



Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 70 Years

2026 AREA 5 ENVIROTHON

The Envirothon is an interactive, outdoor high school competition designed to stimulate, reinforce and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources. Students are tested on their knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology and a current environmental issue. In addition, the Envirothon encourages cooperative decision-making as students work on five member teams.



Area 5 Envirothon

April 16, 2026

Rocky Fork Lake State Park
(East End Overlook Retreat Banquet Center)
 6452 Lucas Lane
 Hillsboro, OH 45133

Area 5 Envirothon

2026 Current Environmental Issue (CEI): Non-Point Source Pollution: It begins at home!

Franklin Soil and Water Area 5 Envirothon Information [Click Here](#)

Area 5 Envirothon Competition Information [Click Here](#)

2026 NCF-Envirothon Information [Click Here](#)



- Envirothon teams consist of 5 students, grades 9-12 from the same high school/association.
- High Schools can register up to 3 teams to compete.
- Tentative 2026 Schedule:

9:30-10:00 AM	Team Registration
10:00-10:10 AM	Introduction & Break into Groups
10:10-10:20 AM	Travel to First Station
10:20-10:40 AM	FIRST TEST STATION
10:40-10:50 AM	Travel to Second Station
10:50-11:10 AM	SECOND TEST STATION
11:10-11:20 AM	Travel to Third Station
11:20-11:40 AM	THIRD TEST STATION
11:40-11:50 AM	Travel to Fourth Station
11:50 AM-12:10 PM	FOURTH TEST STATION
12:10-12:45 PM	Lunch
12:45 PM	Presentation of Awards
12:55 PM	Safe Travels Home
- Tests consist of 25 questions, including some that are site specific. The testing stations are: aquatic ecology, soils/land use, forestry, and wildlife. Current Environmental Issue: *Non-Point Source Pollution: It begins at home!* Questions will be included in the tests at the four testing stations.
- **Registration/Release Forms deadline is Monday, March 23rd.** Cost per team is \$50 (*This participation fee may be covered by Franklin SWCD and your municipality – please [contact us](#)*).
- Teams can register anytime, up to the day of the event, but may not receive sunglasses/stickers if registering after the deadline.
- Registration forms must be received by [Linda Pettit/Katie Bennett](#) by Monday, March 23rd.
- Medical Release forms will be required as a part of registration.
- The 2026 Area 5 contest is planned for April 16th at Rocky Fork Lake State Park in Highland County.
- The Area 5 contest includes schools from 17 counties in central and southern Ohio.
- The top 4 teams from the Area contest will progress to the state contest held June 1-3, 2026 at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio.
- The winner at the state contest will represent Ohio at the NCF Envirothon held July 19-25, 2026 at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi.



Registration Information/Questions:

Contact Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Linda lpettit@franklinswcd.org Katie kbennett@franklinswcd.org



Soil and Water Conservation Districts Area 5 Envirothon

Dear Area 5 Envirothon Advisors,

Thank you for your participation in the 2026 Area 5 Envirothon! This year's event will be held on Thursday, April 16 starting at 9:30am. If you have not been to an Envirothon competition before, here's an outline of the day's events. The Envirothon is an outdoor event and will go on rain or shine. Please be sure to have your students dress accordingly.

Please arrive between 9:30 and 10:00 AM:

Rocky Fork Lake State Park
East End Overlook Retreat Banquet Center*
6452 Lucas Lane
Hillsboro, OH 45133

***Note: When putting Rocky Fork Lake State Park into your GPS, be sure to specify the East End Overlook Retreat Banquet Center or East Shore Marina as your destination.**

Team advisors will pick up their team's registration packet(s) at the Registration Table, located at the outdoor shelter. Upon entering the park, follow the road to the left at the fork. The outdoor shelter and registration table will be on your right. The Registration Packet includes ribbons to be worn by each team member. These ribbons designate your color group and need to be visible at all times. The Registration Packet also includes 4 score sheets. Score sheets will be labeled with your team name. Your team name will be on your Registration Packet envelope.

The welcome and official start of the Area 5 Envirothon begins at the outdoor shelter at 10:00 AM. Volunteers will be introduced, and we will share important information that you need to know prior to taking the tests.

