



# NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ENVIROTHON

*"Fostering Environmentally Conscious, Decision Making Young Adults"*

For Immediate Release

**To:** All Media  
**Date:** May 7, 2013  
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## Youth Competition Fosters Eco-Awareness Over 150 Teens Participated

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**WHAT:** The Northeastern Illinois Envirothon is a hands-on environmental competition for area high school students.

**WHY:** Envirothon is a competitive natural resource event to test environmental knowledge and cultivate consideration for careers in environmental fields while fostering environmentally conscious, decision making young adults.

In North America, most K through 12th grade environmental education is delivered in non-formal programs outside traditional curriculum and instruction. Programs like the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon, the Illinois Envirothon and the North American Envirothon exemplify current initiatives, providing quality education training and hands-on learning activities in the areas of soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and current environmental issues. With over 500,000 participants from across North America annually, the Envirothon program is quickly becoming a primary vehicle for promoting environmental literacy in America's youth.

**WHERE:** (South Event) Danada House, DuPage County, IL, (North Event) Prairie View Education Center, Crystal Lake, IL.

**WHEN:** April 9 and April 11, 2013

**HOW:** Teams of five students prepare in the areas of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current issue which changes each year. This year's current topic is "Sustainable Rangeland Management: Balance between Traditional Agricultural uses with Non-Agricultural uses." Teams move through each topic station in a timed rotation. At each station students will listen to a 20-minute presentation from a professional in the topic's field. Students then complete a written test and lab practical. Teams will also give an oral presentation addressing a "Sustainable Rangeland Management: Balance between Traditional Agricultural uses with Non-Agricultural uses" scenario for a panel of judges.

This Envirothon serves the counties of Lake, Winnebago, McHenry, Boone, DeKalb, Kane, DuPage, Cook and Will. The competition is divided into two events; north and south. Awards for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall and to the top scoring county winners. The highest scoring team overall will go on to the Illinois Envirothon. The winning team from the IL Envirothon will represent our state in August at the Montana University in Bozeman, Montana.

**WHO:** PARTICIPATING HIGH SCHOOLS FOR 13' Event: **Winnebago Co.:** Durand, Rockford East, **Boone Co.:** North Boone, Belvidere, **McHenry Co.:** Cary Grove, Crystal Lake South, Crystal Lake Central, **Lake Co.:** Warren Township, **DeKalb Co.:** Hiawatha, Shabbona/Indian Creek, Sandwich, **Cook Co.:** Glenbrook South, Carl Sandburg, U of I Chicago Laboratory, Palatine, Streamwood, Victor J. Andrew, **Kane Co.:** Batavia, Dundee Crown, Kaneland, **DuPage Co.:** Benet, St. Francis, Wheaton North, Willowbrook, **Will Co.:** Peotone, Plainfield Central, and Plainfield South.

**TOP SCORING TEAMS FOR WINNEBAGO COUNTY:** First Place – Durand High School, Second Place – Rockford East High School.

**TOP SCORING TEAMS OVERALL:** First Place: Glen Brook South High School – Cook County, Second Place: Carl Sandburg High School, Cook County, Third Place: Dundee Crown High School – Kane County.

**NORTHEASTERN ILLIONIS ENVIROTHON TOP SCORING TEAM:** Glen Brook South High School - Cook County represented LUC 16 in the Illinois Envirothon last week.

**ILLIONIS TOP SCORING TEAM:** Triad High School – Madison County

**FFA TOP SCORING TEAM:** Edwards County High School – Edwards County

Triad High School will represent IL in the National Competition in August at Montana University in Bozeman, Montana. Top placing FFA team was Edwards County High School will represent IL at their National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky in August.

This program is organized by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in northeastern Illinois. However, the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon would not be possible without the ongoing support of generous sponsors and indispensable experience and assistance of many partner volunteers. Volunteers from agencies and organizations such as the IL Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Land & Water Resources, the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Services, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, the Bartlett Nature Center, McHenry County Conservation District, OC Image Works, the University of Illinois Extension, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Conservation Foundation are all vital contributors to the long running success of the NE IL Envirothon.

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### **Soil & Water Conservation Districts**

Soil & Water Conservation Districts work to prevent the loss or degradation of soil & water resources through public education and by linking landowners with local, state and federal assistance. Following a severe and sustained drought in the Great Plains during the 1930s, Congress unanimously passed legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. Because nearly three-fourths of the continental United States was privately owned, Congress realized that only active, voluntary support from landowners would guarantee the success of conservation work on private land. District-enabling legislation passed in every state. Today there are 97 SWCDs in Illinois. Districts are non-taxing, non-profit and independent local governments. However, they are partnered agencies that work closely with other organizations and agencies for program delivery. SWCDs receive technical assistance from their partner, the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service and are partially funded through an annual grant from the Illinois Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Land and Water Resources.

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