



## NH Envirothon School Rules

### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the New Hampshire Envirothon is to provide students with the knowledge and tools to make responsible decisions to address the natural resource challenges facing today's society as well as maintaining a balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

*NHE strives to:*

- *foster the development of critical thinking, cooperation, and decision-making skills --- AND --- inspire ingenuity and creativity when problem-solving*
- *connect youth to the environmental, economic, and social issues in their own communities*
- *connect youth to conservation professionals*
- *promote a life-long commitment to environmental stewardship*
- *inspire youth to pursue natural resource careers*

### **Governance:**

The NH ENVIROTHON is governed by the NH Association of Conservation Districts with assistance and advice from a Steering Committee and the resource teams in the logistics and development of training and competition materials. The NH ENVIROTHON is administered by a Program Coordinator.

### **Competition:**

- 1) The NH ENVIROTHON Annual Competition consists of four field stations and an oral presentation.
  - a. The oral presentation is about an NH Land-Based Challenge developed from the annual Current Environmental Issue which originates with the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon.
  - b. The field stations test students' knowledge on
    - i. Aquatic Ecology
    - ii. Forestry
    - iii. Soils and Land Use
    - iv. Wildlife
- 2) The NHE competition year will begin on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to the competition and will end on August 31<sup>st</sup> after the competition has concluded.
  - a. Training for the competition often occurs throughout the school year, though some schools only train in the spring.
  - b. Some schools train after school, while others train via an environmental course.
  - c. Training materials can be found on the [NHE website](#), via various training sessions and/or webinars organized by the NHE steering committee and program coordinator, and/or local conservation districts and/or nature and environmental education centers.
  - d. The NH Envirothon annual state competition occurs in May.

- 3) Scoring at the NH Envirothon
  - a. Each field station test has a maximum score of 100 points.
  - b. The Current Environmental Issue oral presentation challenge has a maximum score of 200 points.
  - c. In the case of a tie in total points
    - i. The team with the highest point total from the field station tests will be the State Champion.
    - ii. If that still leads to a tie, the winner will be determined by a final question that is developed by the steering committee and presented by the NH ENVIROTHON Head Judge.
  - d. During the state competition, the decision of the NH ENVIROTHON Head Judge is final.
- 4) Winning the state competition
  - a. The team with the highest point total of field stations plus oral presentation will be the State Champion.
  - b. The State Champion team is eligible to represent New Hampshire at the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon (NCFE) International Competition.
  - c. The State Champion team must follow NCFE rules: <https://envirothon.org/the-competition/rules-regulations/>
  - d. If the first-place team cannot attend the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon International Competition, the New Hampshire State Envirothon Steering Committee may certify a replacement team to compete at the international event based on the order of finish.
  - e. Only five team members and up to two school advisors/chaperones will travel to the NCFE International Competition.
    - i. NCFE requires a male and female advisor/chaperone if there is a mixed gendered group.
    - ii. The NCFE team registration fee (paid by NHE/NHACD) covers rooms, food and all activities for the week.
    - iii. The NHACD does not cover travel, insurance or other incidentals.
    - iv. The Annual NCFE International Competition shall take place between July 15 and August 7 each year, with the specific dates for each competition to be selected by the Host.
    - v. Rules are subject to change if the event is held as a virtual competition.

**Requirements for NHE team members:**

- a) Must be in grades 9-12.
  - i) *Grades 6-8:* see c) below
  - ii) *Note for the winning team:* The NCFE Annual International Competition requires students be enrolled in grades 9 - 12 and reach ages 14 – 19 by August 8 of the current competition year. If NHE participants don't meet the criteria, then an alternate must substitute at the NCFE International Competition.
- b) May be from:
  - i) A public/private high school
  - ii) A home-schooled group
  - iii) A 4-H or other youth club
  - iv) A scout troop
  - v) A group sponsored by Conservation Commissions, Nonprofits, Conservation Districts, colleges or universities, or other organizations or businesses.

- c) Middle schoolers are welcome to participate!
  - i) While the NHE is a high school competition, we welcome middle schoolers to take part in experiential learning.
  - ii) Middle school participants must be in grades 6-8.
  - iii) Middle school participants will take the HS tests but compete with/score against other middle school teams.
  - iv) Middle school participants may present the Current Environmental Issue challenge.
  - v) Middle school participants cannot win the NH Envirothon, nor can they go to the NCF Envirothon.
  - vi) Middle school participants and their advisors may take part in all trainings.
- d) Depending on time constraints and numbers of participants, non-competing teams may be graded later than the actual competition day.

