

# New Jersey Envirothon 2013

## *Celebrating 20 Years!*

High School Students Exploring:  
*Forestry   Aquatics   Wildlife*  
*Soils   Current Issues*



## 20 Years of Experiential Learning and Problem-Solving by New Jersey High School Students

Today's world is a complicated and challenging place, and our environmental issues are equally challenging. For twenty years, the NJ Envirothon has helped students step up to the challenge.

The NJ Envirothon provides high school students with in-depth knowledge about New Jersey's natural resources, and the skills needed to navigate the complex environmental issues of today and tomorrow.

Teams of five students prepare throughout the school year and then convene in early May for a day-long exam and problem-solving competition. Although this is a *competition* (honors, prizes and scholarships at stake) camping and camaraderie are highlights that motivate many of the students to return each year.

Students compete in the areas of Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and a Current Environmental Issue.

During the school year, student teams are guided by a local teacher or parent. Online study guides and in-person training workshops are provided by natural resource professionals from the various sponsoring organizations (see back page for a list of sponsors).

One week prior to the event, students are also presented with an environmental issue or real-life scenario for which they must: 1) explore the natural resources, implications and stakeholders involved; 2) collaborate to devise a solution, and; 3) give an oral presentation to a panel of judges on the day of the competition.

The NJ Envirothon was initiated in 1994 by the Mercer County Soil Conservation District. There were only four teams at the first event. Today, approximately 35 to 40 teams participate each year.

Social Studies teacher Tom Miller advised the 1<sup>st</sup> Place team from Kittatinny Regional H.S., Sussex County, in 1994. Twenty years later, he's still bringing teams back for the Envirothon experience.

*"The Envirothon has taken my students all over New Jersey and North America, from Nova Scotia to the Gulf Coast, and even to the high country of the Grand Tetons. These will be some of the greatest experiences in their lives. Many have gone on to have successful environmental science careers."*

- Tom Miller, Kittatinny Regional HS





## Teamwork Required

*"The Envirothon was a great experience for us. It was the first time anyone on our team had ever competed, but we found the set-up and rules easy to follow. We learned a great deal about topics we might not have chosen to study, such as aquatics and soils. The team presentation taught us to look at all aspects of an issue, its practicality, and its environmental repercussions. It also helped us learn to trust teammates, when we did not know the answers. The Envirothon taught us about both teamwork and the environment".*

By Monica Chelius and Alison Barton, Moorestown Friends School

## Registration is Easy!

**For registration information and details visit [www.njenvirothon.org](http://www.njenvirothon.org)**

- Registration Brochure
- Envirothon Rules and General Information
- Training Courses
- Online Study Guides
- NJN Classroom Close-Up videos from two past events

## Like Us on Facebook!

Contact: NJ Envirothon Coordinator Richard Belcher, 609-633-2549 [Richard.Belcher@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:Richard.Belcher@ag.state.nj.us)  
For a directory of soil districts visit: <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/nrc/>



## NJ ENVIROTHON SPONSORS

NJ Association of Conservation Districts

NJ Department of Agriculture

NJ State Soil Conservation Committee

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

NJ Conservation District Employees Association

NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Rutgers Cooperative Extension

And your local Soil Conservation District

2013 NJ Envirothon will be held on May 4, 2013, at Camp Kettle Run in Medford, NJ. The current issue and host site vary from year to year.