

## **Colorado Envirothon Rules and Regulations**

1. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible to compete. Student teams may be formed from a high school, 4-H club, FFA club, or any other sanctioned local, regional, state, or nationally recognized club that sponsors youth in grades 9-12.
2. Each team that participates at the state competition will consist of 3-5 members. Teams less than five will not receive the full points for the oral competition (just a few points off) but can receive full points for the written competition. All 3-5 member-teams are eligible for all Colorado Envirothon Awards and Scholarships, including being able to attend the International Envirothon. A team with less than 5 youth will be considered an “exhibitionist” team at the International Envirothon and can compete in all the events, but are NOT eligible for awards and scholarships. See the International Envirothon rules, including substitution rules, here: <https://envirothon.org/the-competition/rulesregulations/>
3. Each team can have up to two alternate team members, which must be identified at time of registration. Alternate members must participate in the local/regional team trainings just as though they were members of the team. If an alternate is identified to take the spot of a team member, they will be required to take the team member’s position for the entire competition. For example, an alternate cannot step into a competition on day two and take the place of a student who is not able to compete on the second day. The team would only be able to have the remaining four members on day two. The same would apply that an alternate for day one would also have to be part of the team for day two.
4. A registration fee of \$500.00 will be assessed to each Team that attends the Colorado Envirothon. The registration fee will be used toward expenses of the Colorado Envirothon competition. The fee is non-refundable if a team is unable to participate or cancels within one month of the competition. The registration fee covers team t-shirts for all youth and the two adult advisors, awards two lunches and a dinner, snacks and drinks during the competition, expenses of the judges/staff/volunteers, rental of the location, and a stipend towards the cost of attendance at the international competition for Colorado’s winning team, which can be used to support all seven team members including airfare, hotel/dorm, most meals, and registration.
5. Contact your local Conservation District: <https://www.coloradoacd.org/conservationdistricts.html> who may be able to cover registration and other expenses. Let us know if you have challenges reaching your conservation district. **It is expected that the teams make a short presentation to the conservation district after the competition to share what they learned and their experience.**
6. Illegal drugs/alcohol are not permitted. Any member of a team under 21 years of age using tobacco/nicotine products, and/or any team member that has possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, or weapons (including but not limited to: fire arms, pocket knives, hunting knives, Leatherman/all-purpose tools, and/or self- protection sprays) will cause disqualification of the entire team from the competition.
7. The Colorado Envirothon requires a signed participant packet be completed digitally by the participant and their parent/guardian before arrival for the State Competition. Any requests for reasonable accommodation for recognized disability, special dietary needs, or similar requests should

be noted in this digital packet. Upon such notification, the Colorado Envirothon Steering Committee will make any reasonable accommodations within their limits. All medications must be labeled with the name of the medication, name of the patient, name of the physician, date and directions, and who will administer (e.g. specific dose for administration). Prescription medication must be labeled by a registered pharmacist unless ordered from a pharmaceutical company. Safe refrigeration will be supplied by the committee if needed.

8. For those teams who need to stay at hotels during the competition, if there are both male and female members on a team, a male and female advisor must be provided for the teams (unless the sponsoring school/group have policies that allow other arrangements). Hotel registration and travel to and from the event site and hotel is the responsibility of each team. Here is the discounted hotel link for 2024: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/dennsdt-91n-dfc654eb-67be-4cd4-afcf-160b535f0eca/> The block of rooms include breakfast for up to four people in a room. The rate is \$119 and the link will be good until the close of business February 12. After that date, you can reach out to them and give them the Colorado Envirothon group name to see if they will honor that rate. Each team is required to book and pay for each room or they can find alternative facilities as long as we are notified prior to the event.
9. The advisors/chaperones must fill out the online forms prior to the start of the competition. Advisors will be responsible to ensure that teams display proper conduct and respect during the competition and at the host facility. Please make sure the teams are dressed in interview attire for the first day and wear their Envirothon t-shirt on the second day (provided at registration on Monday). At least one advisor from each team must be on site at all times.
10. Because of liability, team members and advisors MUST honor specific rules put forward by the hosting venue. These rules will be spelled out in the first orientation and normally require such actions as whether the advisors and students remain on site, areas that are off limits, etc. Details of these rules will be provided to each advisor.
11. Any team or team member(s) that break any rules may cause the disqualification of the entire team.

### **Electronic Equipment Policy**

1. To ensure fairness and equity during the Colorado Envirothon Program, all cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, audio equipment, tape recorders, etc. must be relinquished to the team advisors at the initial onset of the Colorado Envirothon Competition. Students may use these items only after they have concluded the oral competition on day 1 and the end of the station competitions on day 2. The team advisors will have these devices in case of emergency.
2. Teams must provide their own computer(s) for day one of the competition, where the teams will be sequestered and prepare a PowerPoint presentation based on the scenario provided on Monday morning. After the sequestration is complete, each team will download their presentation to a thumbdrive (provided) and the computers will be relinquished to the team advisors.
3. Cameras and video equipment are not to be used during the orientation portion of the Colorado Envirothon on day 1. Each team will receive a full package of information which they will use to

prepare their presentation. Cameras may be used during the Competition portion by the advisors only for promotional and recognition purposes.

