

# **Southern Oregon Regional Envirothon**

**Student & Advisor Guide  
2023**



## **Table of Contents**

Introduction	<b>3</b>
Mission and Goals	<b>4</b>
Competition Details	<b>6</b>
Rules	<b>7</b>
Study Concepts	<b>8</b>
Resources	<b>9</b>
Team Registration	<b>11</b>
Southern Oregon Regional Envirothon Parent/Guardian Release of Liability Form	<b>12</b>
State Competition	<b>14</b>
Event Contacts	<b>15</b>

## Introduction

The Southern Oregon Regional Envirothon (SORE) is a one-day, hands-on environmental competition for regional high school students that takes place each April. SORE tests students' content knowledge and skills in aquatic ecology, forest ecology, soils and land use, wildlife ecology, and a current issue of the year. Teams are put together by local teachers or other advisors.

SORE is closely modeled after the [Oregon Envirothon Competition](#). Envirothons are also put on across states and provinces in the USA, Canada, and China, culminating in an annual international [NCF-Envirothon Competition](#).

The inaugural SORE was launched by Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District, Crater Renaissance Academy, Logos Public Charter School, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, Grayback Forestry, the Bureau of Land Management, and Rogue River Watershed Council. SORE was created to help increase Southern Oregon youth's access to and engagement with the important content the Oregon Envirothon competition covers. SORE is currently coordinated by Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District and a planning committee comprised of local teachers and natural resource professionals.

### ***Benefits to Advisors***

- ✓ *Excellent opportunity to build on to or support already in-place NGSS, NAAEE, and Common Core curriculum in the classroom with hands-on, real world experiences*
- ✓ *Continued education to improve confidence with natural resources curricula*
- ✓ *Technical support from local natural resources professionals*
- ✓ *Networking opportunities with other teachers, districts, and other advisors involved with regional competition*

### ***Benefits to Students***

- ✓ *Opportunity to connect with local natural resource professionals*
- ✓ *College course preparation and career skill development*
- ✓ *Meet other local students with similar interests*
- ✓ *Learn about current natural resources concerns*
- ✓ *Improve critical thinking and problem-solving skills*
- ✓ *Improve teamwork abilities*
- ✓ *Preparation for state and/or NCF-Envirothon competitions*

# Mission and Goals

## *Mission*

SORE was created to help increase local youth's natural resources knowledge and skills and desire to actively engage in environmental problem-solving and natural resource management to balance environmental and human needs.

SORE's mission is accomplished by helping youth develop an understanding of the principles and practices of natural resources management and ecology through dealing with complex natural resource management content, skills, and problem-solving. We hope that students involved with this challenging exploration of our region and state's natural resources will work to share their new-found knowledge and skills with their communities through effective communication, real-world applications, and critical thinking using a collaborative approach.

## *Goals*

1. Equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to apply the basic principles and practices of natural resources management and ecology to complex environmental issues in and outside of Southern Oregon.
  - a. Acquire a knowledge of key concepts in natural resource management and ecology in the areas of aquatic ecology, forest ecology, soils and land use, wildlife ecology, and the annual current issue topic.
  - b. Have an awareness of and sensitivity to the region's unique natural resources, while being able to also apply concepts to larger scales, e.g. state, country.
2. Promote the development of independent and collaborative critical thinking and problem-solving.
  - a. Learn to work independently and collaboratively to develop proposed solutions to environmental problems.
  - b. Investigate and synthesize issues using primary and secondary sources.
  - c. Use a range of resources and technologies in addressing questions, and critically examine information from a variety of sources.
  - d. Evaluate the long- and short-term implications of possible solutions to environmental problems.
3. Encourage a balance between human quality of life and quality of environment.

4. Encourage students to be actively engaged in environmental problem-solving.
  - a. Evaluate how their own actions affect a particular environmental problem and devise alternative actions to work toward improving environmental conditions.
5. Help students understand the current legal and policy structures in place to address environmental issues.
  - a. Understand the various agencies and organizations that work on environmental issues.
  - b. Learn the differences between federal, state, local, and non-profit environmental agencies and organizations.
6. Recognize the coupling of social and environmental issues and examine the social implications of environmental issues, including potential methods of addressing them.
  - a. Examine the various interests involved in an environmental issue.
  - b. Evaluate varying perspectives on environmental issues and examine differences across perspectives.
7. Provide students with knowledge of natural resource careers.
  - a. Be exposed to a variety of natural resource careers.
  - b. Have opportunities to connect with local natural resources professionals throughout Southern Oregon.

