



Delaware ENVIROTHON™
c/o Delaware Association of Conservation Districts
P.O. Box 242
Dover, Delaware 19903-0242
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Website: www.delawareenvirothon.org

September 27, 2011

Dear Educator:

The Delaware Envirothon is a hands-on, team-based environmental learning experience for high school students. It has been correlated to state educational standards and the materials can be adapted to your classroom or used as an after-school program for your team members. We are looking for additional adults and students interested in environmental education and stewardship and becoming involved with the Delaware Envirothon. Teams are comprised of five high school aged students chaperoned by an adult advisor.

Throughout the year students and advisors learn about the resource topics of Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils/Land Use, Wildlife, and a 5th topic that changes each year. The topic for 2012 is "Nonpoint Source Pollution – Low Impact Development." Last year Delaware also added the topic of Air Quality to its state competition. During the spring competition students are tested on their knowledge of the natural resource topics. Additionally students must prepare an oral presentation to provide an answer for the given scenario.

The 2012 Delaware Envirothon will be held on April 26, 2012. Preparations for our 17th season of "Challenging Environmental Education" are well underway. We will kick off the year with our **first of three training sessions on Saturday, October 8, 2011.** The training will be held at the Blackbird State Forest just north of Smyrna, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Topics to be covered include Soils/Land Use and Forestry.

The second training session will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 5, 2011, at the Delaware Department of Agriculture located in Dover. Topics to be covered include Nonpoint Source Pollution/Low Impact Development and Public Speaking. **The third training session will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 21 or 28, 2012 (date is still being finalized),** at the St. Jones Reserve in Dover and will cover Wildlife, Aquatic Ecology, and Air Quality.

Both students and advisors are encouraged to attend these informative training workshops held by natural resource professionals. You can read about the workshops and register through the Delaware Teacher Center catalogue or contact Kerin Walsh at 302-741-2600, ext. 3. Teachers can earn professional credits for attending the training sessions. Additionally, the Delaware Envirothon website (www.delawareenvirothon.org) has training materials available for those unable to attend training sessions.

Please think about the following important facts as you consider participating in the Delaware Envirothon:

- The Delaware Envirothon and Canon Envirothon provide opportunities for students on winning teams to earn scholarships to the college of their choice. (\$500 per student in Delaware and up to \$5,000 per student from Canon)
- Wesley College offers a renewable \$3,000 per year academic scholarship to attend Wesley.
- The program is correlated to State of Delaware education content standards.
- Students are exposed to a wide range of environmental and conservation career choices in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soils/land use, wildlife and other environmental topics. Many students do go on to college and major in environmental, natural resource and agricultural careers.
- The winning team has the opportunity to travel to other states or Canada to compete against the best teams from the U.S. and Canada. Delaware's state champion Envirothon team placed 16th in the Canon Envirothon in New Brunswick, Canada this past July, and won the competition in Arizona during the summer of 2008. Delaware teams frequently place among the top ten winning teams.

We look forward to working with you during the school year as you prepare your team(s) for the 2012 competition. If you would like to schedule a presentation about the Envirothon program for your group or if you have any questions about the Delaware Envirothon, please give me a call at 739-9135 or send an e-mail to me at Michelle.Jacobs@state.de.us.

Sincerely,

Michelle Jacobs

Michelle Jacobs, Chairwoman
Delaware Envirothon

Challenging Environmental Education