4. During the Colorado Envirothon competition, students are not allowed to have access to, or use, computers or laptops, except where specifically permitted for the preparation of oral presentations. Advisors may use such devices for personal or non-competition related work use only.
5. Any student caught using an electronic device before the Colorado Envirothon activities are finished for the day will receive a 25 point reduction. The 25 point reduction will be applied to the team's total test score. For example, if a 5-member team were to have 5 students break the rule, that team would have a total deduction of 125 points.
6. The Colorado Envirothon is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged, electronic devices nor the replacement cost of student electronic devices brought to the competition

### **Competition Rules**

1. The competition will be conducted by the Colorado Envirothon Steering Committee which is made up of State and Regional Conservation District personnel and cooperating resource agencies and/or independent environmental organization personnel.
2. The Colorado Envirothon competition will consist of two (2) parts: 1) an oral presentation of 15 minutes and 5 minutes Q & A on the first day of competition (see the "oral competition" tab under advisor/student resources for the scoring rubric). The oral presentation counts for 200 points. If we have enough teams to require two or more sets of oral presentation judges, the lowest and highest score for each team will be removed and the other three scores averaged, and 2) the test scores from each of the five resource areas, which are 100 points each for a total of 700 possible points. Teams will be required to participate in the oral presentation portion to be eligible to place, and the right to represent Colorado at the International Envirothon (1<sup>st</sup> place team based on overall score).
3. The first-place team will represent Colorado at the National Envirothon and will be the team with the highest cumulative total points. In case of a tie in scores between two or more teams, the team with the highest score in the Environmental Issue area will take the lead. If this also results in a tie score, then the team with the highest score in Soils will take the lead. Beyond these tie breakers, a winner will be determined by the highest score in the following order: Aquatics, Forestry, and Wildlife. **The team that represents Colorado at the National Envirothon is expected to make a presentation to the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts' (CACD) annual meeting held in Colorado Springs in December. If teams are unable to attend in person, please put together a video presentation of your full Envirothon experience, what you gained from it, how you feel it will help you in your future endeavors, and anything else you would like to share with the board who covered the cost of the trip.**
4. During the Envirothon competition on day 2, advisors are prohibited from traveling from station to station to observe the event. **Aiding their own team or the perception of aiding is a grievous action and will result in the loss of 25 points at that station.**

5. During day 2, each team will receive a test at each of the five stations. There may be multiple teams at each station, so please make sure to share resources accordingly and replace items when finished with the question. All materials; guides; keys; equipment and other reference materials needed to complete each test will be available at the station. Teams are not allowed to carry any other materials, including pens and/or pencils; equipment, etc. with them during the competition. **Necessary equipment and/or materials will be provided at the station and MUST be left at that station.**
6. Should a finding or awarding of points be successfully disputed by an advisor, the Colorado Envirothon Steering Committee has set up a panel to hear the dispute and make a ruling. This panel will consist of judges from the issue areas. The decision of this panel will be final. Any disputes or concerns are to be formally presented in writing within one half hour of the end of the competition, duly signed by the advisor or their representative (or as explained by the Colorado Envirothon Steering Committee prior to the competition). Necessary action on the original dispute will be taken by the Steering Committee per the panel ruling.

The rules for Colorado State Envirothon's regional competitions are outlined as follows:

1. **Trigger for Regional Competitions:**

Regional competitions will be conducted if the total number of teams registered statewide exceeds 20. These competitions will occur one month prior to the State competition.

2. **Competition Format:**

- Teams will complete a **written exam** encompassing five areas of discipline:
  - Current Topic
  - Aquatics
  - Soil
  - Wildlife
  - Forestry
- The exam will be **proctored online**.
- Teams will work together to complete the exam. **No outside resources or materials** may be utilized or referenced during the exam.

3. **Advancing to State Competition:**

- The top five scoring teams from each region will advance to the State competition.
- The state is divided into four regions based on the boundaries of the coinciding Conservation Districts:
  - Northwest
  - Northeast
  - Southwest
  - Southeast
- If a school or qualified group has multiple teams registered, they are treated as **individual teams**.
- **Multiple teams from the same school or group** can qualify for the State competition if their scores rank in the top five for their region.

4. **Team Rules:**

- Each registered team will compete independently during the regional competition and written exam.

- If multiple teams from a school or group qualify, all qualifying teams are allowed to participate in the State competition.

### **Other**

1. At the discretion of the committee, an extra day may be added to the competition. This would be the day prior to the competition and information provided will be specific to the Resource topic of that year. Teams will not be required to attend, but those attending will receive extra training on that topic. This is NOT happening for the 2024 competition.
2. At the end of the competition, each team member, advisor, cooperating agencies, and other participants involved in the competition will be asked to complete an evaluation form that has been developed by the Colorado Envirothon Steering Committee. The suggestions by the participants will aid the Colorado Envirothon Steering Committee in making the Colorado Envirothon a strong, dynamic learning experience for everybody.
3. Rules and regulations of the Colorado Envirothon are subject to change. All changes will be explained in advance to all teams and advisors.