## Competition Details

### *Date and Location of Contest*

SORE 2023 will take place on Monday April 3rd, 2023. Please hold a full day for the competition; exact time window for competition to be confirmed in early March.

SORE takes place at Crater Land Lab: 5040 Upton Road, Central Point, OR 97502.

### *Structure of Contest*

SORE's structure is modeled after Oregon Envirothon. There are five testing stations (one on each of the five topic areas) and a break station, each lasting 25 minutes. There is a five minute rotation period between each station.

Testing will take place in the morning followed by a complimentary lunch and an awards ceremony.

SORE does not include the oral presentation as part of the scored portion of the competition. However, teams going up to Oregon Envirothon have the option of practicing their oral presentation at SORE to receive feedback in advance of submitting their presentation to state. Teams not going to state, or not completing the oral presentation at state, are welcome to stay and watch.

SORE does require advance preparation on the five topic areas. We suggest beginning studying at least three months in advance. See the study concepts and resources sections for information to help with preparation.

### *Transportation*

Teams are responsible for providing their own transportation to the competition.

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute, which helps fund and coordinate the Oregon Envirothon, may be able to [reimburse bus transportation costs](#).

Please contact the event coordinator with any questions.

## Rules

1. Team members must be enrolled in grades 9-12 (home, private, or public school).
2. Each team must have a maximum of six members and a minimum of four.
3. Adjusting team members will not be allowed after the registration of the team (barring extenuating circumstances).
4. Teachers, team advisors, or chaperones must accompany their teams to the competition but may not assist their teams in any way once the competition is underway. Team advisors must stay on-site during the event.
5. Test scorers' decisions are final on all tests.
6. Scoring for SORE will be based on:
  - a. The combined score of each of the five tests, worth 25 points each, for a total of 125 points.
  - b. The winning team will be the team with the highest cumulative score from the five test subjects. The tie breaker, if needed, will be the team with the highest score on the current issue test.
7. Teams are not allowed to bring notes, field guides, or any other resource materials to the testing stations. Any necessary materials will be provided by SORE. **Use of personal electronic devices is not allowed at the testing stations.**
8. Team members will work together to complete the stations and submit one test before moving on to the next station.
9. No tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or intoxicants of any kind are allowed on-site per Oregon law.
10. All team advisors must complete a registration form for each of their teams by March 1, 2023.
11. Each team member must submit a complete liability and media release form to the event coordinator by the start of the event on 4/3/2023.
12. Rules and regulations of SORE are subject to change. Any and all relevant changes will be explained to all teams and advisors.

## Study Concepts

SORE will base test content off of the key points of the Oregon Envirothon. Some test content may focus on Southern Oregon, but will not require students to have knowledge not asked for on the following key points sheets.

Find the key points for each of the 5 topic areas below.

Aquatic Ecology:

[Key Points](#)

Forest Ecology:

[Key points](#)

Soils and Land Use:

[Key Points](#)

Wildlife Ecology:

[Key Points](#)

Current Issue:

[Key Points](#)



## Resources

### ***Training Totes***

We have six training totes available for loan on a first-come, first-served basis for local teams. The totes include relevant field guides, specimens (pelts and skulls for identification practice), water quality testing kits, and forestry equipment (e.g., clinometer, DBH tape, biltmore stick) to assist your team in preparing for SORE and/or state Envirothon. *If you lose supplies, you will be asked to cover the cost for their replacement.*

Please contact the event coordinator if you want to check out a training tote and/or for a complete list of the contents. Priority for check out will be given to teams planning to participate in SORE.

Totes are due back by Friday, March 24th at the latest.

### ***Online Resources***

In addition to the key points sheets, the state Envirothon has a variety of online resources to help with studying for each of the four regular topics (aquatic ecology, forest ecology, soils and land use, wildlife ecology) including past tests. Visit the individual topic pages [here](#).

For the current issue test, resources are listed on the last two pages of the [key points handout](#). There are also recordings from the 2023 Oregon Envirothon training featuring Oregon experts talking about different facets of the impacts of and adapting to climate change in Oregon on the [Oregon Envirothon YouTube page](#) (see 2023 oral presentation and current issue playlists).

### ***Local Natural Resource Professional Training Support***

We have also reached out to local natural resource professionals to ask them to lend their time and expertise to help support local teams' training. Professionals were given the key point handouts and asked to select some of the topics to provide a 45-minute to 1-hour presentation or hands-on training. Visit this [Google sheet](#) to review the topics and format training is available in (recorded, in-person, Zoom). Reach out directly to individuals to confirm availability and coordinate a training time; individuals may not have the capacity to provide the training at all times or to all teams.

