

## **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. A registration fee of \$400.00 will be assessed to each Team that attends the Colorado Envirothon. The registration fee will be used toward expenses of the Colorado Envirothon 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, two lunches and a dinner, snacks and drinks during the competition, expenses of the judges/staff/volunteers, rental of the location, most expenses to attend the national competition for all seven team members including airfare, hotel/dorm, most meals, and registration. It does NOT include cost of passports or visas where required and other travel expenses.

Contact your local Conservation District: <https://www.coloradoacd.org/conservation-districts.html> who may be able to cover registration and other expenses.

3. Each team that participates at the state competition will consist of five members. **All team members must be signed in prior to beginning of competition. The only exceptions to this rule will be for EXTREME circumstances and a decision on an exception will be made by the current Steering Committee members.**
4. Illegal drugs are not permitted. Any member of a team under 21 years of age using tobacco against State Law, 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.
5. The Colorado Envirothon Steering Committee requires a completed and signed health form and is to be informed of all participants taking prescription drugs and any medical condition including medication administered by an inhaler or mechanical device, special diets, allergies, and special learning and/or training disabilities. 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 (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.
6. If there are both male and female members on a team, a male and female advisor must be provided for the teams that will be staying overnight at the Colorado Envirothon hotel. The Colorado Envirothon must be notified of sponsor identity and overnight accommodations prior to the beginning of the state competition. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the disqualification of the team.

7. Advisors will be responsible to ensure that teams display **proper conduct and respect** during the competition and at the host facility. Violation of this rule can lead to the team's dismissal from the competition. In most host facilities, overseeing final clean-up of rooms by the teams is also the responsibility of the advisor.
8. At least one advisor must be on site at all times. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the disqualification of the team.
9. Because of liability, team members and advisors **MUST** honor specific rules put forward by CSU Spur. 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 in writing to each advisor. Failure to follow these rules can lead to legal problems if there is an accident.
10. Transportation and meals to and from the Colorado Envirothon will be the responsibility of the participating team and their sponsoring entity. Colorado Envirothon will secure local hotel block at a discounted price. Each team is required to book and pay for each room.
- 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. Cameras and video equipment are not to be used during the Orientation portion of the Colorado Envirothon, where the oral presentation topic is presented on day 1. Each team will receive a full package of information from which they will prepare their presentation. Cameras may be used during the Competition portion by the advisors only for promotional and recognition purposes.
3. During the Colorado Envirothon competition, students are not allowed to have access to, or use, computers or laptops. Advisors may use them for personal use only.
4. 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.
5. 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 10 -15 minutes on the first day of competition, and 2) the test scores from each of the five resource areas. Teams will be required to participate in the presentation portion in order to be eligible to place, and the right to represent Colorado at the National Envirothon (1<sup>st</sup> place team and advisors). The presentation scores will be factored into the overall cumulative score determining the Colorado Envirothon winner. Overall scores will be determined at equal 1/6<sup>th</sup> values for each of the 5 resource stations and the oral presentation.
3. For the competition, all team members and advisors must wear the CO Envirothon t-shirts, which will be provided.
4. During the Envirothon competition on day 2, advisors, Conservation District personnel, and parents 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 all five stations. 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. The winning team that will represent Colorado at the National Envirothon 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.
7. 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.

## **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. We will NOT have this for 2023.**
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. Any and all changes will be explained in advance to all teams and advisors.