



Competition Rules & Policies

(Updated 2/24/2016)

Competition Rules

1. Only students enrolled in grades 6 through 12 (or equivalent home school ranking) are eligible to compete in the Georgia Envirothon. Only students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 (or equivalent home school ranking) are eligible to participate in the NCF Envirothon.
2. Each team must consist of at least 4 but no more than 6 members from the same school, organization, or association. If your team wins the right to advance to the state competition, at least four members of the regional competition team must participate at the state competition. If your team is unable to advance to the state competition with four original members, your team will lose its right to advance and the next highest scoring team will receive the right to advance. If your team wins the right to advance to the national competition, at least four members of the state competition team must participate at the national competition. If your team is unable to advance to the national competition with four original members, your team will lose its right to advance and the next highest scoring team will receive the right to advance.
3. There is no limit on the number of teams any school, organization, or association may bring to their respective regional competition. However, only two teams from the same school, organization, or association may advance on to the state competition. The Georgia Envirothon reserves the right to raise or limit the number of teams that can participate at regional and state competitions should any unforeseen circumstances arise related to space or fairness etc.
4. Each team must be accompanied by a team advisor and/or public agency or conservation district representative. Advisors must stay with their team(s) or in the main event area during the competition and are responsible for the conduct of their team throughout the competition. It is the responsibility of the school or organization to provide proper chaperones for the team. The Georgia Envirothon assumes no responsibility for improperly chaperoned teams.
5. All teams and advisors must remain at the competition site for the entire length of the competition.
6. Tobacco, drugs, and all alcohol are PROHIBITED and may not be brought on the premises of the competition host sight.
7. No electronic devices, including cell phones, cameras, etc., may be used during the competition by any competitor unless the team's advisor receives written permission from the Envirothon Council.
8. Transportation and meals en route to and from the regional and state Envirothon site will be the

responsibility of each participating team.

9. Registration

- a. A preregistration form and a non-refundable fee shall be submitted to the Georgia Envirothon by the required date.
- b. A registration form listing the names of team members and advisors must be submitted by the required date.

10. Study Materials

- a. The participating resource agencies will compile a study packet to prepare for the Envirothon Competition. The same packet will serve as the resource packet for both the regional and state competition.
- b. These study packets will be posted online.
- c. Resource materials are prohibited at the competition host site including problem-solving exercises and recreational/social activities unless provided by the testing proctor. Any materials brought to the competition host site must be locked in the team vehicle prior to the beginning of the competition and must remain locked up during the competition and any event associated with the competition. Students are not allowed to be in the vehicles at any time during the competition or during any event associated with the competition.

11. Competition Format

- a. The five (5) station testing will be conducted by cooperating agencies.
- b. Each of the five (5) station tests will be 45 minutes in length with the exception of the current environmental test at the state competition only.
- c. All testing at the regional competition will be written.
- d. The current environmental section at the state competition will consist of an oral presentation of 10-15 minutes with approximately 5 minutes for questions by the panel of judges. All team members must participate equally in the presentation. Advisors may sit in the rear of the room to observe their team's presentation.
- e. In the event that two or more teams from the same school are in the competition, no exchange of information concerning the competition is permitted at any time during the competition.
- f. Interchange between an advisor and their team is strictly prohibited.

12. Team members must wear the official Georgia Envirothon T-shirt throughout the regional and state competition. Georgia Envirothon T-shirts will be available at the state competition for team members that do not have their T-shirt at a cost of \$10.00 per shirt. Any team that does not have each member wearing a T-shirt during the competition will be unable to compete.

13. Judges/proctors decisions are final on all events.

14. Scoring for the regional and state Georgia Envirothon competitions will be as follows:

- a. Final team placement will be a cumulative total of the 5 station test scores.
- b. The top 4 scoring teams from the regional competition will advance to the state competition. In the event there are less than 4 teams at a regional competition, the top scoring 75 percent of teams will advance. One alternate team from each region will be named to advance to the state competition should one of the top 4 scoring teams be unable to attend the state competition.
- c. In the event that two teams are tied at a station, station leaders will be prepared with 5 to 10 short answer questions to be asked orally to each team. The team will have one

minute to write down their answer and the first team to answer incorrectly will lose the tiebreaker.

- d. In the event of an overall tie score, the current environmental station will be used as a tiebreaker at all competitions followed by aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife.

15. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the competition coordinator prior to the end of the competition.

16. Any areas not specifically covered by these rules will be subject to the rules of the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon (North American Envirothon).

Georgia Envirothon Policies

The Georgia Envirothon competitions will be conducted under the following Program Policies:

The Georgia Envirothon is offered and operated on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, natural origin, sex, age, marital status or physical/mental challenges. All teams and participants will be treated with the utmost respect and fairness.

