year.
- Facilitate consistent meetings with students to study the curriculum and build team skills.
- Must accompany students at competitions. If advisor cannot be present, then another adult volunteer can take their place, but must register for the event.
- Check for updates on the Wake SWCD, Area 4, and NC Envirothon websites to stay in the loop about changes.

Optional but recommended:

- Create your own supplemental study materials and activities for your students
- Help students figure out who will be on each team, their specialty subjects, who will be alternates, team captains, etc.
- Attend the Envirothon School for Advisors & Teachers (held in June each year, see next page)
- Contact resource professionals to set up training sessions, either at your school or at another location

IMPORTANT DATES

**Table will be updated when dates are set, and you will be notified via the email address you provide in the sign-up form.*

Wake SWCD sign-up form deadline:	**Friday, November 20th, 2026**
Area IV registration deadline:	February 1, 2027
Area IV competition:	March 18, 2027
NC Envirothon competition:	April 23-24, 2027

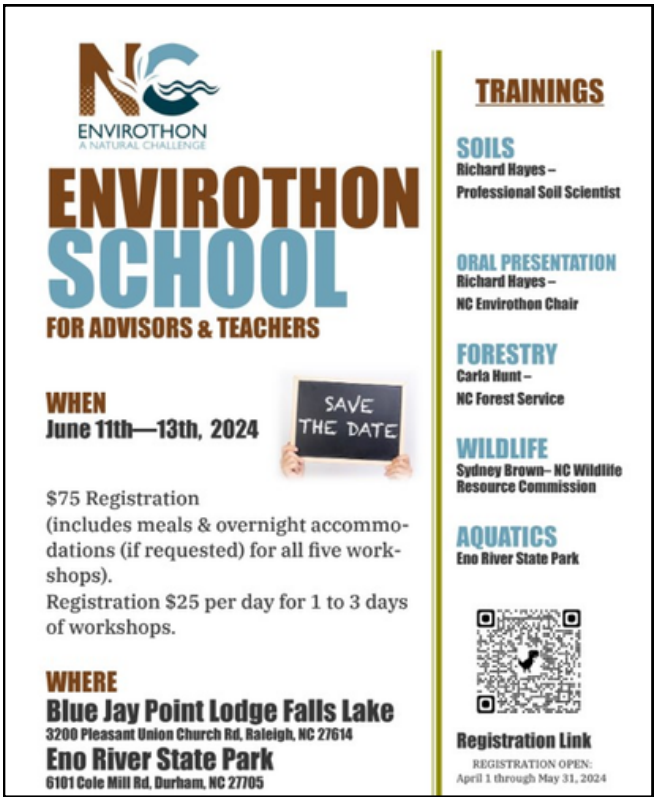
Training for Advisors

NC Envirothon School

Being an Envirothon advisor will broaden your understanding of so many topics in environmental science and conservation!

You certainly don't need to know all the content to teach to students, but it helps to learn about what the students are learning and how to support their growth. It also helps to meet other advisors and share ideas.

One great way to do this is to attend the annual Envirothon School (see example flyer to the right). This takes place in mid-June each year.





Teacher Workshops

Another option is to attend the Teacher Workshops at the Area 4 and NC Envirothon competitions.

These are offered while students are testing, and the topics of the workshops change from year to year.

The Role of Wake SWCD

The Wake Soil and Water Conservation District (Wake SWCD) plays many roles in supporting student success in Envirothon, from coaching and training to financial support. The District's Environmental Educator is the point of contact for advisors and students.
Contact: Leah Purvis, leah.purvis@wake.gov, (919) 250-1065



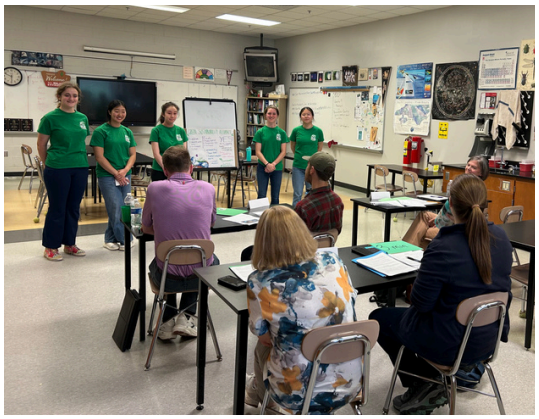
Wake SWCD provides the following (primarily via email):

