



# 2026 Southeast Minnesota Envirothon

Hosted by:  
Southeast Minnesota Soil & Water Conservation Districts

## Current Issue



### What is an Envirothon?

An Envirothon is an outdoor, hands-on learning experience for high school and middle school students. It centers around five different learning stations (soils, wildlife, aquatic resources, forestry, and a current environmental issue), which are staffed by professionals on that subject.

At each station, teams composed of five students answer questions on the subject. Since the event takes place outdoors, questions involve actual contact with natural resources, rather than a "paper and pencil" approach. After finishing at one station, the team moves on to the next station. Students spend approximately twenty-five minutes at each station.

An oral presentation will also be part of the competition for high school teams. Students will be given a scenario before the event. The teams create a poster and develop a presentation, which they will give to a set of judges on the day of the Envirothon. Students will have seven to 10 minutes to make the oral presentation. This oral presentation will be the same as the one used at the State Envirothon.

### 2026 Southeast Envirothon

Wednesday, May 6th, 2026

9:00 am

Byron Sportsmen & Conservation Club,  
Byron, Minnesota

The Envirothon runs approximately from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. Students visit the learning stations from 9:30 am to 12:00. Then they eat lunch while learning station staff tally scores. A brief awards ceremony will follow lunch. **Beverage and Lunch will be provided.**

## Envirothon Rules

- Students must be in grades 9-12 to be eligible to participate in the state event.
- Junior teams will consist of students in grades 6-8.
- Teams are made up of five students from the same school. (See enclosed Envirothon rules about alternates.)
- Each team will stay together during the competition, traveling as a team.
- An advisor must accompany each team to the event but is not allowed to accompany them to the stations.
- Notecards are allowed for the Oral Presentation only, but will not be allowed at the State Envirothon).
- Electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, PDAs, and video recorders are not allowed to be carried by students during the Envirothon.
- The school or advisor shall provide transportation to the event.
- See the enclosed Envirothon Rules for a more detailed list.
- REGISTRATION IS LIMITED, so please contact your local Soil & Water Conservation District to get your registration form in by April 17, 2026.



Students give oral presentations at the 2019 Southeast Minnesota Envirothon.

## History of the Envirothon

The Envirothon program started in 1979 in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts sponsored the program as an outdoor hands-on competition. Minnesota held its first Envirothon in 1993 with 100 students from the Twin Cities area participating. The following year, several Soil and Water Conservation Districts organized area competitions. By 1996, all districts held area competitions. Now, nearly 1,000 students participate throughout the state.

The top three high school teams will be eligible to compete at the State Envirothon on May 18, 2026, at the Oliver Kelley Farm in Elk River, Minnesota.

## Area VII SWCDs



DODGE SWCD - (507) 374-6364  
FILLMORE SWCD - (507) 887-0240  
FREEBORN SWCD - (507) 373-5607  
GOODHUE SWCD - (651) 923-5286  
ROOT RIVER SWCD - (507) 724-5261  
(Houston County)

OLMSTED SWCD - (507)-328-7139  
RICE SWCD - (507) 332-5408  
STEELE SWCD - (507) 451-6730  
WABASHA SWCD - (651) 565-4673  
WINONA SWCD - (507) 523-2171

**Learn more about the Envirothon at [www.maswcd.org/envirothon.htm](http://www.maswcd.org/envirothon.htm)**