

Alaska State Envirothon 2011/2012

Promoting stewardship of natural resources in young people

Dear Station Leader,

First and foremost, thank you for your participation in the Alaska State Envirothon program! The Envirothon is a year-long environmental education program for high school aged students that culminates with a statewide competition. This year's competition will be held at Alaska Pacific University's Spring Creek Farm in Palmer, Alaska on Friday April 27th. The mission of Alaska Envirothon is to enhance students' knowledge of natural resource issues and ecological sustainability principles through practical studies in their own communities.

Benefits to Students

Combining in-class curriculum with hands-on field experiences, Envirothon participants gain valuable knowledge and training in local ecology and natural resource management principles and practices from environmental professionals, like you! Students also step away from the Envirothon experience motivated to pursue careers in environmental studies, environmental law, natural sciences, and natural resource management.

Alaska State Envirothon Program

Five-member teams from various schools around the state complete training throughout the school year in five natural resource categories: (1)Soils and Land Use, (2)Aquatic Ecology, (3)Forestry, (4)Wildlife, and a rotating current issue: (5)Nonpoint Source Pollution and Low Impact Development.

During the fall semester, local natural resource professionals ("Station Leaders") are recruited to form committees pertaining to their area of expertise. The job of the Station Leader is to develop curriculum/study materials and a hands-on test in preparation for the Alaska Envirothon competition and to oversee their designated station during testing day.

Teachers/Advisors are encouraged to invite Station Leaders to present to Envirothon students during the school year.

Statewide Competition

During the statewide event, students' theoretical and field knowledge is challenged through outdoor field tests under the supervision of Station Leaders (that's YOU!). Students rotate through five field stations—Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife, Soils and Nonpoint Source Pollution—in order to complete experiential, problem-based tests. During these field tests, students are asked to do such things as measure the height of trees, describe nutrient cycles in aquatic systems and identify signs of wildlife. The students also prepare a group oral presentation incorporating concepts from each station topic to address a problem-based question on *Nonpoint Source Pollution and Low Impact Development*. Students will leave the competition with an understanding of real-world environmental issues.

The winning team will advance to the international Canon Envirothon for an opportunity to compete for recognition, scholarships and prizes. This year's Canon Envirothon will be held in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.

Station Leader Duties:

- ✓ Review the study guide for your station at: www.palmersoilandwater.com. You will use this curriculum to draft test questions.
—Soils and Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Wildlife, Forestry, Nonpoint Source Pollution—
- ✓ Review test writing guidelines at: www.envirothon.org/pdf/testwritingguidelines.pdf
This guide will show you how to make testing more hands-on and relevant to the learner
- ✓ Attend Planning Meetings
 - **Tuesday November 29**—3:00pm APU Spring Creek Farm off Farm Loop Road
 - **Wednesday February 15**—3:00pm Spring Creek Farm
 - **Monday April 23**—3:00pm Spring Creek Farm
- ✓ With your subcommittee, develop a 50-point test with answer key
 - Submit drafts to Sierra Doherty: palmersalmon@gmail.com
 - Bring final test to February 15 Planning Meeting*Remember, this is an experiential hands-on competition. Most testing stations will be set up outside. Test questions should require students to use field tools and to think critically.*
- ✓ Manage your testing station at the Alaska Envirothon Competition in Palmer:
 - Station Leader Orientation/ Station Set Up (Thursday April 26-Time TBA)
 - **Friday April 27**—8:00am-3:00pm Field Station Testing
3:30pm—5:30pm Team Presentations: *Nonpoint Source Pollution*
Set up testing area, provide all required field equipment. Distribute tests, grade tests, record scores. It is helpful to have at least 3 people at each station leaders to lighten work load! Think about who could help you from your agency or recruit volunteers.

Included in this packet:

- ✓ Program Brochure
- ✓ Learning Objectives
- ✓ Sample Test with revisions

The materials contained in this packet are to assist you with creating test questions. If you need further assistance, please feel free to contact me any time. Thank you for contributing your time and energy to benefit Alaska's young people.

Sincerely,

Sierra Rose Doherty

Sierra Rose Doherty
Alaska Envirothon Director
Palmer Soil & Water Conservation District

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