

## **Erie County Middle School Envirothon**

### **Rules and Regulations**

The purpose of the Middle School Envirothon is to encourage and challenge middle school students to explore and expand their knowledge of our natural resources. It is a fun-filled day aimed at giving student teams an opportunity to explore five (5) topics: Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, Aquatics, and a Current Issue. Each station will begin with a short exam to be completed as a team, earning points to work toward the title of County Champions. Following the test, students will engage in a hands-on activity related to the station's topic.

The fifth learning station challenges students to present a prepared presentation to a small panel. Several weeks prior to the event, students will be sent a current issue scenario and be challenged as a team to create a potential solution. The resulting scores are incorporated into the teams' cumulative score. The Envirothon experience gives students a chance to work as a team, expand their knowledge base of environmental issues, exchange ideas, and practice sportsmanship, all in the setting of one of Erie County's great natural resources, Headwaters Park.

- Student will be in teams of 3-5 students.
- Each school will have at least one advisor for their teams; the advisor may be a teacher, parent, coach or school-approved chaperone. One advisor may work with all teams; each team does not need to have an individual advisor.
- Schools may have a maximum of 5 teams.
- Only team members will be permitted in the park and at learning stations during the event. Advisors will not be permitted to coach or assist teams in any way during the event. ECCD staff and approved volunteers will accompany the groups during their rotations to supervise and answer any questions participants may have. During the event, work areas and several opportunities to tour the park and observe their students will be available for advisors.

- No learning aids or electronic devices will be permitted at the stations. Any violation of these rules will result in a team's disqualification.
- The winning team will be the group with the highest cumulative score.
- Judges decisions will be final on the day of competition.

**Advisors role:**

1. The advisor's role is to assist and coach the students in the preparation for the event. One advisor may coach several teams. A coach may be any adult authorized by the school district (teacher, administrator, parent, etc.).
2. Assistant/co- coaches are welcome and encouraged!
3. Details of event preparation are up to each individual coach. Depending on time and location, teams may meet once a week, several times a month, at school, at Headwaters Park, or options limited only to time and creativity. Each school is encouraged to prepare in the way that works best for the participants and allows them to get the most benefit from the experience.

**Study packet** – the study packet, provided by the Erie County Conservation District (ECCD) includes:

1. Focal study points for each study area
2. A listing of online resources and supporting agencies

**Environmental Issue Presentation** – teams will receive the Environmental Issue topic via email and online in March.

**Awards!**

1. Top three teams will receive a display plaque for their school.
2. The winning team will receive a team award to be announced the day of competition, and each competitor will receive a first place medal.