

# Envirothon

## Benefits

Combining in-class curriculum and hands-on field experiences, the **Oregon Envirothon** program is an excellent way to supplement environmental education inside and outside the traditional classroom. Team training may include field trips to natural resource sites, museums or other areas of interest; listening to presentations given by natural resource professionals; and careful study of natural resource materials.

**Envirothon** participants gain valuable knowledge and training in ecology and natural resource management principles and practices. Top teams receive cash prizes and awards and all participants receive **Oregon Envirothon** tee shirts. Many students step away from the **Envirothon** experience excited about learning and motivated to pursue careers in environmental studies, environmental law, natural sciences and natural resource management.

*"When people ask about Envirothon, two thoughts go through my mind. The first is how wonderful it is that I can share such an experience with someone? The second is how do I explain in words what this organization is or what it has done for me? No book, nor web page, nor publication can teach as well as a hands-on experience, and it takes a hands-on experience alone to understand this. Envirothon is not just some competition, it is not just an investment in the future, it is an investment in today for tomorrow. It is a sustainable program with sustainable results. It is Envirothon."*

Garrett Duyck  
Newberg Envirothon Team  
North American Canon Envirothon  
Flagstaff, Arizona. July-August 2008



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## Oregon Envirothon Environmental Education Competition

*Promoting  
Conservation Education  
of our  
Natural Resources*

# Oregon

## What is it?

**Envirothon** is a hands-on environmental problem-solving competition for high school-age students in the United States and Canada. Participating teams complete training and testing in **five** natural resource categories; **aquatic ecology, forest ecology, soils & land use, wildlife ecology and one current environmental issue**. The teams consist of five high school-aged students and an advisor.

**The Envirothon** works in partnership with local conservation districts, forestry associations, educators and cooperating natural resource agencies to organize and conduct competitions on the local, regional, state and/or provincial level. Winning teams from each state and province advance to the **Canon Envirothon** for the opportunity to receive recognition, scholarships and prizes.

# OREGON ENVIROTHON

# Mission

The mission of the Oregon Envirothon is to develop knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated citizens who are willing and prepared to work towards achieving and maintaining a natural balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

The Envirothon mission is accomplished by developing in young people an understanding of the principles and practices of natural resource management and ecology through dealing with complex resource management decisions. The following goals and objectives should be used as a guide to develop effective curricula, educational resources and testing scenarios.

# Goals

## Goal 1

To promote a desire to learn more about the natural environment and equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to apply the basic principles and practices of resource management and ecology to complex environmental issues.

## Goal 2

To promote stewardship of natural resources and to encourage the development of critical thinking, cooperative problem-solving and decision-making skills required to achieve and maintain a natural balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

## Goal 3

To provide students with experience in environmentally-oriented activities, enabling them to become environmentally-aware, action-oriented citizens.

# Objectives

**Awareness:** Oregon Envirothon will help students cultivate an awareness of the total environment and acquire sensitivity to its limited natural resources.

**Knowledge:** Oregon Envirothon will help students develop a basic understanding of the earth's ecological systems and the interdependence of the human species with these systems.

**Attitude:** Oregon Envirothon will help students develop attitudes which embrace environmental sensitivity and instill the dedication and motivation to participate in activities geared towards protecting the environment.

**Application:** Oregon Envirothon will help students develop skills needed to identify, investigate and contribute to the resolution of environmental issues and problems.

# Exciting, Educational and Fun!

**Envirothon** stimulates, reinforces and enhances students' interest in the environment and allows them the opportunity to get "up-close and personal" with each state's natural resources. Led by a volunteer advisor, teams usually meet from late autumn until spring. Teams work collaboratively to develop their knowledge of ecology and natural resource management and to practice their environmental problem-solving skills in preparation for the competition.



**Aquatic Ecology**



**Forest Ecology**



**Soils & Land Use**



**Wildlife Ecology**



**Having Fun!**



**Environmental Issues**