



**October 8th, 2025**

**Dear Vermont High School Educators,**

We are excited to invite you and your students to the 2026 Vermont Envirothon Competition! Since its inception in 1996, over 2,000 Vermont students have participated, gaining hands-on STEM experience, enhancing their environmental literacy, and connecting with professionals in soil and water conservation, wildlife, forestry, and agriculture.

This year's state competition will be held on May 20th, 2026 at Buck Lake in Woodbury, VT. The winning team will be invited to represent Vermont at the North American Envirothon, held in Starkville, Mississippi, at Mississippi State University, from July 19-25, 2026. We encourage you to register a team to help your students build valuable skills and foster a lifelong connection to our natural world. Any volunteer adult, teacher, or coach can register a team. The cost to participate for one team is \$75. A second team can be registered for \$50.

### **What is the Envirothon?**

The Vermont Envirothon is a state-wide competition where high school students put their knowledge of forestry, wildlife, soils and water resources to the test. The Envirothon provides a platform for students to study environmental science topics and develop skills in teamwork, problem-solving, and public speaking. Teams of five students (grades 9–12), supported by one or more coaches, can compete. Schools may register up to two teams.

### **Topics Covered in the Envirothon:**

Students will explore five core environmental science topics:

- **Aquatic Ecology:**  
Students study marine and freshwater ecosystems, learning to assess ecosystem health by identifying aquatic organisms, managing watersheds, and mitigating non-point source pollution impacts.
- **Forestry:**  
Students work with professional foresters to understand forest ecosystems, learning species identification, forest dynamics, and sustainable management techniques.
- **Soils/Land Use:**  
Through interactions with soil scientists, students examine soil characteristics, structure, and conservation methods, gaining insights into how soils impact urban, rural, and agricultural systems.
- **Wildlife:**  
Students learn about wildlife ecology, species identification, adaptations, and human-wildlife interactions, emphasizing habitat conservation and ecological balance.
- **Current Environmental Issue (Oral Presentation):**  
Teams delve into pressing environmental challenges, analyzing real-world problems and exploring decision-making complexities. Using knowledge from these topics, teams collaborate to address a real-world scenario and present their solutions to a panel of judges for scoring. This year's focus is *Non-Point Source Pollution: It begins at home!*

### **Lesson Plans and Activities:**

Educators/coaches are encouraged to incorporate Envirothon lesson plans and activities into their curriculum to help students prepare for the competition. Please see [VT Envirothon Key Points](#) to explore the key areas to study within each Envirothon topic to help prepare students. Lesson plans and activities will be posted on the [Educational Resources Page for Vermont Envirothon](#).

### **Important Dates:**

**February Virtual Training Series (online):** These will be online training sessions led by the station leaders (*Thursdays, 3:15–4:30 PM on Zoom*) *More details to come.*

**May 20th: Envirothon Competition** (Buck Lake Wildlife Management Area, Woodbury VT)

### **Resources and Support:**

**Training Kits:** Borrow free kits, such as the Forestry Kit, Soils Analysis Kit, and Water Quality Monitoring Kit ([Envirothon Training Kits and Books Form](#))

Educators/coaches will receive digital and print resources, and all participants receive a complimentary t-shirt. Plus there will be plenty of exciting prizes!

### **Why Participate?**

The Envirothon is more than a competition. It's a chance to inspire students to become environmental leaders while honing valuable skills like public speaking and critical thinking. Some educators even integrate Envirothon topics into their curriculum to deepen classroom learning.

To register please visit this link: [VT Envirothon 2026 Team Registration Link](#)

Please contact our Envirothon Coordinator for any questions:

**Lucas Goldfluss, Envirothon Coordinator** [lucas@winooskinrcd.org](mailto:lucas@winooskinrcd.org) | (802) 497-5513

We look forward to your participation in this enriching and exciting event!

Sincerely,

Lucas Goldfluss, Envirothon Coordinator

For more information, visit [www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org) or [www.vacd.org/programs/envirothon/](http://www.vacd.org/programs/envirothon/)

