

Roundtables

Lunchtime at the Massachusetts Envirothon

The testing is over. The awards ceremony won't begin for a while. It's a good time to unwind, meet new friends from all over the state, and share YOUR connections with your community and the environment . . .

- * your current issue research findings
- * a project you are planning or doing in your community
- * places that matter in your neighborhood
- * a question or concern about the environment

. . . in a creative way. You might:

- * spread out your maps, photos, and other presentation visuals for others to see
- * give others an **experience** of your project as well as a description
- * share a **burning question** or point of view, then listen to others' perspectives
- * bring an object that expresses a key idea to start the conversation
- * bring a sensory sample of your "place" - sights, sounds, smells, tastes, or touches

ROUNDTABLES are freewheeling small group discussions around a place, a question, or an idea of **your choice**.

EVERY TEAM is invited to plan a roundtable for lunchtime at the Envirothon. **Presenting a roundtable is especially important for Community Awards teams.** It's as easy as bringing your Current Issue presentation materials - and your questions. You will be amazed at all the ideas and places that will be represented!

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED to share something about the places that matter to you as well as your projects or plans. You can use objects, experiences, and activities - as well as words - to start the conversation.

Here's how it works:

The space is full of tables, one for each team that wants to offer a roundtable. At each table, two or three "home team" members share their team's roundtable topic - place, project, activity, or question - with three or four "visitors"

The place buzzes with ideas, opinions, and concerns as each home team presents their project, place, or questions and visitors offer their own questions and views.

Every 5-10 minutes (or whenever you are ready), visitors leave one table, move on to another, and the process begins again. Team members take turns sitting at the home table and visiting other tables.

EVERYONE at the Envirothon - teams, alternates, judges, coaches, volunteers - is welcome to visit the roundtables!

To prepare for your roundtable, you might:

SIMPLY BRING your Current Issue presentation materials (maps, photos, documents, notes) and be prepared to share what you discovered about your community, including the questions you still have.

PLAN a fun, powerful way to introduce your community and any projects you are doing there.

CONSIDER: What questions or experiences will you use to get people thinking and talking? You might use maps, pictures, objects, poetry, even sounds on tape.

CREATE a simple, one-page handout to go with your roundtable, something people can remember you by. Include a way for others to get in touch with you.