

## How It Works

High school Envirothon teams are made up of five students and a teacher or coach who guides their study of Maryland's natural resources during the academic year. Competitions begin in the spring, with high school teams competing for the county Envirothon title.

As part of the competition, Envirothon teams are asked to identify and categorize living resources, perform soil surveys, and solve other complex natural resource issues. The team with the highest cumulative total wins the competition and advances to the Maryland Envirothon. This two-day, statewide competition is held in June and features a number of outdoor activities, including night hikes, campfire chats, wildlife demonstrations, and additional training in all five resource areas.

The team that wins the Maryland Envirothon earns the right to represent the state at the National (North America) Envirothon competition, a rigorous five-day competition featuring high school teams from across the United States and Canada. In past years, Maryland Envirothon teams have traveled to competitions in Montana, Idaho, Arizona, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, California, and New Brunswick.



## Introducing the Maryland Envirothon...

A fun and engaging way for high school students in grades 9-12 to learn about natural resources, make informed decisions about the environment, and earn scholarship money for college. Designed by soil conservationists, naturalists, foresters, wildlife experts, and other natural resource professionals, the Maryland Envirothon is a problem-solving competition that challenges students to work as a team to answer questions and conduct hands-on projects focusing on natural resource issues.

The goal of the Maryland Envirothon is to increase environmental knowledge and understanding while motivating young people to care for the environment by practicing stewardship in their homes, schools, and communities. Hundreds of Maryland high school students have met this challenge and are now more concerned and informed about protecting natural resources in the world around them.

## Our Roots

The Envirothon began in 1979 through the efforts of three Pennsylvania soil and water conservation districts. Today, the Envirothon is the largest natural resources competition for high school students in North America, with 10 Canadian provinces and more than 45 states participating. Maryland teams have consistently placed in the top ten percent at North American competitions, earning a range of educational scholarships and products from the program's sponsors.

Established in 1990, the Maryland Envirothon is sponsored by local soil conservation districts and the State Soil Conservation Committee.

## For More Information

Visit our website: [mdenvirothon.org](http://mdenvirothon.org)

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Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
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# THE MARYLAND ENVIROTHON

*EDUCATE. ENGAGE. SPONSOR.*





## Areas of Study

The Maryland Envirothon combines classroom learning with active field experience in five disciplines:

### Aquatics

Teams work with marine and freshwater biologists to understand fragile underwater ecosystems. They learn how to make connections between water quality, stream health, and wetlands.



### Forestry

Teams work with foresters to identify tree species, determine a tree's height and age, and learn management techniques to ensure healthy and productive forests.



### Wildlife

Teams work with wildlife biologists to identify Maryland wildlife, study wildlife ecology and management, and learn ways to protect wildlife.



### Soils

Teams work alongside soil scientists to learn soil profiling and mapping techniques used to determine soil characteristics that impact farming and development.



### Environmental Issues

Each year, students investigate a current environmental issue in detail. In recent years, students have explored questions such as: What is a watershed? How do wetlands protect water quality? Does Smart Growth really work?

## Get Involved

If you are a student, check with your high school's science department to see if your school sponsors a team. Home schooled students, scouts, FFA chapters, science clubs, and 4-H clubs are welcome and encouraged to put together teams.

If you are a science teacher, adult leader or volunteer and would like to start an Envirothon team, or serve as a team advisor, contact your county's soil conservation district for guidance and training materials.

## Sponsor Us!

Educating tomorrow's decision-makers on the importance of conservation is vital to the health of our natural resources and the Chesapeake Bay. The Maryland Envirothon helps students become more involved in protecting natural resources by honing their problem-solving skills and instilling a sense of stewardship in these future leaders. In order to compete at the state and North American events, Envirothon teams need assistance in covering expenses associated with educational materials, travel, and lodging. Please pledge your support for Maryland's Envirothon teams.

- **Platinum Sponsor: \$2,500**
- **Gold Sponsor: \$1,000**
- **Silver Sponsor: \$500**
- **Bronze Sponsor: \$300**

Make checks payable to the Maryland Envirothon/Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCSD). Mail to MASCSD, 209 Jarman Branch Drive, Centreville, Maryland 21617. MASCSD is a nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

### Give Through the Maryland Charity Campaign

You can also give through the Maryland Charity Campaign, a workplace charitable giving program that offers state employees the opportunity to contribute to charities. Learn more at [mcc.maryland.gov](http://mcc.maryland.gov)

## Friends and Sponsors

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