

# Become a Michigan Envirothon Team Advisor:



## 1. Find students interested in participating on an Envirothon Team

Use the Envirothon recruiting posters (*available through the MI Envirothon Coordinator*) to hang around the school. Students participating in Envirothon must be enrolled in grades 9-12 or age equivalent (13 – 19) to be eligible to participate. Students may or may not be interested in pursuing an environmental/natural resource degree or career, but may be interested in the learning about the environment, being outdoors, and working on a team with other students.

## 2. Find a Co-Advisor

Any adult interested in working with the Envirothon Team can serve as an advisor. Ideally, one advisor would work at the school where the students attend, and the other advisor may be a parent, someone who works in the environmental/natural resources field, a 4-H club advisor, or FFA Chapter advisor, to give some examples.

## 3. Assign a Team Leader

Once the Envirothon team is established, assign one of the students as the team leader, or have the students take turns serving as team leader. The team leader can be responsible for leading Envirothon team meetings, organizing the team for fundraising activities, organizing forms to be turned in to the Michigan Envirothon office (registration, health/release forms, and State Competition forms), etc. This not only gives the students “ownership” of their team, but also alleviates the team advisors of some of their time commitment and duties.

## 4. Work with the students’ school and community to inform them of Envirothon

Often times, if the students’ school and community members are aware of the program they are participating in, and the many things they are accomplishing through their involvement, the Envirothon team will receive more support and will be encouraged to excel in the Envirothon competition.

## 5. Establish meeting times/days

Envirothon teams vary on how frequently they meet depending on the advisor and student schedules. Typically, teams meet more frequently while working on their Community Outreach Projects and as they approach the State Competition. Teams may meet once per week after school, during lunch time one or two days per week, during study hour one or two days per week, or on a weekend. There are no rules for how often a team must meet. If there is more than one team advisor, they can take turns meeting with the students, and students can meet on their own without advisors too.

## **6. Work with local Resource Professionals**

One of the unique aspects of Envirothon is the use of Resource Professionals to provide training to the Envirothon teams in a hands-on, outdoors setting. Contact your local Conservation District (visit [www.macd.org/macdsdir.html](http://www.macd.org/macdsdir.html) to find the one nearest you) for help in finding Resource Professionals. Provide the Resource Professional with the learning objectives for the topic they will be working with the students on and ask them to address some or all of those learning objectives.

## **7. Have students study resource materials provided by the MI Envirothon office**

The Michigan Envirothon office provides each Envirothon team with resource materials (both hard copy and internet) to help them address the learning objectives. Some teams divide the packets by topic, where one student studies Wildlife, another studies Aquatic Ecology, and so on. Other teams have all students study all of the materials.

## **8. Attend the Regional Envirothon for your area**

Teams must attend a Regional Envirothon to be eligible to compete in the State Competition. Regional Envirothon events are one-day events held in March/April. If you are not able to attend the Regional Envirothon for your area because of a date conflict, check with the Michigan Envirothon Coordinator.

## **9. Attend the State Competition**

The Envirothon State Competition is a two-day event, typically held during the second week in May, with review sessions and Community Outreach Project presentations on the first day, and testing on the second day. At the conclusion of the second day of the event, an awards ceremony will be held. Teams are awarded for excellence in each subject area, for their Community Outreach Projects and for excellence in the overall competition, and other accomplishments.

## **10. Attend the Canon Envirothon**

The team that takes 1<sup>st</sup> place overall at the Michigan Envirothon State Competition advances to the Canon Envirothon. North America's largest high school environmental education competition, Canon Envirothon, is hosted at a different location each year, in one of the States or Provinces that participate in Envirothon. The Canon Envirothon is typically held in the last week of July and is a five day event.

## **11. Pat yourself on the back for a job well done & start thinking about next year!**

Envirothon team advisors do a great job, and they deserve some recognition, but don't forget, the earlier you get started on Envirothon activities for the next year, the better!

Questions? Comments? Need help on getting started?  
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