

## The Monroe County Envirothon Mission

The Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District strives to provide an inter-active opportunity to local high school students to develop an increased level of environmental knowledge, skills, and conservation. This helps students become more aware and conscious of the need to preserve our natural resources.

The spirit of this competition has motivated students' to participate in the event and helps to guide them towards being action oriented adults. It's a great way to inspire learning and love for the environment.



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## The New York State & National Competitions

Monroe County's 1<sup>st</sup> Place team will proceed to the New York State Competition held in late May each spring. This level of competition is held within New York State, typically at a college or university.

Teams from all regions of New York compete to determine the State Envirothon Champions, where they are again tested on their knowledge of the environmental topics. They are also given the opportunity to perform an oral presentation judged by a panel of professionals related to the Current Issues Topic.

The winner of the NYS competition will then advance to the National Conservation Foundation—Envirothon, where teams from around North America will compete for awards and recognition.



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## What is the Envirothon?

The County Envirothon is a knowledge based competition held annually, usually in mid-May. The event consists of a full day of competition typically held at a local park, where teams of students (five members each) participate in tests of knowledge on Aquatic Life, Current Environmental Issues, Forestry, Soils and Wildlife. Exams are both inter-active and non inter-active including tough questions that require cooperation from all the team members. The winning team goes on to the state competition, where they have a chance to advance to the national competition.

### Check out the following websites for more details:

Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District:  
[www.monroecountyswcd.org](http://www.monroecountyswcd.org)

New York State Envirothon:  
[www.nysenvirothon.com](http://www.nysenvirothon.com)

National Conservation Foundation Envirothon:  
[www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org)

## Environmental Test Topics

Description of the topic areas:

### → Aquatic Life

The water cycle, watersheds, aquatic organisms and the connection to water quality, water pollution

### → Forestry

Identification of tree species, forest management, succession, common pests and invasive species concerns, tree diseases and silviculture

### → Soils

Soils biology, fertility, pollution, soil forming factors, soil profiles, land use and erosion control

### → Wildlife

Identification of wildlife species, habitat management, biodiversity, common diseases, population control and wildlife management issues and laws

### → Current Environmental Issues

This topic highlights an important environmental area of concern and varies widely; previous topics have included: wetland management, invasive species, greenways, and agriculture



## How to Prepare

To prepare for the County competition a teacher typically acts as an advisor to organize teams of students recruiting members that have a strong interest in the environment or those who participate in an existing environmental or science club.

## How to Register

The Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District encourages schools to register between December 1<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup> so they can receive timely information about each of the topics. Schools are able to sign up as many as six teams of five members each (30 students maximum). Registration forms are sent to all high schools in Monroe County. Following registration, you will receive information on each of the topics along with details for a Current Issues “problem” that teams will solve and present to a judge the day of competition. These oral presentations are a great way to provide students with a chance to interact with each other and show their passion for being problem solvers!