- Announcements about training sessions and instructions for registration
- Flyers for advisors to post and share *(see p. 28)*
- Study materials (i.e. tree identification slides, handouts, lesson activities, etc.)
- Private trainings with teams using hands-on materials (i.e. wildlife tracks and scat replicas, skulls, aquatic macroinvertebrate specimens, Biltmore Sticks, soil samples, etc.) → some of these hands-on materials may be available for loans
- Practice tests
- Information about the competitions - schedules, packing lists, locations, contacts, etc.

Wake SWCD hosts two (and sometimes more) training events each year for Wake County Envirothon students and advisors:



1.) Core Envirothon Training held in mid/late January, a comprehensive review of all 5 subject areas with a focus on the hands-on practical skills and topics. Taught by professionals in each subject field. Location: Walnut Creek Wetland Center in Raleigh. Spots are limited, so make sure to sign your students up soon after the registration form is emailed to advisors!



2.) Mock Oral Presentation event in mid-April for the Top 5 High School teams to get practice for the state Envirothon competition. Teams are provided with the rules, practice prompt & supplemental materials, and rubric. The timing simulates the state competition. Judges from a variety of professional fields relevant to the Envirothon curriculum provide feedback on the presentations.

Learning Resources

The curriculum and supplementary materials are posted on the NC Envirothon website, linked here:
https://sites.google.com/site/envirothonnc/study-resources

The resource manuals are updated each year by September 1st.
Optional: download and print the manuals and put in binders for students.

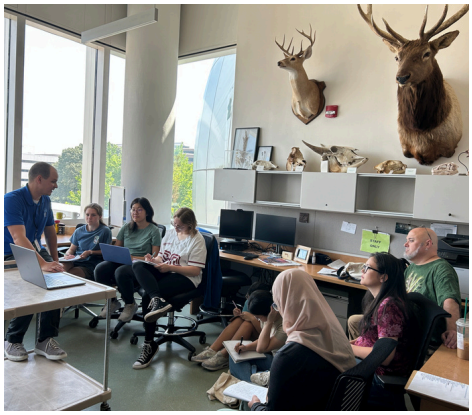
In addition to the written study manuals and supplemental resources on the NC Envirothon website, it is important to get hands-on experiences with the content as well.

→ Reach out to local parks/state forests, museums, nature centers, and local government departments for guest speakers and field trips.
When requesting a program, it is helpful to tell the person how many students you expect to attend and describe the specific content you would like the students to learn about

Recommended resources to contact for supplemental materials, field trips, school visits, etc.

- Clemmons Educational State Forest
- NC Museum of Natural Sciences
  → the Naturalist Center in particular is a great resource for learning about wildlife
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission
  → submit form to request a program
- NCSU Extension
- Soil Science Society
- NC DEQ









Tips for Students



Cheer on your teammates and other competitors



Make new friends!
Have fun!



Thank your advisors often



Practice clear communication with your team-mates, have good time management, and keep organized



Stay humble and curious, follow what you're interested in, and ask questions!



Try out your leadership skills, get outside your comfort zone sometimes



Set goals and remind yourself of them often. Be proud of your hard work

Important Links

Wake Soil and Water Conservation District

Area IV Envirothon

NC Envirothon

NCF-Envirothon

SIGN-UP FORM

QUESTIONS?

Contact Leah Purvis, Environmental Educator
Wake Soil and Water Conservation District
leah.purvis@wake.gov (919) 250-1065

ENVIROTHON - STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

Student Info:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Grade: _____ Email Address: _____

After-school activities and schedule times (approximates to know level of availability):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Specialty Subject Preferences

You must focus on at least TWO subjects to study, but the more you study the better your chances are of getting onto the team of your choice and doing well in the competition.