### ***Rainfall Simulator***

There is also a rainfall simulator available for check out. The simulator helps demonstrate differences in infiltration and runoff across different soil management regimes, e.g. paved, tilled, cover crop (two soil samples).

Watch [this video](#) to see a rainfall simulator demonstration in action.

Please contact the event coordinator if you would like to check out the simulator or for more information.

## **Team Registration**

Team advisers must complete a registration form for each of their teams by March 1, 2023. Once available, the event coordinator will add the [registration link to this document](#) and email out a link to access registration to all interested advisors. Please contact the event coordinator if you need assistance with registration.

Additionally, each team member must have a complete release of liability form and media release form (see next page). Team members will not be allowed to compete if these forms have not been submitted to the event coordinator at or before the team's arrival to the competition on April 3, 2023.

# Southern Oregon Regional Envirothon Parent/Guardian Release of Liability Form

School/Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## **MEDICAL INFORMATION**

Allergies: (food, drugs, bees, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Special Medical Concerns or Conditions: (epilepsy, asthma, diabetes, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Medications: (dose & frequency) \_\_\_\_\_

Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Release:** I understand that this Southern Oregon Regional Envirothon (SORE) event is an active, outdoor event that carries inherent risks. As a voluntary participant, by signing below I agree as follows:

- I am responsible for ensuring that I and my child/children comply with all rules and policies of SORE and with all appropriate instructions of event personnel.
- I assume all liability for any and all personal injury, illness or property damage that occurs to myself and my minor child/children as a result of participation in the event.
- I will hold harmless and indemnify SORE staff, volunteers, presenters, contractors, and landowners associated with this event from any and all claims, damages, losses and/or expenses arising out of my/our participation.
- I will assume all financial obligations incurred for medical expenses incurred by myself or my child/children as a result of or incident to participation in this event. In the event of emergency, injury, or illness of my child in my absence, I understand every reasonable effort will be made to contact me. If my consent cannot be obtained promptly, I give permission for the following on behalf of my child/children:
  - Event staff may provide necessary emergency treatment until EMS personnel arrive and may coordinate further medical treatment as needed.

- Medical personnel may provide or coordinate medical treatment as needed, including but not limited to x-rays and routine tests; hospitalization; anesthesia; emergency surgery; and necessary related transportation; and obtaining or releasing any necessary records relating to such treatment.
- I hereby release SORE, its sponsors, affiliates, employees, agents, and representatives thereof, from liability in the event that my I or my child tests positive for any transmissible disease, including but not limited to COVID-19, as a result of participation in the event. I understand that masks are required to be properly worn for the entirety of the event. I understand that all reasonable effort will be made to reduce transmission and provide appropriate sanitation measures, but protection from transmissible diseases cannot be guaranteed. I further understand that event staff may prohibit or excuse me or my child/children from participation if any of us exhibit symptoms of, or tests positive for, any transmissible disease.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Media Release:** By signing below you consent to allow photos of your student taken during the event to be used in future SORE marketing (flyers, presentations, etc.) and shared with SORE event partners including the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Rogue River Watershed Council, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District, and participating schools/teams via social media, annual reports, website, and/or newsletters.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

## **State Competition**

Oregon Envirothon takes place on the first Friday of May each year. The Oregon Envirothon covers teams' travel costs to attend the competition. Teams must pay the \$50 registration fee and register in advance of the competition (typically by early April). Visit the [Oregon Envirothon website](#) to learn more.

## Event Contacts

*Hannah Satein, Event Coordinator, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District*

Phone: 541-423-6182

Email: hannah.satein@jswcd.org

*Haven Combs, Planning Committee Member & Team Advisor, Crater Renaissance Academy*

Email: haven.combs@district6.org

*Anna Warntjes, Planning Committee Member & Team Advisor Crater Renaissance Academy*

Email: anna.warntjes@district6.org

*Caroline Burdick, Planning Committee Member & Team Advisor, Crater Renaissance Academy*

Email: caroline.burdick@district6.org

*Christopher Van Ness, Planning Committee Member & Team Advisor, Logos Public Charter School*

Email: cvanness@logoscharter.com

*Tara Laidlaw, Planning Committee Member, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy*

Email: tara@landconserve.org

*Jake Adams, Planning Committee Member*

Email: jakeradams.ja@gmail.com

*Michaela Fishback, Planning Committee Member*

Email: michaelafishback@gmail.com

*Taneea Browning, Planning Committee Member, Direct Involvement Recreation Teaching (DIRT)*

Email: taneea@mydirtpark.org