MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
Education and Envirothon Committee

Dale Finseth - MACD Education Program Coordinator
Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District
2305 N. Belfast Ave.
Augusta, Me 04330

January 2024
Dear Educator/Envirothon Advisor:

We're inviting you and your students to participate in the 2024 Maine Envirothon program. Envirothon is a state and international environmental competition where high school students test their knowledge of natural resources and current environmental issues.

Teams consist of 3-5 students that solve hands-on problems while competing on five topics:

- Wildlife
- Aquatics
- Forestry
- Soils
- Annual natural resource issue (the 2024 topic is **Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future**)

The top finishing regional teams then compete at the state competition. Maine's winning team can travel to the international competition on July 28-August 3, 2024 at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in New York. **Winners of the international Envirothon receive individual college scholarships.**

Envirothon advisors can be teachers, parents, or community members and don't need to be an expert in environmental areas. We offer a field training in March for advisors and students. If you're interested in the program, please contact us for more information.

The deadline for registration is April 5, 2024. You may register using the attached form or online with the Cumberland County SWCD store (www.cumberlandswcd.org/conservation-shop). Once your team is registered, we will send you additional information and a resource packet to guide preparation for the regional Envirothon. We do not provide refunds if a team must cancel.

We're excited to welcome you to the Maine Envirothon program!

Dale Finseth, MACD Education Program Coordinator
207.480.3927
dale@kcswcd.org

MAINE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Many are co-located with USDA – NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICES

Androscoggin Valley
254 Goddard Road - PO Box 1938
Lewiston, ME 04241-1938
Phone: 251-5374;
ProjectDirector@AndroscogginSWCD.org

Central Aroostook
735 Main Street Suite #3
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Phone: 760-4602;
CentralAroostookSWCD@gmail.com

Cumberland County
35 Main Street
Windham, ME 04062
Phone: 892-4700;
Info@Cumberlandswcd.org

Franklin County
107 Park St
Farmington, ME 04938
Phone: 778-4279;
FranklinCSWCD@yahoo.com

Hancock County
474 Bucksport Road
Ellsworth, ME 04605
Phone: 667-8663;
TPiebes@HancockCountySWCD.org

Kennebec County
2305 N. Belfast Ave..
Augusta, ME 04330
Phone: 480-3927
Dale@kcswcd.org

Knox-Lincoln
839 West Street, Suite # 103
Rockport, ME 04856
Phone: 596-2040;
Rebecca@Knox-Lincoln.org or Louisa@knox-lincoln.org

Oxford County
17 Olson Road
South Paris, ME 04281
Phone: 744-3111;
OxfordCountySWCD@outlook.com

Penobscot County
1423 Broadway, Suite 2
Bangor, ME 04401
Phone: 990-3676 x3;
Amy.Polyot@PenobscotSWCD.org

Piscataquis County
42 Engdahl Drive
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
Phone: 564-2321 x3
info@PiscataquisSWCD.org

St John Valley
139 Market St, Suite 106
Ft. Kent, ME 04743
Phone: 834-3311 x3;
SJVSWCD@gmail.com

Somerset County
70 East Madison Road
Skowhegan, ME 04976
Phone: 474-8323;
info@somersetswcd.org

Southern Aroostook
304 North St
Houlton, ME 04730
Phone: 532-9407 or 254-4126
Angela.Wotton@me.nacdnet.net

Waldo County
46 Little River Drive
Belfast, ME 04915
Phone: 218-5311;
aleta.waldosoilandwater@gmail.com or
MSteinman@MaineConservationDistricts.com

Washington County
PO Box 121 -
Machias, ME 04654-0121
Phone: 255-4659;
Nate.Pennell@myfairpoint.net

York County
21 Braden Street Suite 104
Springvale, ME 04083
Phone: 324-0888 x 214
MelissaBrandt@YorkSWCD.org

2024 MAINE ENVIROTHON REGISTRATION

Deadline is April 5, 2024. Competition rules are available at https://maineconservationdistricts.org/rules.