Subject Areas: *Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatic Ecology, Soils, Current Environmental Issues (CEIs)*

What are your top choices of subjects to study?
Please list your choices in order with the first two being the ones you would like to study, however placement of teams may require you to pick up your 3rd, 4th, or 5th depending on need. In the right column please list all possible related courses you have taken or activities in the past that would make you a good fit for that subject.

Order	Subject	Why? - Related classes, activities, and experiences
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Teams will be selected on the following criteria:

- **Test scores:** In January, students will be tested in all subject areas and scores will be evaluated by total score and by subject.
- **Behavior and the ability to work with others**: we will go on field trips and possibly an overnight camping trip
- **Commitment:** Regular attendance at meetings, consistent studying independently, and practicing with teammates are important to do well in Envirothon
- Demand for subject areas and specialists to combine for a well balanced team.
- **Presentation and problem-solving skills**: the Oral Presentation Component is an important part of the North Carolina and NCF Envirothon
- **Work ethic:** the Envirothon curriculum is large and if students win the state competition they will have a whole new curriculum to start over the summer for the NCF Envirothon.

Parent/Guardian Info:

Primary Guardian:

Name: _____

Relation: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Additional Guardian:

Name: _____

Relation: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Please sign below to acknowledge that you understand the requirements and that the information you provided in this form is accurate.

Student Signature: _____ Date:_____

Parent Signature: _____ Date:_____

Please reach out with any questions or comments!

STUDENT PRESENTATION RUBRIC

Content

Introduction captures attention of audience and clearly introduces topic. You gain your audience in the first 2 minutes.			
0	1	2	3

Content demonstrates knowledge of subject matter.			
0	1	2	3

Content is organized in a logical manner. There is flow and good transitions.			
0	1	2	3

Presentation is the appropriate length (5 minutes).			
0	1	2	3

Visual aids highlight main points of presentation and are incorporated in thoughtful ways.			
0	1	2	3

Entertainment value, creativity, and imagination used.			
0	1	2	3

Questions appropriately answered using content knowledge and with audience kept in mind.			
0	1	2	3

Notes on Content:

Content Score: _____ / 21

Delivery

Volume is appropriate for place and audience.			
0	1	2	3

Speech rate is natural, not too fast or too slow. Enunciation is distinct and pronunciation is accurate.			
0	1	2	3

Interest is evident in the material, with some excitement and natural fluctuations in voice tone.			
0	1	2	3

Eye contact is effective and natural.			
0	1	2	3

Stance and gestures are helpful, not distracting.			
0	1	2	3

Poise is evident in flow of presentation. (no "um, uh, like...").			
0	1	2	3

Notes on Delivery:

Delivery Score: _____ / 18

TOTAL SCORE: _____ / 39

WAKE COUNTY ENVIROTHON

2026-2027

How Does it Work?

- Throughout the school year, teams of 3-5 students in middle school (grades 5-8) and high school (grades 9-12) study the online curriculum on environmental science and natural resources management.
- In the spring, teams take written tests on the content and must also demonstrate mastery of hands-on skills in the 5 subject areas.
- The regional contest (Area 4) is held in March each year, where the top 7 middle and high school teams qualify for the state competition held in late April/early May!

Who Can Participate?

Students in grades 5-12 can form teams from the same organization, such as:

- School science clubs
- Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts
- FFA
- 4-H
- Homeschool groups

*An adult team advisor (teacher, parent, youth leader, etc.) is **required** for students to participate.*
The Wake District sponsors and pays for teams in Wake County to attend the regional and state competitions!

Subject Areas



Get Started!

Visit the webpages below for more details, and fill out the Wake SWCD sign-up form by November 20th to get email updates about registration deadlines, study resources, and training events!

wake.gov/Envirothon

ncarea4envirothon.org

sites.google.com/site/envirothonnc

Advisors, scan QR code for sign-up form

CONTACT:
Leah Purvis | Environmental Educator
Wake Soil and Water Conservation District
leah.purvis@wake.gov (919) 250-1065

Wake Soil and Water Conservation District

Wake County North Carolina