#### **Requirements for a team:**

- 1) A team consists of five members.
  - a. Alternate team members can assist with the preparation for the competition and/or can substitute for a regular member who is unable to take part in the entire competition.
  - b. ***Substitutions by alternate(s) must be reported to the NH ENVIROTHON Program Coordinator prior to the start of the Annual Competition.***
  - c. During the annual competition, alternates who are not needed as back-up competition team members will make up their school's alternate team.
- 2) Each team will rotate through the four field stations and present their solution to the Current Environmental Issue to a panel of judges as assigned on competition day.
- 3) Up to three teams per school/group may **participate** but no more than two teams may **compete** for state ranking in the Annual Competition. The alternate team is encouraged to compete as experiential learners, however.
  - a. Alternate teams use the event as a learning experience and their scores will not be included in the main competition (*National Conservation Foundation Envirothon rules*).
  - b. Schools may move students from their alternate team to fill spaces on competing teams (maximum of 15 students) if shifting is required on competition day.
  - c. A school may petition to the program coordinator if they would like to have a fourth participating team.
  - d. The NH ENVIROTHON Coordinator *may* authorize four member teams to participate in the NH ENVIROTHON, but those teams will not be eligible to compete in the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon International Competition.

#### **Opportunities for the Alternates at the Competition:**

- 1) Alternate team members who are not needed by their own school/group to complete competitive team(s) at the competition will compete as an alternate team that represents their school.
- 2) Alternate teams will participate in the tests but, due to time constraints at field stations, they *may* not be graded until after the competition.
- 3) Alternate teams are encouraged to present their solution to the Current Issue Environmental Challenge, but if they wish not to, coach advisors must inform the coordinator *no later than 2 weeks prior* to the competition.

- 4) If there are insufficient judging panels to allow them to make presentations, alternate teams will be chosen to present based on the order that they registered i.e., those who registered first will be selected first.

#### Registration and expenses:

- 1) In order for a team to participate in the NH ENVIROTHON, the [competition registration form](#), **fee**, and [team information and tee form](#) must be received by the Coordinator by the deadlines.
  - a. The NHE never wants fees to hold a school back from competing.
    - i. We welcome maximum participation! We understand that new schools may not have budgeted the fees and/or other issues may arise.
    - ii. Please contact the [program coordinator](#) if fees are an issue for your school.
- 2) Proof of [media release permission](#) must also be sent in by the deadline.
- 3) NH ENVIROTHON *may* refuse to accept teams who register late.
- 4) Transportation, meals and other expenses to and from NH ENVIROTHON events will be the responsibility of each school/group.

#### Advisors:

- 1) Each school/group will have **at least** one advisor.
  - a. Advisors can be teachers or other adults approved by the school/group.
  - b. The same advisor **may** serve all teams from one school/group.
- 2) An advisor or school-designated adult chaperone must accompany teams to NH ENVIROTHON events and will be responsible for the safety, well-being, behavior, and proper conduct of their students.
- 3) Advisors must accompany their teams to the Competition and may accompany teams to stations, however they **must stand back from all test components** and avoid distractions.
  - a. Photographs of their students are allowed.
  - b. Advisors may **not** view or photograph any part of the test. This includes organisms to ID, tools, models, etc.
  - c. Advisors may not have contact or communication with their team about the competition until the competition day is complete.
  - d. Taking videos at field stations is not allowed.
  - e. Lunch may be eaten with students, but no parts of the test may be discussed until the day is complete.
  - f. **Violation of these rules may disqualify a team.**
- 4) Advisors who have concerns with rule violations should express their concerns with the program coordinator.

#### Behavior:

- 1) Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with typical high school rules (i.e., no tobacco, alcohol or any other controlled substances are permitted or used).
- 2) Students are expected to be honest, law abiding, and courteous, and to respect the rights and property of others.
- 3) **Students must not use cell phones or other personal electronic gear/devices during the testing unless it is a requirement of the station.**
- 4) Students may not carry or use any reference materials that are not provided at and by test station leaders.

- 5) Students may not discuss any part of the test between teams or advisors until the competition day is complete.
- 6) Each team that has paid the full registration fee will receive five T-shirts which **must** be worn during the Competition.
  - a. **School identifying clothing/gear is not allowed at the stations, nor in slideshows/presentations.**
  - b. Coaches will also receive tee shirts.
- 7) Team members, advisors, cooperators, volunteers, and participants may be asked to complete program evaluations at the end of the competition to help NH ENVIROTHON improve the program.
- 8) Allowing people to observe and/or videotape at the oral presentations will be at the discretion of the NH ENVIROTHON Coordinator and the panel of judges and may be terminated if it causes distractions.
- 9) Videotaping or recording at the field stations is not allowed. However, it may be done on training days.

**Awards:**

- Top team in each subject area
- Top 3 teams overall

*If the competition is virtual, a different set of rules may be distributed to participating schools as needed.*