



Iowa Envirothon

Hosted by Conservation Districts of Iowa
Fall 2017

2017 Iowa Envirothon Highlights

The 2017 Iowa Envirothon took place on Monday, April 24 at Springbrook State Park near Guthrie Center, Iowa. It was a great day filled with fun and excitement as the teams were ready to test their knowledge on the environment. The day would not have been possible without the help and support of our sponsors and volunteers. We greatly appreciate their time and contributions to make the Iowa Envirothon such a wonderful event for our future leaders!



2017 Iowa Envirothon Champions
Southwest Valley FFA in Emmitsburg, Maryland

New State Competition Location!

The 2018 Iowa Envirothon State Competition will be held at the Des Moines YMCA Camp in Boone, Iowa.

The Des Moines YMCA Camp is located on 400 acres of forest in the picturesque Des Moines River Valley.

Conservation Districts of Iowa is looking forward to building this new partnership with the Des Moines YMCA.



Mark your calendars!

2018 Iowa Envirothon Regional Competitions

- March 1 - Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo
- March 13 - Cherokee Community Center, Cherokee
- March 13 - Kirkwood Community College, Iowa City
- March 13 - Fairgrounds, Red Oak
- March 14 - DMACC, West Des Moines

The 2018 Iowa Envirothon State Competition will be held Monday, April 16, 2018 at the Des Moines YMCA Camp - RAIN OR SHINE

The 2018 NCF - Envirothon will be held July 22 - 26, 2018 at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho

2018 Current Issue: Western Rangeland
Management: Balancing Diverse Views

2017 Iowa Envirothon

State Competition Results

2017 Award Winners

Overall Top Score..... Southwest Valley FFA
 Runner Up..... Maquoketa FFA 1
 Aquatics..... Marshalltown High School
 Current Issue..... Bellevue FFA White
 Forestry..... Southwest Valley FFA
 & La Porte - Dysart FFA (tie)
 Soils..... Southwest Valley FFA
 Wildlife..... Southwest Valley FFA
 Oral Presentation..... Decorah Painted Turtles



**Overall Top Score, Forestry,
Soils and Wildlife Winner**
Southwest Valley FFA



Runner Up
Maquoketa FFA 1

FFA Team Scores

Top Score..... Southwest Valley FFA
 Runner Up..... Maquoketa FFA 1

2017 State Competition Teams

Bellevue FFA White
 Cardinal FFA 1
 Decorah MHEMO
 Decorah Painted Turtles
 La Porte - Dysart FFA
 Louisa - Muscatine FFA
 Maquoketa FFA 1
 Marshalltown High School
 Muscatine FFA Blue
 Muscatine FFA Gold
 North Scott FFA
 Southwest Valley FFA
 Unity Christian FFA 1
 Unity Christian FFA 2
 Winterset Huskies



Aquatics Winner
Marshalltown High School



Current Issue Winner
Bellevue FFA White



Forestry Winner
La Porte - Dysart FFA



Oral Presentation Winner
Decorah Painted Turtles

Congrats to ALL State Qualifiers!

Special Thanks!

The Iowa Envirothon is sponsored by Conservation Districts of Iowa, with generous support from EOR Iowa, LLC, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship - Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Iowa FFA Association, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Society, Iowa Soybean Association, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Smithfield Foods - Algona, Carroll, Denison, Mason City, Orange City, Sioux Center and Sioux City, Springbrook State Park, Many Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Anna Golightly

Special thanks also goes to the NCF - Envirothon for its support of more than 50 state and provincial programs throughout North America.

To the numerous volunteers who help make the Iowa Envirothon a success, none of this would be possible without you. **We cannot thank you enough for your continued support of the Iowa Envirothon!**

Southwest Valley FFA Participates in National Envirothon Competition in Maryland

This year the 2017 NCF - Envirothon Competition was held at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland starting on July 23rd with registration and ending on July 29th with check out. Our team members included Avery Kwirant, Lexie Haer, MaKayla McMann, Connor Shipley, and Hunter Poston.

On Saturday, July 22 our team headed to Council Bluffs to stay in a hotel near Eppley Airport in Omaha to make our early morning flight. We grabbed some food, checked into our hotel, and then met as a team to review some of our training literature before calling it a night.