High School/Homeschool Chapter	Advisor
Name:	Name:
Street:	Cell Phone:
Town:	Work Phone (if different):
Zip Code:	Email:

Registration fee: $125 per team (covers the regional competition as well as the state competition if your team is a finalist)
Number of teams registered: _____
Please provide us with your team roster(s) by your regional competition.

Teams can choose their top two regional competition locations. Schools that register close to the deadline may be assigned to their second-choice location if the first location is full. Schools with two or more teams must attend the same regional competition.

Regional Competition Location	Midcoast Region April 25 @ Lake George Park; Skowhegan	Southwest Region May 1 @ French Falls Park; Jay	Northern Region May 21 @Monticello Fish & Game; Monticello	Central/Downeast Region May 22 @Leonard's Mills; Bradley
First Choice				
Second Choice				

The state competition is TBD around the May 31 at Quarry Trails Park in Waterville..

Envirothon Competition Shirts
Each team receives 6 Envirothon short sleeve 100% cotton t-shirts if the registration fee is received by the deadline. Please indicate the total number of each size needed for your team(s). You will receive your T-shirts at your regional event.
_____SMALL _____MEDIUM _____LARGE _____X-LARGE_____XXL

Additional t-shirts for students or advisors are $10 per shirt. _____ Payment enclosed for additional t-shirts.

Mail Registration Form and Check	Pay and Register Online
Please make check payable to **MACD State Envirothon.** Maine State Envirothon Fiscal Manager c/o Dale Finseth, Fiscal Manager KCSWCD – 2305 N. Belfast Ave. Augusta, ME 04330	Visit www.cumberlandswcd.org/conservation-shop/. Select 2024 Maine Envirothon Registration. Please enter one team at a time to the shopping cart to complete the team roster.

Upon payment receipt, we will email a team resource study guide and reference materials.

FINAL DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: April 5, 2024.

For additional information, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District (see attached list).

HIGH SCHOOL NAME_____

# of TEAMS _____

Names of Confirmed Team Members **(if available)**. It is not essential to list all names of your team members on this form. However, if you are sure of the members, fill in this section.

If you will be bringing more than 4 teams, include names on a separate sheet of paper.

Maine Envirothon

TEAM I

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. **Alternate:** _____

TEAM II.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. **Alternate:** _____

TEAM III

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. **Alternate:** _____

TEAM IV.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. **Alternate:** _____

Each team receives up to 6 Envirothon short sleeve t-shirts as part of the registration fee if registration is received by DEADLINE OF April 5, 2024. T-shirts are 100% cotton.

REMEMBER TO HAVE ORDERED YOUR T-SHIRTS IN THE REGISTRATION FORM ABOVE.

GENERAL ENVIROTHON INFORMATION

Forming a Team: A team consists of a minimum of 3 students but no more than 5 students plus an alternate in grades 9-12. Interested students from a class may form teams or they may be members of a club. Team members must live in the same school district. Home school students are welcome too. Every school can send multiple Envirothon teams to regional competitions. The teams must attend the same regional competition. NOTE THAT ANY TEAM GOING ON TO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION MUST HAVE 5 STUDENTS TO DO SO.

Registering a Team: Registration materials are e-mailed to every high school in 2023. The registration fee is $125 **per team.** There are 4 regional competitions from which to choose and all competitions are held in late April, May or early June. Teams can choose whichever regional competition they wish to attend. No more than 20 teams can participate at a regional competition. Therefore, teams who register early can be guaranteed their choice of regional competitions. A team would have to attend their second choice for the regional competitions if they are the 21st team to register for a particular region. Schools with two or more teams must attend the same regional competition.

Once registered, teams receive a Team Resource Pack from which to study. Approximately 4 weeks before the regional competitions, the Soil & Water Conservation District hosting the regional competition will send you an email containing information about the competition and a map showing you how to get to the site. One team will advance to the State Final in a ratio in order to have at least ten teams at States. The target is 1 for every 5 teams competing in that regional competition. The top state team attends the International Envirothon competition.

At the competitions, teams receive t-shirts that were ordered. Additional t-shirts may be ordered/purchased when a team registers. Usually, but not always, lunch is provided at the competitions. Lunch is provided at the state finals, the location of which changes yearly.