You will then be separated into color groups. Teams and Advisors from the same school will be assigned to different groups. Two members of the Envirothon Staff (Group Monitors) will be escorting your group to each station. Once you arrive at a testing station you will hear a horn to begin testing and a horn to end testing. Do not write on the tests. Record answers on the provided score sheet (make sure it matches the test station). At the horn, turn in both test and score sheet to the Station Assistant or Resource Personnel.

You will be taking four 25-question tests, one at each ecostation. Each test contains questions from all four content areas (aquatic ecology, soils/land use, forestry and wildlife) as well as the Current Environmental Issue (CEI): Non-Point Source Pollution: It begins at home! However, each test will have a primary focus on one of the four content areas. **Please remind your students that clipboards and pencils are provided, and they are not to use their own.** All other equipment needed for taking tests will be provided.

Teams have the option to have an official team photograph taken by Envirothon Staff. The time and location for photos will be announced the day of the event. Photographs will be sent to your county SWCD office which can then be forwarded to advisors.

ONLY THE TOP FOUR TEAMS will receive an Area 5 t-shirt, plaque, individual gift cards for team members, and \$100 (registration cost that will be reimbursed after participating in the State Envirothon). The top four Area 5 teams qualify to compete in the State Envirothon with 16 other teams from around the state. This year's Ohio Envirothon will take place June 1-3, 2026 in Eastern Ohio. In the event that three of the Area teams who qualify for the State are from one school, only two of those teams can actually compete at the State Envirothon contest.

The winning team for Ohio will have the opportunity to compete at the NCF Envirothon taking place July 19-25, 2026 at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi.

Every team receives an Area 5 post-competition packet which includes the team's score sheets and, time allowing, a list of all participating teams and their scores. Tests from each station will not be released until the following week.

Please review with your team(s) the 2026 Area 5 Envirothon Program. The program contains the schedule and the Rules and Regulations.

Here are a few more things to REMEMBER:

- If you have special needs students or need handicap accessibility, please contact your SWCD right away so accommodations can be made available.
- All students should bring a water bottle. Water coolers will be available at each station for refills.
- Please leave lunch coolers at the picnic shelter or at your bus/vehicle.
- Alternate team members may NOT attend unless they are replacing a team member.
- Each school is responsible for bringing their own allergy medications, including those for bee stings.
- Advisors are strongly encouraged to participate by taking the tests. All advisors are assigned to an advisor team.
- The event will go on rain or shine. In the event of hazardous weather conditions, you will return to your buses/vehicles and wait for instructions.
- All rules and regulations will be enforced. **Electronic devices are NOT permitted during testing.** *This includes cell phones, digital cameras, etc.* **Having electronic devices will cause your team to be penalized.**
- If teams arrive during the first station time, they will be rotated in with their assigned groups. Any testing they have missed will **NOT** be able to be made up.
- If you have questions regarding the 2026 Area 5 Envirothon, please reach out to your local SWCD office or contact Katerina Sharp or Katie Bennett, Area 5 Ohio Envirothon Committee representatives:

Katerina Sharp Pickaway SWCD
Katie Bennett Franklin SWCD

katerina-sharp@pickawayswcd.org
kbennett@franklinswcd.org

740-477-1693
614-486-9613

Thanks again for all your support! We are looking forward to seeing you on April 16.

Adams, Brown & Highland SWCDs
2026 Area 5 Envirothon Coordinators



2026 Area 5 & Ohio Envirothon Registration Form

Please type or neatly print

Team Name: _____ School Name: _____

School Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

TEAM MEMBERS

	NAME	GENDER	GRADE	T-SHIRT SIZE
CAPTAIN				
MEMBER				

Office Use Only
Attending
Area State

	NAME	GENDER	GRADE	T-SHIRT SIZE
ALTERNATE				

ADVISORS

*Note: Most state-level correspondence will be through email. Please clearly note an email address where you can be reached.

ADVISOR 1	NAME	CELL PHONE	GENDER
	SUMMER ADDRESS	EMAIL	T-SHIRT SIZE
ADVISOR 2	NAME	CELL PHONE	GENDER
	SUMMER ADDRESS	EMAIL	T-SHIRT SIZE

NOTES

Only **registered** team members or alternates **with signed release forms** may participate in the Area and Ohio Envirothon. All teams must be registered by **Monday, March 23, 2026**. Alternate team members must be pre-registered and may only attend the Envirothon if substituting for a registered team member who is unable to participate. All team members, alternates and advisors must submit a release form with registration.

