



The Oklahoma Envirothon is a team-based, high school competition for students interested in science that will:

- Increase student knowledge of the role natural resources play in their daily lives and importance to society.
- Increase student knowledge, skills and competencies, and create greater appreciation for STEM, specifically science-based STEM.
- Increase student knowledge of the range of career opportunities in the fields of natural resources.

The Oklahoma Envirothon, part of an established North American program, is an exciting, fun way for students to learn about the environment and the issues facing this and future generations. Combining in-class curriculum with hands-on field experiences, the Oklahoma Envirothon will demonstrate the role we all have in important environmental issues.

Teams will study resource materials to learn the fundamentals of natural resources management in five areas of study: aquatic ecology, forestry, soils/land use, wildlife and a special topic (agricultural soil and water conservation stewardship).

The statewide competition will take place at **Noble Research Institute** in Ardmore, Oklahoma, on **Thursday, March 29, 2018**. In accordance with the established North American program, the competition will include written challenges on each subject area and an oral presentation (the competition format is subject to change based on the final number of registered teams; if a change is made all teams will be notified approximately four weeks prior to the competition). Written challenges will be administered in the field at four or five test stations. Teams will also prepare a presentation on the special topic for this year: agricultural soil and water conservation stewardship.

By working alongside natural resource professionals and scientists, students will:

- Learn about soil structure, interpret maps, and evaluate land forms and soil characteristics that affect agriculture and development issues.
- Assess the quality of delicate aquatic ecosystems, identify aquatic organisms, manage watersheds and determine nonpoint source pollution.
- Develop an understanding of the practices for maintaining healthy forest ecosystems and learn the basics of species identification, forest structure and dynamics, as well as management approaches.
- Learn about animal populations, their dynamics and the importance of habitat conservation.
- Explore the facets of the current environmental issues and illustrate the complexity of real-life environmental decisions.

Students will have the opportunity to travel within Oklahoma to address real-life environmental issues affecting our state. Noble Academy will sponsor the winners of the state competition to travel to and compete in the international competition in Pocatello, Idaho, July 22 - 26, 2018.

For more information please visit www.oklaenvirothon.org or contact Oklahoma Envirothon coordinators: Frank Hardin (cfhardin@noble.org), Ph.D., educational outreach manager, or Will Moseley, wildlife and fisheries consultant, (wamoseley@noble.org).