History of Envirothon

The NCF-Envirothon is North America's largest environmental competition for high school students. The program began in Pennsylvania in 1979, and since then, hundreds of thousands of students have participated in Envirothon across the United States, China, Canada, Singapore, and now the Virgin Islands.

Iowa hosted its first Envirothon competition in the 1995-1996 school year and continues to challenge students statewide to hone critical thinking skills and create inventive solutions to the complex local natural resource issues facing Iowans today.

30+
Years of Iowa Envirothon

3,400+
Participating students since 2014

93
Participating schools since 2014



Organizers

The Iowa Envirothon is proudly presented and organized by the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI).

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OF IOWA

Partners

The Iowa Envirothon is made possible through the support of these agencies and organizations:

- Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC)
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
- Polk County Conservation - Jester Park Nature Center



2026 Iowa Envirothon Volunteers

Contact Us

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IOWA ENVIROTHON

Forestry and Prairie
Aquatic Ecology
Wildlife
Soils and Land Use
Current Environmental Issues

What is the Iowa Envirothon?

The Iowa Envirothon is an environmental and natural resource conservation problem-solving, team-building, and leadership experience and competition for 9th-12th grade students.



Goals of the Iowa Envirothon:

- Increase students' knowledge and awareness of the interrelationship of our natural resources.
- Promote environmental awareness and stewardship.
- Develop students' critical thinking, cooperative problem-solving, and decision-making skills.
- Provide awareness of and access to resource organizations that offer assistance with environmental issues.

How Does It Work?

The Iowa Envirothon is a regional online testing event followed by an in-person state competition. Participating teams spend the year studying and are tested on their knowledge in these four subject areas:

- Forestry and Prairie
- Aquatic Ecology
- Wildlife
- Soils and Land Use

The top 15 scoring teams from the online regional testing event will qualify for the in-person state competition, which includes hands-on activities using environmental science and conservation equipment. These teams will also prepare an oral presentation and take an additional exam on the year's current environmental topic. The NCF Envirothon develops the current environmental topic each year. The state winner represents Iowa at the International NCF Envirothon competition.

Who can participate?

Teams must have five members, and students must be enrolled in grades 9-12 during the school year before the international NCF Envirothon competition.

Common school clubs and organizations involved with the Iowa Envirothon:

- School agriculture or science clubs
- Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- Talented and Gifted Program (TAG)
- 4-H
- Homeschool groups

Why Get Involved?

The Iowa Envirothon gives Iowa high school students a unique opportunity to engage with their classmates, community, and local environment. Through this program, participants will apply STEM principles, hands-on learning, and outdoor field techniques while exploring local environmental issues facing Iowans today.

The skills students learn through the Iowa Envirothon prepare them not only for success in future academic and workplace endeavors, but also to become lifelong environmental stewards.

Want to learn more?

Visit the **Conservation Districts of Iowa** webpage for registration, study resources, and more details on the Iowa Envirothon!