SUBMIT COMPLETED REGISTRATION/RELEASE FORMS BY MARCH 23, 2026 TO YOUR LOCAL SWCD OFFICE:

ADDITIONAL TEAM INFORMATION

Please note any mobility or medical issues, food preferences (vegan, vegetarian, etc.) or dietary restrictions. We will try to accommodate these as much as possible.

NAME	COMMENTS

Area and Ohio Envirothon Release Form



This form is to be completed by each student's parent/guardian and returned to the sponsoring SWCD.

This form must also be completed and signed by advisors, staff persons and guests and returned to the sponsoring SWCD.

Attendee's Full Name (*please print*) _____

Home Address _____
Street Address, City, State, Zip Code

Home Phone _____ Parent Work Phone _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Relationship to Attendee _____

Medical Insurance Provider _____ Policy # _____

Allergies (*food, medication, insects, etc.*) _____

Medical Conditions (*asthma, diabetes, etc.*) _____

Medical Equipment Used (*Epi-pen, inhaler, etc.*) _____

Please bring any needed medical supplies with you to the testing stations.

Medications Currently Being Taken _____

I understand the Ohio Envirothon may be strenuous and adverse weather conditions may occur. Nevertheless, I assume the risk involved. In the event of an accident, I authorize the Ohio Envirothon to provide emergency medical treatment for me during this event. I have been assured that all reasonable care will be taken to prevent incident: therefore, I will not hold Ohio Envirothon, the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, or the host site liable should an accident occur.

I also give my consent to the use of any photographs or videos taken of me by officials of the Envirothon or their representatives to be used for promotional and/or editorial purposes only.

Signature of Participant _____ Date _____

I (please print) _____ (parent/guardian) give permission for my child _____
(name)

to participate in the Area and/or Ohio Envirothon.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Relationship to Participant _____

2026 AREA 5 ENVIROTHON

LOCATION

Rocky Fork Lake State Park
East End Overlook Retreat Banquet Center*
6452 Lucas Lane
Hillsboro, OH 45133

***Note: When putting Rocky Fork Lake State Park into your GPS, be sure to specify the East End Overlook Retreat Banquet Center or East Shore Marina as your destination.**

SCHEDULE

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12:45 PM	Presentation of Awards
12:55 PM	Safe Travels Home

***Note: Students need to bring their own water bottles.**

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Students currently in grades 9 through 12 or equivalent home school ranking are eligible to participate in the Area Envirothon. Graduating seniors on winning teams may participate in the Ohio Envirothon and the NCF Envirothon during the summer following Area competitions.
2. Each team competing in the Area 5 Envirothon will consist of five registered members. All team members must be students from the same school, or the same association. All teams advancing to the Ohio Envirothon **must have 5 registered members to compete** and will be certified by their affiliated Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).
3. Up to 3 teams per school or association may compete at the Area contest. In the event that all 3 teams from one school qualify for state, only 2 of those teams can actually compete at the State Envirothon contest.
4. Up to three alternate team members may substitute for regular team members in the Ohio Envirothon if alternates meet the following criteria:
 - o Must be from the same school as the original competing team.
 - o Must have been registered at their Area competition (on the official registration forms provided by the Ohio Envirothon Committee (OEC) for Area and Ohio Envirothons). The alternate to be substituted must either be listed on the registration form of the original winning team OR listed as a team member or alternate on another team from the same school that competed at the Area competition.

Only five team members may attend the competition. Alternates not substituting for a regular team member may not attend the competition. Non-emergency substitutions cannot be made after the deadline unless prior approval from the OEC.

5. Each Area Envirothon committee will be required to submit to the OEC copies of the original Area Envirothon registration forms for the four teams advancing to the Ohio Envirothon, as well as team registrations from the other teams competing from those same schools. This is to help the Ohio Envirothon Host Area confirm that the team members and alternates listed on the Ohio Envirothon registration form are eligible to compete.
6. The four top scoring teams from each of the five Area Envirothons will be eligible to compete in the Ohio Envirothon. In the event that any of the top four teams cannot advance to the Ohio Envirothon, the team(s) with the next highest score(s) will be eligible to compete. Teams unable to compete at the Ohio Envirothon must notify their affiliate SWCD within 7 calendar days following their area competition. That district must in turn contact the OEC area representative and host chair within 24 hours of notification. Area Host chairpersons or OEC area representatives are responsible for identifying the next eligible team and coordinating with their affiliated SWCD to ensure registration forms are submitted.