On Sunday, July 23rd we got up early and headed to the airport to check in and find our departure gate for our 6 a.m. flight out of Eppley Airport. We flew to Chicago where we unloaded some passengers and loaded some new passengers and then continued our flight on to our destination in Baltimore, Maryland. Airport security was interesting as they pulled out one of our team members and carried out a pat down to thankfully find nothing and then searched one of our suitcases as the monitor showed that the Ziploc bag carrying the liquid and aerosol items was over the quart size. Thankfully we all made it through check in and our flights departed and landed on time. From the airport in Baltimore to Mount St. Mary's University we had roughly an hour and a half shuttle bus ride with our shuttle leaving at 11:30 a.m. When we arrived at the shuttle site the bus had left five minutes early so we had to hang around for the 2:30 p.m. shuttle which actually worked out for us as the first bus broke down on the way. Once we arrived at registration our team captain, Avery, was directed to select a turtle with a hidden number which indicated our team presentation order. Team members and advisors were all given two Envirothon t-shirts and gift bags. In the process of getting to our dorms with our luggage we all got soaked in a nice summer rain. On to opening ceremonies which began with the parade of flags from each team captain, introductions from several leaders within the Envirothon organization and the university president, and we ended with entertainment from Billy Brennan "Billy B" who entertained and educated us through his natural science songs and dance moves. The evening ended with an ice cream social and trading session among all the participants which was a great way to mingle with others and trade state souvenirs.



On Monday, July 24th students departed for their training sites at 8 a.m. by charter buses to locations off campus to learn about Maryland's soils, wildlife, forestry, aquatics, and current issue topics. Each team member selected two of the five topics to attend at the training sessions to write down notes in a provided journal and to ask questions of the training staff to learn as much as possible for the tests and presentation later in the week. Members returned to campus at 5 p.m. for dinner and a break until 7 p.m. at which time all teams attended a two hour study session with team members and their advisor to review notes from the training sites. Also on Monday while the students were at their training our advisors Steve and Mikalah attended the four sites Frederick County Agricultural Tour for the day. They toured South Mt. Creamery which is a family owned dairy herd and creamery, then on to England Acres which is an 1870's working farm where they also treated them to a home cooked lunch. The third stop was Linganore Winecellars which is a family-operated vineyard and winery and utilizes 100% wind power alternative energy. The fourth stop was Catoctin Mountain Orchard that is a fourth generation family orchard that produces fruits, berries, and fresh produce.



On Tuesday, July 25th students departed for testing sites at 8 a.m. to various sites off campus and returned at 5 p.m. to a warm, cheering celebration from the advisors and Envirothon staff. After dinner and a short break everyone attended the scales & tails wildlife program presented by one of the area wildlife biologists. We learned about hawks, owls, snakes, and a large snapping turtle (85 lbs. large) that had been rescued and rehabilitated from injuries that prevented them from being released back into the wild. On Tuesday during the day advisors Steve and Mikalah went to the grocery store with one of the area volunteers so as to buy snacks for the team for their presentation prep day on Thursday. They also toured around their beautiful campus and hiked up the hill to tour around Mount St. Mary's statue and the grotto.

On Wednesday, July 26th we all enjoyed a day of educational touring in Washington, D.C. We departed on charter buses at 7:45 a.m. with our first stop for a group photo at the Lincoln Memorial and then we all toured around the National

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Southwest Valley FFA Participates in National Envirothon Competition in Maryland

Mall until 3:15 p.m. We enjoyed touring Air & Space Museum, seeing our "Constitution and Bill of Rights", seeing the White House, and other historic sites as well. We departed for Sandy Point State Park where we enjoyed a Maryland Blue Crab Feast near the beach and then enjoyed a swim in Chesapeake Bay for a couple of hours before returning back to Mount St. Mary's. Eating the crab was an adventure in itself for everyone and swimming and wading in the bay was a lot of fun.



On Thursday, July 27th students had a long day as they departed for presentation prep sites at 8 a.m. and turned in presentation materials at the end of the day at 7:30 p.m. The day entailed teams working with a team buddy to prepare their presentation materials for Friday. During the prep time teams were given their project scenario and briefed on some more background material related to the presentation topic and then had roughly six hours to put together their presentation speech. The topic this year revolved around a family farm planning to expand their operation and add in more agritourism as further income while also implementing additional best management practices to improve their conservation plan. After a break from a long preparation day we reviewed the presentation plan and called it a night to rest up for the presentation speech.

On Friday, July 28th teams dressed up in their team presentation clothes and waited for their designated time slots. Our team attire was black slacks and a light gray polo for everyone. Our team presented around 11:30 a.m. with minimal errors and then answered the follow-up questions very successfully. After lunch the top three oral presentations were presented to the entire assembly of envirothon participants and advisors followed by dinner and then the awards ceremony. Pennsylvania was crowned the top team and both their instructors, after many years of training teams, were inducted into the Envirothon Hall of Fame that evening as well. Although we placed 46th out of 54 teams we learned a lot about Maryland agriculture and culture, grew as a team and as individuals, and enjoyed the great scenery and history from part of the eastern United States. The night ended with another heavy rain shower as members enjoyed a DJ and dance and packed their belongings for the early morning departure.