1. Team Members and advisors must sign a Georgia Envirothon "Code of Conduct."
2. Meals
 - a. Regional competition: Lunch will be provided at the regional competition by the host for up to six (6) registered member student teams and up to two (2) adult advisors per team. Additional guests (adults, students, minors) may purchase meals at a rate established by the Georgia Envirothon.
 - b. State competition: Meals will be provided at the state competition by the Georgia Envirothon for up to six (6) registered member student teams and up to two (2) adult advisors per team. Additional guests (adults, students, minors) may purchase meals at a rate established by the Georgia Envirothon.
3. Registration and a non-refundable fee which are established by the Georgia Envirothon Council for the regional competition shall be submitted to the Georgia Envirothon and postmarked by December for early- bird and by January 15 for late registration. Fees will be utilized to offset a portion of the competition cost. Registration for the state competition shall be submitted to the Georgia Envirothon by the date determined by the Georgia Envirothon Council.
4. At the regional and state competitions, advisors may accompany their teams to the testing stations but may not interact with their teams during the testing period, nor take photos of tests or testing materials.
5. At both the region and state competitions, advisors will have the opportunity to review a blank version of the test and ask any questions they may have. This will be done after the competition and under the supervision of the station coordinator.
6. Awards:
 - a. Regional:
 - I. Trophies appropriate for display at school for top 3 teams.
 - II. Trophies appropriate for display at school for top team in each test station (Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, Water, and Current Environmental).

b. State

- I. Trophies appropriate for display at school for top 3 teams.
- II. An individual trophy for each member of the State Competition winning team.
- III. Trophies appropriate for display at school for top team in each test station (Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, Water, and Current Environmental).

7. National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon (North American)

The Georgia Envirothon will pay the state competition winning team's registration for the NCF Envirothon in addition to providing a maximum travel reimbursement for 5 team members and 2 advisors, as determined annually by the Envirothon Council. You may take other chaperones as needed but the Georgia Envirothon is not responsible for their travel, lodging, or meal expenses. The team registration covers housing and meals for registered five (5) member student teams and up to two (2) adult advisors per team. Additional guests (adults, students, minors) may purchase meals and housing (if available) at a rate established by the NCF Envirothon competition host.

Any lodging or meals beyond those covered by the team registration are the sole responsibility of the state competition winning team. The state competition winning team advisor will need to contact the host committee concerning any needs for additional lodging/meals. Some state competition winning teams choose to drive, depending on the location of the NCF Envirothon, while others fly. The Georgia Envirothon Council has no preference but asks that the state competition winning team travel by the most economical means.

The Georgia Envirothon Council will reimburse the state competition winning team for roundtrip travel between a major airport and the competition site if you fly, and from the car rental location to competition site, if you drive. We will not pay for travel to a major airport or airport parking. You are responsible for making all travel arrangements for your team and chaperones. Approved travel expenses will be reimbursed upon receipt of travel expenses receipts.

8. Any infraction of the Georgia Envirothon Rules & Policies will result in disqualification and dismissal from the event.
9. Georgia Envirothon Rules & Policies are subject to change pending approval as set forth in the Georgia Envirothon Bylaws. Changes will be provided in advance to all teams and advisors.

State Competition Current Topic Rules

1. At the state competition, teams are required to develop and present an oral solution to a current topic scenario, rather than taking a test. Registered teams will be notified by email when the presentation scenario has been posted to the Georgia Envirothon website, but it is the team's responsibility to download the presentation scenario as well as these Presentation Rules and Judges' Scoring Rubric.
2. Teams are to arrive with their presentation prepared and visual aids completed. Teams may use any type of non-electronic or electronic audio/visual media ("AV") to assist with their presentation. However, content and delivery of the presentation will be emphasized over the visual aid component. Teams should reference the judges' scoring rubric when preparing.
 - a. If electronic media are used, teams must bring their own laptop computer or other media playback device.

- i. Teams should bring any needed AV adapters for use with the below provided equipment.
 - ii. Wi-Fi or Internet connection will not be provided. If you want, you'll need to bring it.
 - b. The following equipment will be provided on-site if a team chooses to use them:
 - i. A video projector with VGA cable and a projection screen.
 - ii. A pair of audio speakers with standard 3.5" stereo male output plug
 - iii. Two easels
 - iv. One podium
 - c. Setup time will be limited to 5 minutes, beginning at a team's designated start time; any remaining time needed will be deducted from the allotted presentation time. Teams are encouraged to test any AV setup requirements during the pre-specified time window prior to the presentation part of the competition.
 - d. Teams should have backup visual aid plans if electronic visual aids do not work (unfortunately, this does occur in the real world . . . Murphy's Law!). Teams should be prepared to deliver the content of their presentation with any contingency in mind.
3. All team members must participate equally in the oral presentation.
4. The current topic presentation will be held on the Friday of the State competition. Each team's timeslot will be 22 minutes total, with 5 minutes for visual aid setup, 12 minutes for presentation delivery, and a 5-minute Q & A session with the judges. Teams will get a warning at the 3-minute and 1-minute remaining mark. Teams will be stopped at the 12-minute mark. After a team leaves, judges will have 8 minutes between presentations to complete the scoring and comments rubric.
5. Advisors may be in the room to observe the presentation.
6. Teams may use the Internet while preparing their presentations. Use reputable sites that provide reliable information and can be cited during the presentation.
7. Each team receives a score that represents the average of the individual judges' score and is based on the overall quality of their presentation, their preparation and presentation of a plan, and their application of relevant data to the resource issue/problem. A copy of the scoring rubric can be found at www.georgiaenvirothon.org.
8. Any team found to be in violation of these rules is subject to disqualification.