

Maryland Teens Compete in First Round of Envirothon Competitions

High school science students from across the state are heading outdoors to compete in the first round of qualifying heats leading up to the <u>2024 National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon</u>, North America's largest environmental education competition for high school teens.

The Envirothon is a demanding outdoor natural resources competition for teens that are passionate about the outdoors and the environment. Students participating in the Maryland Envirothon have been studying the state's natural resources since the beginning of the school year. As part of their extracurricular training, they identify and categorize living resources, perform soil surveys, estimate wood yield from trees, and solve other complex natural resource issues. Students are taught by soil scientists, wildlife specialists, foresters, and environmental engineers from local, state, and federal agencies and private environmental organizations. The competition includes a special environmental issue that changes from year to year. This year's environmental issue is **Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future**.

Teams compete by applying their knowledge and problem-solving skills in these natural resource areas. The county team with the highest score wins the local or regional competition and advances to the Maryland Envirothon, scheduled for June 11-13, 2024 at Mount St. Mary's College. The winner of the Maryland Envirothon will go on to represent the state later this summer at the North American competition in Geneva, New York where more than 500 teenagers will compete for scholarships and prizes.

The Envirothon is sponsored by Maryland's Soil Conservation Districts and the State Soil Conservation Committee and supported by other state and federal programs. Dates and contact information for upcoming county Envirothon competitions are listed below:

• Anne Arundel County Envirothon Competition

Date: April 25, 2024

Place: Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center

Contact: John Czajkowski, Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District, john@aascd.org or 410-571-6757

• Calvert County Envirothon Competition

Date: April 23, 2024 Place: Kings Landing Park

Contact: Jennifer Carlson, Calvert Soil Conservation District, jennifer.carlson@md.nacdnet.net or 410-535-

1521, ext. 3

• Carroll County Envirothon Competition

Date: April 23, 2024

Place: Bear Branch Nature Center

Contact: Matt McMahon, Carroll Soil Conservation District, mattd.mcmahon@maryland.gov or 410-848-8200,

ext. 3

• Cecil County Envirothon Competition

Date: April 22, 2024

Place: Fair Hill Nature Center

Contact: Mari Markkula, Cecil Soil Conservation District, marimarkkula@cecilscd.com or 410-398-4411, ext. 3

• Charles County Envirothon Competition

Date: April 17, 2024

Place: Gilbert Run Park, Charlotte Hall

Contact: Dee Saunders, Charles Soil Conservation District, DeeDee.Saunders@md.nacdnet.net or 301-638-3028

• Eastern Shore Envirothon Competition

Date: April 23, 2024

Place: Queen Anne's County High

Contact: Jenny Lee, Kent Soil Conservation District, jenny.lee@maryland.gov or 410-778-5150 ext. 3293

• Frederick County Envirothon Competition

Date: April 23, 2024

Place: Cunningham Falls State Park

Contact: Barry Burch, Walkersville High School, baronb29@aol.com or 240-215-5004

• Harford County Envirothon Competition

Date: April 26, 2024

Place: Broad Creek Boy Scout Camp

Contact: Andrew League, Harford Soil Conservation District, andrew.league@maryland.gov or 410-638-4828, 5224

• Howard County Envirothon Competition

Date: April 17, 2024

Place: Howard County Conservancy Mt. Pleasant Farm

Contact: Kristal M. McCormick, Howard Soil Conservation District, kmccormick@howardcountymd.gov or 410-

313-0680

• Montgomery County Envirothon Competition

Date: May 3, 2024

Place: Agricultural History Farm Park

Contact: John Harne, Montgomery Soil Conservation District, john.harne@montgomerycountymd.gov or

301-590-2855

• Prince George's County Envirothon Competition

Date: April 24, 2024

Place: William S. Schmidt Outdoor Environmental Education Center

Contact: Kim Rush Lynch, Pr. George's Soil Conservation District, karlynch@co.pg.md.us or 301-574-5162

• St. Mary's County Envirothon Competition

Date: April 10, 2024 Place: Hunters Hill Farm

Contact: Bruce Young, St. Mary's Soil Conservation District, bruce.young@stmarysscd.com or 301-475-8402 ext. 3

Washington County Envirothon Competition

Date: April 4, 2024

Place: Washington County Public Schools Board of Education

Contact: Denise Price, Washington Soil Conservation District, dee@conservationplace.com or 301-797-6821