



MASSACHUSETTS ENVIROTHON

Quick Facts for 2012 Coaches & Teams

For more information, visit <http://www.maenvirothon.org>

The Main Event. The 2012 competition will be held all day on Thursday, May 17 at Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge, Massachusetts. Some key details:

- At registration on the day of the event, teams are assigned to a schedule for the morning that takes them through five 30 minute sessions: four ecostations and a Current Issue presentation.
- At each ecostation they take a short answer/multiple choice test of skills and knowledge related to forest, soil, wildlife, and water resources. Tests include use of provided resource materials and assessment of conditions at the site.
- At the Current Issue station they make a 15 minute presentation of their findings and recommendations to a panel of judges, then answer judges questions for 10 minutes. Teams are scored on their knowledge, recommendations, and presentation skills. Copies of the score sheets and scoring criteria used by the judges are included in the spring mailing.
- The competition begins on time. Late teams are allowed to enter the competition as they arrive, but cannot make up lost time.
- Coaches are allowed to observe their team's Current Issue presentation but do not accompany their teams to the ecostations. There is a separate program for coaches.
- At lunchtime, teams are invited to share their community research and other experiences at Roundtable session, and to revisit the ecostations to check their answers and meet the natural resource experts behind the questions.
- The day concludes with an awards program that announces the teams that have met the criteria for the Community Awards, the top scoring teams by category, and the overall top scoring teams.

2012 Current Issue: Sustainable Stormwater Management. Teams investigate this issue as it occurs in their own community and watershed, identify the critical issues and potential solutions, and develop a presentation of their findings and recommendations.

Rules. All team members and coaches must agree to abide by the Massachusetts Envirothon Rules, which are posted on the web site.

Competition Scoring and Awards. 400 points are possible in the competition. Each ecostation test is worth 75 points. The presentation is worth 100 points, with a team's score derived by averaging the judges' individual scores. Mass Envirothon awards prizes for the first, second, and third place winners overall and the top scoring team at each ecostation and the Current Issue. In addition, the top five scoring teams at each station and the top ten teams overall are acknowledged at the awards ceremony.

Canon Envirothon. The overall first place team has the opportunity to represent Massachusetts at the 2012 Canon Envirothon. The 2012 Canon Envirothon will be held July 22 - July 27 at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.

Community Research & Community Action Awards. These awards are optional and noncompetitive. They recognize teams that have met a high standard in their community research and have taken what they learned and applied it in service to their community.

Workshops: Mass Envirothon organizes several full day workshops through the year. All workshops are free for registered teams, unregistered students and coaches may participate for \$10 each. Mass Envirothon does not limit the number of participants from any school at any workshop, but we ask for an adult-to-youth ratio of at least 1:10 for participating groups.

- Friday, September 30 at John Augustus Hall, West Boylston. Orientation workshop for new and experienced coaches. Includes an introduction to the Current Issue. This workshop is FREE.
- Friday, October 28 at UMass Amherst. This event includes workshops on all Envirothon topics but has a special focus on the Current Issue. Open to all prospective coaches and teams.
- Early February. Date and location to be announced. Open to registered coaches and teams. This event includes workshops on all ecostation topics.
- Saturday, March 31 at Wheaton College in Norton. Open to registered coaches and teams. This workshop includes sessions with information on the Current Issue and how to prepare, plus workshops on all ecostation topics and a session to gather coach advice and feedback.

Resource Materials. All registered teams receive

- Mass Envirothon Manual. This resource in cd format includes background and test prep information for teams relating to soil, forest, wildlife, and water resources.
- Maps. Teams are provided with maps of their town for use in their community research and their presentations.
- Current Issue Guides. Useful links and a guide to getting started in their community research. This information is also posted on the web site.

Spring Mailing. In early March, Mass Envirothon posts on the website and sends out to all registered teams:

- The final schedule for the May competition, and directions to the event site
- Team Registration Form (must be completed - except for signatures - and returned by April 30)
- Frequently Asked Questions about the Envirothon (including what to wear and bring)
- Final Current Issue information, including
 - The Current Issue Problem (including final guidelines and suggestions for presentations)
 - Current Issue Scoring Sheet
 - Judging Guidelines for the Current Issue
- Items to bring with you to Envirothon Registration at the May competition.

Roundtables. At lunchtime on the day of the Envirothon, teams are invited to host informal roundtables where they share their Current Issue experiences with other teams. All teams, but especially those earning Community Awards, are encouraged to participate.

Scholarship. The 2012 Mass Envirothon/UMass Amherst College of Natural Sciences Scholarship is awarded to one student who has been involved with the Mass Envirothon and will be attending UMass Amherst with an intent to major in the natural sciences. A simple application is due at the Mass Envirothon Westford office in late April. Contact Envirothon for details.

Registration (a three step process)

- Intent to Compete. In order to participate in the 2012 Mass Envirothon, teams must submit their \$200 registration fee and an Intent to Compete form by Tuesday, January 31, 2012.
- Team Registration Form. This form lists the names of the team members who will be competing, plus the name of an alternate. It must be submitted by Monday, April 30.
- Day of Competition: Thursday, May 17, 2012.

Sponsors. The Massachusetts Envirothon is planned each year by the Massachusetts Envirothon Steering Committee, a subcommittee of the Massachusetts State Commission for the Conservation of Soil, Water, and Related Resources. Members of the Steering Committee represent a variety of federal and state agencies and nongovernmental organizations. More than 90% of the Mass Envirothon “budget” comes from partnerships, volunteerism, and contributed resources. Only a small (though critical) 10% comes from cash donations and grants. The program relies on the support and good will and participation of a variety of local, state, and federal agencies, educational institutions, businesses, non-profit organizations, and individual volunteers.