



Advisor Guide

NCF Envirothon

The Louisiana Envirothon is a part of the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon (NCF) Competition. The Envirothon® is an environmental and natural resource conservation problem-solving, teambuilding and leadership experience and competition for high school students (grades 9-12 or ages 14-19) across the United States, Canada, and China. Incorporating STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math*) principles, experiential learning and hands-on outdoor field experiences, the Envirothon fosters student learning in the areas of **AQUATIC ECOLOGY, FORESTRY, SOILS and LAND USE, WILDLIFE, and CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.**

Students are challenged to develop critical thinking skills to create inventive solutions to the complex local and global environmental and natural resource issues facing our world today. With the Envirothon, students are empowered to educate others, take action in their local communities, pursue higher academic study in environmental disciplines, and to work toward careers in the environment, natural resources and conservation. For more information about the NCF Envirothon, [read more here.](#)

The Louisiana Envirothon

The goal of environmental education is the development of knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated citizens who are willing to work toward achieving and maintaining a natural balance between quality of life and the quality of the environment. Several state agencies, universities and other partners collaborate through the Louisiana Envirothon to promote and strengthen environmental education in Louisiana.

The Louisiana Envirothon is a multidisciplinary, environmental problem-solving competition for teams of students in grades 6 through 12. Teams are comprised of five students from the same school or associated with an organized group (i.e. FFA, 4-H, scouts, home-school groups, conservation districts, etc.). Participating teams train and compete in natural resource areas: soils, aquatic resources, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. There is also an oral presentation component of the competition. In the oral presentation, each team presents a plan and proposes a solution to an environmental problem related to the current issue. Throughout the competition, students learn in a real-life context the complexities of solving environmental problems while working as a team and having fun.

The Louisiana Envirothon will be held at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens in Baton Rouge, LA. The team of 9th -12th grade students with the highest overall score and meeting the minimum score requirement, will travel to the NCF Envirothon competition in the summer to represent Louisiana. The Louisiana Envirothon committee will pay the team's expenses to the NCF Envirothon Competition. Information on the NCF Envirothon Competition can be found at www.envirothon.org.

Why Get Involved With Envirothon?

- Winners receive special recognition and monetary prizes.
- It's fun! Students gain a desire to learn more about the natural environment and stewardship of natural resources. Students also learn critical thinking, cooperative problem-solving and decision making skills.
- Students learn how to apply resource management and ecology to complex environmental issues with hands on environmental experiences.
- The winning high school team meeting minimum score requirements will represent Louisiana in the NCF Envirothon competition, where students can win scholarships, cash and prizes! (Travel costs are covered by the Louisiana Envirothon).

Advisor Responsibilities

Advisors are adults responsible for coordinating local Envirothon groups/teams. Their duties include promoting the Envirothon program, recruiting students to participate, registering the team, and arranging for or ensuring team members locate learning activities, curricula, and anything else necessary to prepare the group for competition. Advisors should review and understand the Louisiana Envirothon Rules & Regulations. This includes all eligibility requirements and competition regulations. The complete rules and regulations can be viewed [here](#). There is travel assistance available this year for long distance teams.

Training

Training materials are available on the Louisiana Envirothon [webpage](#). Click on each subject title and a study guide/ or list will pop up. In addition, there are Facebook live [training videos](#) and [YouTube videos](#) that are posted online from previous trainings. The [current issue](#) materials change each year, some are available now, but they will be updated by NCF Envirothon as the year goes on. Once you register, you will be added to a contact list where you will receive all updates and training session information. Information will also be updated on the Louisiana Envirothon website. Louisiana Envirothon plans to hold at least two live training sessions in January. One session will focus on the subject areas and the other will focus on the current issue and oral presentation techniques and practice; the content portions will be streamed live. Live training sessions are dependent upon the number of teams that sign up to participate.

Teams train differently. Some assign a topic to each student, some have a lead student on a subject and a backup, and some train the entire team on all subjects; it's really up to you and your team how you prepare. You may contact station masters at any time for questions about the material. Team members and advisors are encouraged to seek training opportunities on their own. You may contact any organizations to come visit and talk to your group to assist with training as well. These would include, but not limited to, discussions with local naturalists, geologists, foresters, and scientists.

Advisors should maintain close contact with the Louisiana Envirothon committee prior to the competition. Ensure the following checklist is completed before the competition:

- Team members have been trained in each of the test areas: soils, aquatic resources, forestry, wildlife and the current environmental issue.
- Team members have developed the oral presentation.
- Your team is registered and the registration fee has been paid.
- Transportation has been arranged to the competition location.
- Team members are familiar with the rules of the competition.

Competition Day Overview

Students, competing as a team, rotate through a series of stations managed by natural resource specialists. The teams will be given a written test (which involves hands-on field activities) to complete. Each test is taken as a team with each team member participating in answering the questions. Test questions may be asked in a variety of ways, including but not limited to, multiple choice, true/false, essay or fill-in-the-blank.

Each team will also be presented with an environmental problem that is based on the “current environmental issue.” The environmental problem will be given to each team a week before the competition. Each team will be required to develop and present a solution for the hypothetical problem. All team members must verbally participate in the oral presentation.

The top scoring team meeting the minimum score requirement at the state competition may represent Louisiana at the NCF-Envirothon.

Partners

The Louisiana Envirothon is made possible by the cooperative efforts of the following organizations:

Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Louisiana Environmental Education Commission
LSU School of Plant, Environmental & Soil Sciences
LSU Superfund Basic Research Program
Shreveport Aquarium
Southern University and A&M College- Urban Forestry Program

Sponsors

LSU Ag Center
Louisiana Science Teachers Association
Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts
Bayou Vermillion Preservation Association
Louisiana Environmental Health Association
Bluewing Civil Consulting, LLC.
The Kolache Kitchen
Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
Fox Pest Control

Resources

Louisiana Envirothon [website](#)
Louisiana Envirothon [Facebook](#)
Louisiana Envirothon Facebook [training hub](#)
Louisiana Envirothon [YouTube](#)
NCF Envirothon [website](#)

For more information on any aspect of the competition, please contact the Louisiana Envirothon at laenvirothon@gmail.com or 225-219-0877.