7. Advisors are required to submit medical release forms for each student and each advisor attending the competition with the team registration form.
8. It is advised that an SWCD representative accompany winning team(s) from their county to the Ohio Envirothon.
9. Each team must be accompanied by an adult team advisor(s) and/or conservation district representative 21 years of age or older. Team members and chaperones/advisors are required to stay on site.
10. The field test will consist of four 20-minute ecosystem stations. Each of the field tests will constitute 1/4th of the total score.
11. All materials/equipment needed for the field testing portion of the Envirothon will be provided by the SWCDs. Students are not to be in possession of any material/equipment other than those provided on site. No electronic devices are allowed including cell phones, PDAs, digital cameras, etc. Teams violating this rule at a testing station will forfeit all points from that station. If a violation occurs between stations the team will forfeit all points from the previous test station completed. The advisor shall not assist the team during competition.
12. Teams competing at the Area 5 Envirothon will be provided a copy of the test and answer key following the competition.
13. The following violations will not be tolerated during the Envirothon:
 - Stealing of, or vandalism to, personal, private or public property.
 - Cheating in any form.
 - Possession and/or use of tobacco, alcohol or controlled substances.
14. Grievance Committee of 3 persons will be appointed and identified prior to the Envirothon to decide on actions to be taken should any of the above stated violations occur. Because students compete in the Envirothon as a team, the actions of 1 or more members of a team may be considered to be the actions of the team as a whole.
15. Grievances must be submitted to the Grievance Committee within 24 hours after the conclusion of the Area 5 Envirothon.
16. Any infraction of the rules and regulations of the Envirothon may result in disqualification and dismissal from the event and the host site.
17. Students are to bring any needed medical supplies with them to the testing stations (Epi-pen, inhaler, etc.).
18. The winning team will be the team with the highest cumulative point total at the end of the four testing stations. Tiebreaker procedures are as follows:
 - a. Soils Ecostation
 - b. Aquatics Ecostation
 - c. Forestry Ecostation
 - d. Wildlife Ecostation

Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts



In Cooperation with the
Ohio Department of Agriculture
presents the

2026 Area 5 Envirothon

Sponsored by

Area 5 Soil and Water Conservation Districts

April 16, 2026

Rocky Fork Lake State Park

Co-Hosted by Adams, Brown & Highland County
Soil and Water Conservation Districts



Area 5 Envirothon – Hazardous Weather Plan

1. In the event of a weather emergency, the timekeeper shall sound 3 blasts of the air horn. Monitors will have communication via the 2-way radios if necessary. The timekeeper shall document time if there is time left during a testing session.
2. Monitors shall be responsible for collecting the tests before they leave their testing station. Monitors should escort their students and advisors to the buses located near the registration shelter house.
3. After the groups arrive at the buses, students shall remain here until further instructions are given. Groups will be divided in half and each monitor will be responsible for half of the group. Try to keep the 2 groups close together on adjacent buses. The monitors shall be responsible for maintaining order within their groups.
4. Monitors will take attendance to make sure all students are present and safe by calling off school (team) names. Students are expected to know who is on their team and if all are accounted for.
5. The station assistants will help the test writers collect their materials and escort them to the buses to locate the teams that were previously at their station.
6. The remaining test procedures and times will be announced to the whole group via radio.
 - If the threat of hazardous weather appears to be brief, the groups will wait until safe conditions return and will be escorted to the station that was interrupted.
 - If the hazardous weather persists, the groups will complete the tests while on the buses.
7. If using buses:
 - Monitors will inform each group which questions will be eliminated (site specifics) from the test prior to each testing start time. This information shall come from the test review committee.
 - Station assistants, tests, and test writers will move from bus to bus.
 - Students and monitors will remain on the bus.
 - Test writers will need to be given time to speak to 2 groups before each test begins because groups have been divided into two groups and will be in two buses.
 - When each testing session is complete, station assistants will collect tests.
 - Test writers, station assistants and tests will travel to the next bus.
 - Monitors will collect answer sheets and hold them until the runner picks them up.
 - Runners will go to each bus and pick up answer sheets.
 - Tests that have already been scored will be re-scored to remove the site-specific questions.
8. Once tests are complete, lunch, awards presentation, and dismissal will occur providing the current weather conditions are acceptable. If the weather is uncooperative, schools will be dismissed following testing completion.