



# NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON

*"Fostering Environmentally Conscious, Decision Making Young Adults"*

October 15, 2009

Dear Environmental Teacher:

The ***Northeastern Illinois Envirothon*** will be held at two locations in the region, on April 14 and April 16. Your High School is invited to compete in the ***Northeastern Illinois Envirothon*** on April 14, 2010 to represent McHenry County at the [Prairieview Education Center in Crystal Lake, Illinois](#). An ***Envirothon*** is a competitive, problem-solving natural resource event for high school students intended to challenge the students about the environment. The objectives are threefold: (1) to test the environmental knowledge and understanding of high school students regarding natural resource issues; (2) to cultivate within students to consider careers in environmental fields and (3) students learn about team building and will enhance their communications skills.

Teams of five students per high school prepare throughout the winter with study materials provided by the ***Northeastern Illinois Envirothon*** Committee in the areas of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current issue which changes each year. This year's topic is Protection of Groundwater Through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning. At the ***Envirothon***, teams are assigned to one of the five topic areas to begin the competition. Students listen to a 20-minute presentation from a professional in the field, then as a team, answer a written test and a lab practical. The 5<sup>th</sup> topic area will include an oral presentation from each team. Each county will have a top scoring winner, with the highest scoring team from the two events going to the Illinois Envirothon in May in Monticello. There will also be awards for first, second, and third place for the two events combined. The winning team from the Illinois Envirothon will compete in August at the National competition in Merced, California.

A light breakfast and a lunch will be provided at the event. Each team member and advisor will receive a ***Northeastern Illinois Envirothon*** t-shirt. ***Transportation to and from the Prairieview Education Center is the responsibility of the participating school.***

Due to some schools not showing up or dropping out at the last minute, there is a mandatory \$75 refundable fee to attend the Envirothon. Your \$75 check will be returned to you when you attend. Please make your check payable to NE IL Envirothon and it must be postdated April 14, 2010. The refundable fee must be sent and received before study materials will be sent out in January.

McHENRY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, 1648 S. EASTWOOD DR., WOODSTOCK, IL 60098  
(815) 338-0099, EXT. 3, (FAX) 815-338-7731

This year we will also be offering optional workshops. More information will be coming at a later date regarding these workshops. The workshops are optional and open to any school attending the ***Northeastern Illinois Envirothon***. These workshops provide a great opportunity for students to gain extra knowledge in the Envirothon topic areas.

While the students are attending the competition, teachers will have a chance to present how they prepare for the Envirothon, a time to network and then a lesson to be announced at a later date.

Once the tests have been prepared, you will receive the study materials in January. Please look over the rules and regulations enclosed.

**\*\*PLEASE REMEMBER THAT STUDY MATERIALS WILL NOT BE SENT UNTIL THE MANDATORY \$75 REFUNDABLE REGISTRATION FEE IS RECEIVED.**

The ***Northeastern Illinois Envirothon*** committee consists of staff members from the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District, DeKalb County SWCD, Kane-DuPage SWCD, North Cook County SWCD, Lake County SWCD, McHenry County SWCD, Will-South Cook SWCD, Winnebago County SWCD, and the Conservation Foundation.

**Please contact the McHenry County SWCD office by December 1**, to register for the event. A registration form is enclosed. You do not need to commit certain students at this time. We are projecting 40 teams will be at the two regional events.

We look forward to working with you and your students at this exciting event. If you have any questions please call me at (815) 338-0099 ext. 3 or e-mail at [spring.duffey@il.nacdnet.net](mailto:spring.duffey@il.nacdnet.net).

*In response to prior year's issues regarding the number of teams permitted to register from each county/school the Envirothon Committee has set a maximum number of 24 teams for each event. Teams will be registered on a first come first served basis. Schools will be allowed one team during the initial registration period (deadline is December 1, 2009). After the initial registration deadline open slots will be filled by random draw of those schools that submitted a second team entry. Schools wishing to enter a second team must include the second completed registration form AND separate team deposit check with their 2<sup>nd</sup> team's registration submittal.*

Sincerely,

Spring Duffey- NE IL Envirothon Committee

Enclosures

- Rules & Regulations
- Registration Form
- Timeline
- Refundable Fee Form

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