

NEW YORK STATE ENVIROTHON

IT'S ABOUT . . .
Understanding Nature

IT'S ABOUT . . .
Protecting the Environment

IT'S ABOUT . . .
Making a Real Difference

**The #1 Program for High School Students
Who are Wild About Nature!**

WHAT IS THE ENVIROTHON?

The Envirothon is an outdoor, team-based environmental education program designed to help students better understand their environment through exploration of ecology, natural resource management, and current environmental issues. It combines classroom learning with hands-on field experiences in the categories of aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife and environmental issues.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Society is currently and will be in the future facing environmental management issues related to water quality, ecosystems, solid waste and land use, and energy usage. Today's students are tomorrow's homeowners, consumers and decision-makers. They will be the one's making future environmental policies, which individuals, communities and businesses and industry will have to abide by. It is important to teach students the importance of environmental sensitivity while stressing a need to achieve a social, economic, and ecological balance in life.

NEW YORK STATE ENVIROTHON

When: May 27 & 28, 2009

**Where: Keuka College
Keuka Park, NY**



Visit our website at: www.nysenvirothon.org
OR

Visit the Canon Envirothon website at:
www.envirothon.org

Envirothon Has Rich Educational History

In 1979, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts sponsored the Envirothon program under the name Environmental Olympics. A year later the program's name was shortened to Enviro-Olympics.

The program was designed to be a hands-on, outdoor competition for high school students that encourages an interest in natural resource conservation and environmental



Team using microscopes to identify vertebrate

issues. To accomplish this, the program tests students' knowledge of aquatic ecology, forestry, soils, wildlife, and current environmental issues.

In 1984, Pennsylvania hosted the first state competition with six teams. One year later, fifteen teams signed on to participate in the second Pennsylvania State Enviro-Olympics.

The name Enviro-Olympics was changed to Envirothon in 1988. Also in 1988, Pennsylvania held the first National Envirothon. Participants came from the states of Massachusetts, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

The second National

Envirothon was held in Massachusetts in 1989 with teams from Maine, Ohio, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania and, in 1990, a National Envirothon steering committee was created and a working relationship with the National Association of Conservation Districts was established.

The third National Envirothon was held that year in Ohio. Maryland and New York participated for the first time in 1990.

In 1991, the National Envirothon Committee adopted Bylaws and Articles of Association. Nine states participated in the fourth National Envirothon in Maine. First timers were Connecticut, Indiana, North Carolina, and Nova Scotia.

The program continued to gain popularity and grow.

Fourteen teams participated in the fifth National Envirothon, hosted by Maryland in 1992.

Twenty-one teams attended the sixth National Envirothon hosted by New York. North Carolina's Envirothon, host of the seventh national event, had participation by twenty-three teams.

In 1997, the tenth anniversary of the National Envirothon was hosted by Pennsylvania, where the program originated.

Thirty-four states and three Canadian Provinces attended. Suitably, winning the 10th Anniversary National Envirothon was the team from Pennsylvania.

That same year, Canon U.S.A. began supporting the program. Canon National Envirothon scholarships for the 1st place through 3rd place teams were awarded for the first time.

In 1998, Michigan hosted the eleventh National Envirothon using an eco-station approach that included energy and sustainable agriculture. Forty-three teams participated. During the competition in Michigan, the National Envirothon Committee accepted a three year proposal from Canon U.S.A. that provided the program an average of \$270,000 per year. As the major sponsor the name National Envirothon was changed to Canon Envirothon.

Since 1998, California, Nova Scotia, Mississippi, Massachusetts, Maryland, West Virginia, and Missouri have hosted the Canon Envirothon. Participation has increased to forty-four states and seven Canadian Provinces. Scholarships are awarded to the 1st through 10th place teams.

With the support of Canon U.S.A., the US Forest Service, the Canadian Forestry Association, and the National Association of Conservation Districts, the program continues to accomplish its mission. The program helps inspire team work, critical thinking, decision making, and other competencies needed to maintain a natural balance between having a good quality of life and maintaining the quality of the environment.

ENVIROTHON—CATCH THE SPIRIT



Soils and Land Use

Professional soil scientists help students learn about soil structure, interpret maps, and evaluate land forms, and soil characteristics that affect agricultural and development issues.



Aquatic Ecology

Students work alongside marine and freshwater biologists to assess the quality of delicate aquatic ecosystems. They also learn to identify aquatic organisms, manage watersheds, and determine non-point source pollution.