On Saturday, July 29th we checked out of our dorm rooms by 1 a.m. and carried luggage to meet the shuttle bus for our 2 a.m. departure to the Baltimore Airport. We waited a couple hours in the airport before our flight left at 7:25 a.m. for our return through Chicago to Omaha around 10:30 a.m. Our flights all went well and needless to say we were all exhausted when we returned home. Ironically when we left for the competition one of our team members just finished exhibiting beef at his county fair and when we returned another of our team members had to rush to her fair to exhibit her calf early that afternoon at her county fair.

Our members all enjoyed this great opportunity to learn about agriculture, environmental systems, and cultures of the



Maryland area. Meeting teams from other states, providences, and China was unique and neat to see the variety of materials used for trading items representing home for each team. What a treat also when you can learn to eat crab for the first time and swim in the Chesapeake Bay for the first time as well.

We want to send out our thanks to all the great sponsors for the state of Iowa, the host state of Maryland, the NCF - Envirothon Staff, and the many volunteers that made this great event possible. Thank you to Courtney Slagle for her efforts throughout this entire adventure and for her continued commitment to improving our Envirothon here in Iowa. Locally thank you to our Conservation Districts of Iowa as they are very supportive of our Envirothon teams and of our efforts to improve our environmental awareness in our local education programs.

2018 Current Issue: Western Rangeland Management: Balancing Diverse Views

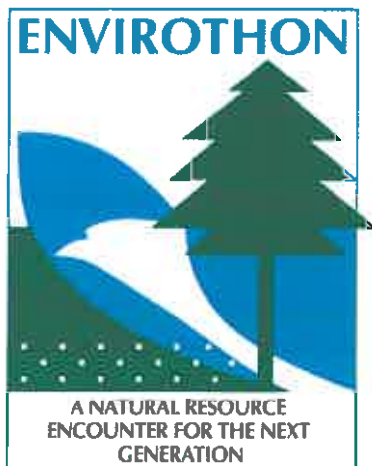
Key Topics

- Grazing is a popular tool in western rangeland management. How can this tool be used to help manage the ecosystem?
- What can management strategies help to reduce the spread and impact of noxious weeds?
- How can western rangeland management have a positive impact on fire suppression, and how can the lack of management be a negative impact on fire suppression?
- How can western rangeland management be used to maintain a balanced plant community to support livestock, sage grouse, as well as other wildlife and land uses?
- How can rangeland managers balance livestock production (grazing) with the maintenance of water quality?
- How can stakeholders with different values and opinions improve communication and working relationships to develop improved rangeland management strategies?

Learning Objectives

Information and examples provided will help Envirothon Teams understand the following:

- Characteristics and location of rangeland in the Western United States and how it is currently managed.
- The percentage of land in the west that is federally controlled and allows multiple resource use.
- Ways to protect water quality within western rangeland management.
- How grazing is used as an effective management tool to control noxious weeds, reduce catastrophic wildfires, and improve wildlife habitat.
- The current Best Management Practices (BMPs) for western rangelands and how they support livestock production, pest management, fire suppression, and wildlife habitat maintenance.
- How different ecosystems (wetland, riparian, and upland areas) within the rangelands interact.
- How the use of the land by humans, domestic livestock, and wildlife affects the plant community.
- The rights of private landowners and citizens' related to public land.



The NCF - Envirothon will be held July 22 - 26, 2018
at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho

Visit www.iowaenvirothon.org and www.envirothon.org for full details and materials related to this topic and the national competition.

Conservation Districts of Iowa Scholarship Opportunity!

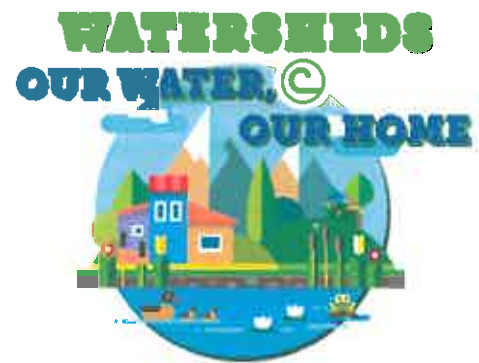
Conservation Districts of Iowa is partnering with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) to foster the higher education endeavors of Iowa students interested in conservation and agriculture by offering scholarships. Iowa High School Class of 2018 students pursuing programs of study in any field of conservation or agriculture qualifies for the Conservation Scholarship.



For Scholarship Application & Instructions, visit www.cdiowa.org/programs

High School Level Conservation Poster Contest!

The annual National Conservation Poster Contest provides students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resource issues through art. Posters must reflect and include the title of this year's contest theme "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home" on the poster. 45 Iowa state winners will receive a cash award. The 5 state winners will be on display at the 2018 Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner Annual Conference in September and will then be sent to the national poster contest for consideration for a national award and on display at the 2019 NACD Annual Meeting.



For Poster Contest Rules & Entry Form, visit www.cdiowa.org/programs



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Visit Iowa Envirothon's website
www.iowaenvirothon.org

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