



# PREPARING A TEAM

**Advisors/teachers will be responsible for training their team prior to the event**

## Team Registration

Final team registration must be made by **April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009**. This will require the naming of five (5) team members and the attending teacher/coach. Medical/photo release forms and the \$300 registration fee must also be sent as part of the registration. **If a school has more than one team prepared for NL Envirothon, confirmation of their ability to attend will be not be provided prior to the April 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline for registration.**

## Preparing for the Competition

### Field Testing

The NL Envirothon competition is designed to get students involved in learning about many different environmental disciplines. The amount of information provided to Envirothon teams may seem overwhelming to team members and advisors. This guide is designed to help teams prepare for the Envirothon by encouraging teamwork and a multi-disciplinary approach to environmental problem solving.

Considering that the Envirothon is a competition encompassing much of the United States and Canada, students should put as much time and effort into preparation as they would for any competitive event of this stature. Compare the amount of time required for Envirothon to the amount of time it takes to prepare for other competitive events, like football or band, in which a team wants to be the state / Provincial champion.

Some of the material, that teams are expected to know, is advanced for high school (especially grades 9 & 10) as the nature of the event is very competitive. However, NL Envirothon is meant to be a fun addition to high school studies. Field trips, speakers and demonstrations can be great ways to learn critical information from experienced professionals.

There is not a single source of information for studying for the NL Envirothon competition. There are numerous resources available to learn basic information about soils and land use, forestry, aquatic ecology and wildlife. NL Envirothon provides guidelines for learning – there are no limits to where the knowledge will come from!

## Helpful Hints

1. There are five subject areas and five team members. A team could assign each member an area of primary concentration and secondary concentration. This way, each team will have two members knowledgeable about, for example,

- forestry. Then, share the information with the others in practice sessions. Another way to divide the learning objectives for each subject among the team. Remember that even resource professionals can't know everything. Teamwork is essential in the real world. Learning how to work as a team is essential to your success in NL Envirothon.
2. Make sure all team members are familiar with basic ecology terms and current environmental issues. They should also develop an understanding of the interrelationship between all the topic areas and how the management of one resource may affect another.
  3. Map reading is an important skill for natural resource professionals.
  4. Each team is provided with the Learning Objectives for NL Envirothon, along with a list of websites. Please note that the information on the website provide information relevant to the Learning Objectives. You may find more useful resources elsewhere, and if so, use them! Teams do not need to know all the information found on the websites – only that which relates to the learning objectives!
  5. Teams may choose to contact resource professionals to request presentations at the school or in the field. The following organizations often have professionals available for such presentations:
    - a. Federal Government Departments:
      - i. Natural Resources (NRCan)
      - ii. Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
    - b. Provincial Government Departments of:
      - i. Natural Resources (for Forestry, contact your local Forestry District)
      - ii. Fisheries and Aquaculture
      - iii. Environment and Conservation (Wildlife Division)

## **Oral Testing**

Independent study is encouraged, but the Envirothon is a team competition. There are different methods of preparing for the competition and individuals may have strengths in certain areas. In studying for the Envirothon, students should meet regularly to discuss and share viewpoints. Few issues are black and white in resource management and your team should be able to develop solutions to issues that are environmentally, socially and economically viable. The oral presentation requires everyone's participation on the team, and a team that lacks teamwork will lose points on their score.

Each team will have around three hours during the competition dedicated solely for the purpose of preparing for the oral presentation. Time management is crucial for preparing a strong oral presentation. A means to do this would be to have one team member with a watch who keeps an eye on the time and is responsible for keeping the team on topic. Spend some time before the competition thinking of the various components you will need to go over while preparing for the presentation and determine approximate amounts of time each of these will take and create a time plan to follow during the

competition. If you are unsure of how much time solving a scenario may take ask your advisor to create a practice scenario for you. This will give you an idea of the various components you will need to cover and the amounts of time it will take to cover each of these.

Teams will be provided with the equipment needed to prepare their oral presentation. This may include Bristol board, markers etc. or the team may be given the opportunity to prepare using a laptop. **If the latter is used, students should be familiar with MS PowerPoint in order to prepare their presentation.**

### **Helpful hints**

1. Plan who is going to say what.
2. Make your drawings/diagrams large and easy to read.
3. Divide your presentation into an introduction, middle, and an end.
4. Face your audience.
5. Stand clear of the chart/screen so that all may see it.
6. Recap the problem in the beginning; lay out the issue very briefly.
7. Speak in complete sentences.
8. Learn to expand upon an idea; give examples.
9. Make your voice expressive.
10. Nervousness is ok.

### **Common Errors to watch for**

1. Slang expressions such as frequent use of "you know" or "like".
2. Frequent interrupting and cutting off each other.
3. Speaking too rapidly.
4. Speaking in sentence fragments.
5. Speaking in a monotone.
6. Constant body movement.