Forestry

Students develop an understanding of the practices for maintaining healthy forest ecosystems through the help of professional foresters. They learn the basics of species identification, forest structure and dynamics as well as management approaches.



Wildlife

A favorite for many Envirothon participants, students learn firsthand from wildlife experts about animal populations, their dynamics, and the importance of habitat conservation.



Environmental Issues

Challenged by field professionals, students work as a team to explore the facets of the current environmental issues and illustrate the complexity of real-life environmental decisions.



Weedsport High School team giving their oral presentation

Top Teams Meet at the New York State Envirothon

Competitions from the local level to the State Envirothon test knowledge and skills in an exciting outdoor environment. Teams rotate through testing stations where they complete written examinations. The oral presentation challenges teams to work together and communicate their solution to a complex environmental issue in front of a panel of judges. This presentation requires the participation of **all** team members.

State Champions Compete at the Canon Envirothon

The winning State Envirothon team has the honor of participating in the Canon Envirothon against teams from forty-three other states and nine provinces of Canada. This is the final level of competition. Canon U.S.A. is a major sponsor of the Canon Envirothon, providing close to \$300,000 per year to support staff and various operational costs. They also provide \$105,000 in scholarships for the first through tenth place team members and Canon products as part of the awards.

ENVIROTHON—CATCH THE SPIRIT

Awards and Scholarships

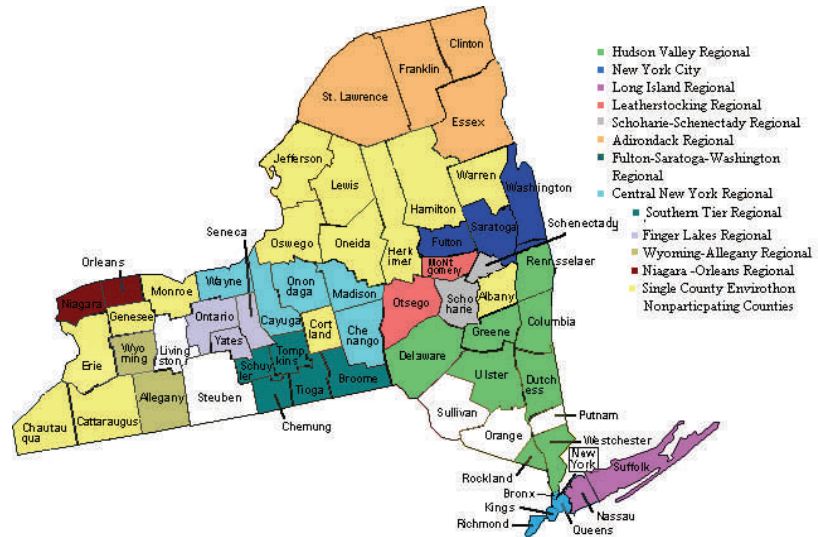
Scholarships are as follows:

- ◆ First Place \$500.00 per team member
- ◆ Second Place \$250.00 per team member
- ◆ Third Place \$125.00 per team member

Awards are as follows

- ◆ First Place Rotating Plaque
Plaque or trophy
Medallions for team member
- ◆ Second Place Plaque or trophy
through Tenth Place Medallions for team member
- ◆ High Score in each Station Field Test and Oral Presentation Plaque or trophy

Participating Counties



Sponsors Make the Difference !

For the New York State Envirothon, both financial and in-kind sponsorship will be recognized in several ways:

- ◆ All contributors will be listed in the “event sponsor” booklet that will be provided at the beginning of the competition.
- ◆ At major such as registration, opening ceremony, awards ceremony, etc. A complete listing of contributors will be listed.
- ◆ For various activities, signs will be placed at the appropriate venues. For example for all of the station sponsors during the field test, each of the five stations will be marked with a banner that includes either the logo or name of that appropriate station sponsor.
- ◆ Those that sponsor the resource study material will be identified in the package of transmittal with that material as well as on some of the material.
- ◆ Sponsors will be listed on the New York State Envirothon web site.

Participating Organization and Sponsors

- ◆ New York State Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- ◆ Environmental Education Foundation of Soil and Water
- ◆ New York State Conservation Districts Employees Association
- ◆ State Soil and Water Conservation Committee
- ◆ Empire Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society
- ◆ New York Association Of Conservation Districts
- ◆ New York Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ◆ Canon Envirothon
- ◆ Land Improvement Contractor’s Association
- ◆ Izaak Walton League
- ◆ ITT Goulds