Please note there are NO REFUNDS if a school cannot make it once a team has registered, nor can the registration fee be rolled over to the following year, if the team has to cancel.

Testing Time/Stations: At the regional and state competitions, teams are tested for 30 minutes in an outdoor setting at each station (site): soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and a current issue. The current issue changes yearly. Occasionally, the testing time is extended if there are additional teams per station.

Types of Tests: Tests vary from station to station. Most tests include some multiple-choice questions, fill-in-the-blank, short explanations, and problems to solve. Judges try to make each test as site-specific as possible and hands-on activities/skills are included. Testing at the Current Issue station is conducted differently. Once a team registers for a regional competition, the team receives a problem to solve related to the Current Issue. Every team creates a poster(s) in advance which they bring to the regional competition. The poster should contain information about the problem they tried to solve. At the regional event, each team makes **a 5-minute oral presentation** in front of the judges explaining how they solved the problem. Judges may ask the team questions if time permits, not to exceed two minutes. At the **State Final, oral presentations are extended to 7-minutes** with a 2-minute question period by judges. When registered, all teams receive an extensive packet of reference materials for the Current Issue and oftentimes other references recommended by judges.

Reference Materials Used to Study For Tests: Most Soil and Water Conservation Districts have copies of the reference materials that students are asked to study for the competitions. A list of references is included with each study packet. Reference materials include websites, pamphlets, books, brochures, magazine articles, government publications and videos. Most are free or inexpensive.

Regional Workshops: Regional workshops or Fall Field Day events for teams will be during the fall and winter. When you register for the Envirothon, you will be notified of these workshops and training sessions. We plan to offer a Spring Forestry Workshop held in March. If you feel that you or your team need additional help studying for the tests, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District and ask if they know a resource specialist who may be of assistance.

Advisors/Alternates: Each team must have an adult advisor(s). Advisors may be teachers, parents, or members of the community. Advisors assist the teams in preparing for the competitions and make the necessary arrangements regarding registration, transportation, and when/where/and how frequently team members will meet. Advisors help students determine the most desirable way to study for the competitions. Advisors and alternates are not allowed to visit testing stations before their team(s) is tested at that station. At some regional competitions, the host district provides educational activities for the advisors. Each team is allowed to bring one alternate per team. Alternates may stay with their advisors during the testing. Additional individuals are discouraged from accompanying the teams to the competitions. They must ask the host district for permission to attend and may be charged a luncheon fee. At the State Finals, advisors are not allowed to accompany the teams through the competition. Educational programs for advisors may be planned, however. **Student cell phones/pagers WILL BE COLLECTED BY ADVISORS at both regional and State competitions.**

Rules and Regulations: Non-adherence to the rules and regulations may lead to a team's disqualification. For additional information, visit maineconservationdistricts.org/rules or contact Dale Finseth, MACD Education Program Coordinator: 207.480-3927 or email at Dale@kcswcd.org.

At this time we do not expect any Covid-19 impacts, Specific safety procedures will be provided pre-competition.

If selected as the Maine State Envirothon Team: If your team is selected to represent Maine at the international competition, MACD will assist the team with materials and the cost of registering for the competition. However, the winning team will be responsible for arranging and paying for the costs of attending the competition. Recognize that this expense may be substantial given the location of the international competition. MACD continues to work on fundraising to assist the winning team with the costs of attending, however MACD can only commit to the cost of registering the team.

The 2024 International Envirothon competition is scheduled for July, 2024 in Geneva New York.

