

TENNESSEE ENVIROTHON RULES & REGULATIONS (Revised Nov. 2015)

The Tennessee Envirothon competition will be conducted under the following rules and regulations, as provided by the TN Envirothon Committee (TEC). The TEC consists of members of the TN RC&D Executive Committee and the TN Envirothon Program Manager (TN EPM).

1. Eligibility

- 1.1. The TN Envirothon Annual Competition is open to students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 or equivalent home school ranking in the school year immediately preceding the current competition.
- 1.2. Each Active RC&D Council and/or other pre-approved Regional Envirothon Competition is entitled to send one team to the current year's State Envirothon Annual Competition:
 - 1.2.1. Teams must have competed in the current year's Annual Regional Envirothon competition in order to compete at the State Annual Envirothon Competition.
 - 1.2.2. All teams must be affiliated with their local Active RC&D Council, a local Tennessee Soil Conservation District, or other equivalent conservation agency.
 - 1.2.3. All team members and advisors must read, agree to, and sign the Envirothon Rules and Regulations to be eligible to participate at the State Annual Envirothon Competition.
- 1.3. Teams will consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of five members from the same school, home-schooled group, or local organization. Each school is permitted to send a maximum of two teams to the Regional Envirothon Competition (maximum of two home-schooled teams per county). For example: Teams may represent science clubs, 4-H, FFA, Youth Boards, or other conservation related groups.
 - 1.3.1. All teams are encouraged to submit alternate names at registration for the Regional Envirothon Competitions. Alternate teams members may then substitute for regular team members at Regional and State Envirothon Competitions, if properly registered at the Regional Envirothon Competition. Alternate students may NOT attend the competition if they are not needed to substitute for another student. More than two team member substitutions at any competition must be approved by the Regional Envirothon Competition Contact or the TN EPM.
 - 1.3.2. Registration forms must be legible and received by the Annual Envirothon Competition designated deadlines along with any stated entry/registration fees.
- 1.4. Each team must be accompanied by an adult team advisor(s)/chaperone(s) and/or a public agency or Soil Conservation District Representative(s).
- 1.5. The State winning team will be required to provide an adult male chaperone for any male team members and an adult female to chaperone female team members at the National Envirothon Competition.
- 1.6. The State winning team will be required to provide insurance coverage for all team members, chaperones, and guests who attend the National Envirothon Competition.
- 1.7. Teams advancing to the National Envirothon Competition are responsible for their National Envirothon Registration Fees and travel expenses to and from the contest. Partial financial assistance may be provided by the TEC and other organizations or individuals.
- 1.8. Advisors/chaperones are responsible for their student's behavior and actions.
- 1.9. The TN RC&D Envirothon and TN RC&D Committee will not be responsible for improperly chaperoned teams.
- 1.10. All teams members and advisors are required to attend all scheduled functions, to be prompt, and show respect to those in the audience and at the podium.

2. Competition

- 2.1. The TN EPM will identify and/or provide reference materials to assist students in their preparation for the Annual TN Envirothon Competitions. References may include printed materials, websites, or other sources of information about natural resources or environmental issues.
- 2.2. The Annual TN Envirothon Competitions will be conducted by personnel employed by cooperating local, state, and federal agencies or independent environmental organizations. Teams may not contact personnel responsible for designing, preparing, writing, or creating any portions of an Envirothon Competition test to request information and/or coaching prior to an Envirothon competition.

- 2.3. Only materials identified by the TEC may be used by the students during the training, testing, and the oral competition preparation portion of the Annual TN State Envirothon Competition.
- 2.4. No electronic, battery-powered, or solar powered equipment (i.e., cell phones) may be used by or be in the possession of team members during the Annual TN Envirothon Competitions, including the instructional periods, field testing, oral presentation preparation, or oral presentations unless such equipment is provided by the Regional Envirothon Competition Contact or the TN EPM for use during the competition. Prior approval may be granted by the Regional Envirothon Competition Contact or the TN EPM to provide for the use of specific equipment to compensate for limiting physical or mental challenges.
- 2.5. Cheating, in any fashion or format, is not permitted by students, advisors, chaperones, or guests during study sessions, field tests, orals preparation or orals presentations.
- 2.6. Training and testing sites:
 - 2.6.1. Any team, team member, team advisor/chaperone, or resource person associated with a team discovered on, near, or around the training site, test site or testing stations prior to the competition may be subject to immediate disqualification.
 - 2.6.2. Any team, team member, team advisor/chaperone, or resource person associated with a team discovered on, near, or around the test site or testing stations other than only during scheduled times during the competition may be subject to immediate disqualification.
- 2.7. No advisor or other non-team leader is to provide input in any manner to his/her students once the oral presentation has been presented at the Annual TN State Envirothon Competition. This will continue from the moment of the original presentation, through the student question period, preparation, and final presentations. This does not limit the advisors from interacting with their students as long as it is understood that there will be absolutely no discussion of the presentation topic or the execution of the presentation. Sufficient personnel will be available to provide adequate advice and direction for team members.
- 2.8. No animal, other than a service animal on which the individual is physically dependent, will be allowed at the Annual TN Envirothon Competitions. Animals used for the purpose of training, testing, or demonstration will be permitted.
- 2.9. The decision of the Regional Envirothon Competition Contact and/or the TN EPM will be final with the TN EPM being the higher authority.

3. Scoring

- 3.1. The Annual Envirothon Competition is scored in 5 events: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, and a Current Environmental Issue which is selected by the National Envirothon Operating Committee.
- 3.2. At the Annual Regional Envirothon Competitions, scores from each of the 5 events are totaled for a total high score per team.
- 3.3. At the Annual TN State Envirothon Competition, each of the 5 stations will comprise 1/7th of the total score; the oral presentation will comprise 2/7th of the total score.
- 3.4. Tiebreakers shall be as follows: The Current Issue score; Soils score; Aquatics score; Forestry score; and Wildlife score.
- 3.5. The highest scoring team from each Annual Regional Envirothon Competition will advance to the Annual TN State Envirothon Competition. The team's advisor will notify the Regional Envirothon Contact within one week if they are unable to attend the Annual TN State Envirothon Competition in order for the next available highest scoring team to attend.
- 3.6. The highest scoring team from the Annual State Envirothon Competition will advance to the National Envirothon Competition. The team's advisor will notify the TN EPM within one week if they are unable to attend the National Envirothon Competition in order for the next available highest scoring team to attend.
- 3.7. Station leader scoring will be final at the completion of each individual Annual Envirothon Competition.
- 3.8. Tests may be taken apart at each station event to be completed by different team members and reattached prior to submitting to the station leader for scoring.
- 3.9. All tests at each Annual Envirothon Competitions are to be retained the day of the competition and NOT PROVIDED to any student, advisor/chaperone, volunteer, other professional, and/or guest at the events.