MAINE ENVIROTHON PROGRAM

Maine Association of Conservation Districts, Education and Envirothon Committee

Dale Finseth, MACD Education Program Coordinator/Contact
Kennebec SWCD
2305 N. Belfast Ave..
Augusta, Me 04330
207-480-3927

2024 ENVIROTHON ▪ HOST CONTACTS ▪ REGIONAL COMPETITIONS ▪ DATES/SITES

Midcoastal Regional: Jennifer Zweig-Hebert Somerset SWCD info@SomersetSWCD.org April 25th @ Lake George [Skowhegan]
Southwestern Regional:Corrie Willard-Franklin SWCD FranklinSWCD@yahoo.com May 1st @ French Falls Park [Jay]
Northern Regional: Angie Wotton- S. Aroostook SWCD Angela.Wotton@me.nacdnet.net May 21st @ Monticello Fish & Game [Monticello]
Downeast/Central Regional: Amy Polyot, Penobscot SWCD; Amy.Polyot@PenobscotSWCD.org May 22nd t @ Leonards Mills, Bradley

STATE FINALS: MACD Envirothon , Dale Finseth 480-3927 Dale@kcswcd.org Currently planned for late May in Augusta/Waterville

RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

For the sake of equity, honesty and fairness to all Envirothon teams, the State Envirothon Committee recommends the following:

1. Advisors and teams should not visit the location of regional or State competition sites within a week prior to the competitions. On the day of the competitions, teams are asked to remain in the reception/registration area until the beginning of the competition.
2. No less than 3 but no more than 5 team members, 1 alternate and 1 or 2 advisors/chaperons should be present at the Envirothon competitions. [If selected to represent Maine at the International competition the team must have 5 members] Other individuals who are interested in attending any of the competitions must obtain prior approval from the host district for regional competitions and the state coordinator for the finals. Fees for meals may be charged for any additional individuals in attendance.
3. Honesty and ethical conduct is expected of all teams. While teams are discussing answers to test questions at the station, care should be taken that other teams do not hear these discussions.

RULES AND REGULATIONS[1]

1. Competitors must be enrolled in grades 9 through 12 or equivalent at the time of registration.
2. Each team will have a minimum of three and a maximum of five team members for the State competition. You may have only one alternate per team for regional and state competitions, but no more than five members compete. These same three to five team members compete during the entire competition and at the regional and state competitions. The alternate may not substitute unless one of the members becomes incapacitated at an event or if one team member is unable to attend the State competition. The alternate does not have to be present at the regional competition and his/her name must appear on the regional competition's team roster.
3. All team members must be from the same school. (No regional all-star teams. Some schools have arrangements for shared classes.)
4. Each team must have an adult advisor. During the competition *and while students move between stations*, the advisor(s) and alternates *cannot* assist *or communicate with* their team in any way and must stay at least 20 feet from their team(s) during the testing. Non-adherence will result in the advisor and/or alternate not being allowed at any remaining test sites during the competition. No advisors will be allowed to accompany the teams through the competition at the State Finals.
5. Judges' decisions are final on all events.
6. Transportation to and from competition will be the responsibility of each team. IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE WITH TRANSPORTATION OR OTHER COSTS, SEE IF YOU CAN GET A LOCAL SPONSOR TO HELP OUT.
7. One team will advance to the State Final for every 5 participating teams that compete in a given regional unless otherwise organized. Non-competing teams will not count. A minimum of two teams will advance regardless of how many teams are participating. Numbers will be rounded up or down to determine the advancing schools. (Ex. 12 teams – 2 teams would qualify for States; 13 teams – 3 teams would qualify).
Any number of teams may compete from one school at regional events. A local home school chapter is equivalent to one school.
8. At each regional event, the first team out of State qualification will be considered the alternate team to participate at the State Event if one of the top regional teams drops out. Only the “first out” team will be the alternate, no matter how many teams drop out ahead of them for that region.
9. Each team may include **only** 1 alternate. Additional students accompanying a team will **not** be permitted to participate in Envirothon even informally and should therefore not be in attendance. There will be **NO** alternate teams at the State finals.
10. High schools with 2 or more Envirothon teams must attend the same regional competition.
11. No team or team member will be allowed to leave the testing area while tests are being administered without judge’s approval.
12. There will be no refunds or rollover to future Envirothon’s once a team has registered if they must cancel.
13. Cell phones/pagers must be given to the advisor during competitions.
14. Cameras are not allowed by either students or advisors during any regional or State competition.

[1] For a complete and up-to-date list of rules and regulations, please refer to the Maine Envirothon website at www.maineconservationdistricts.org/envirothon