

2023 Area II Envirothon Rules and Regulations

1. Team members must be registered in grades 9–12 or equivalent homeschool ranking at the time of the Envirothon. Except for teams from joint vocational schools or homeschool, team members may not be drawn from different schools.
2. Teams will consist of a minimum of five team members. Only five member teams will be eligible to go on to State competition. If a three or four-member team places at the Area Envirothon, they may compete at the state competition only if they have 5 members registered at the Area competition. **Teams can participate however not place if they have less than five team members at the day of event.**
3. Alternate team members may substitute for regular team members if properly registered. All alternates must be registered properly at the Area level to be permitted to fill in at the State level. Alternates may not attend the competition if they are not needed on the team the day of the contest. A team the day of the competition can only consist of team members and/or alternates listed on the original registration form. The team, if not properly registered, will be able to participate, however not advance, if they place in the top 5 teams.
4. Each school is permitted to send a maximum of three teams to the Area Envirothon.
5. No more than two teams from any one school can advance to the state competition. This is true even if three teams from one school place within the top four at the area competition.
6. Teams must be accompanied to any Envirothon competition by an adult (21 years of age minimum) advisor or SWCD representative. The advisor may accompany their team to the Envirothon but shall not accompany or assist the team during the testing by answering questions, either directly or indirectly.
7. The Envirothon shall consist of five competitive tests based on soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, and current environmental issues ecostations consisting of 25–30 minutes each.

8. Team members are not to be in possession of bags, backpacks or electronic devices including, but not limited to, cell phones, cameras, tablets, video cameras, music players, etc. during the competition (defined as the time from when the orientation begins at the orientation site until all testing is completed AND teams return back to the orientation site for lunch). Although it is highly discouraged for students to bring electronic devices, bags or back packs with them to the event, advisors will be responsible collect and store all electronic devices, bags or backpacks of students during the competition.
9. If a participant must have medication or personal supplies available to them during the event, he/she should notify their Team Buddy/Group Leader prior to departing the orientation site for testing.
10. The following violations will not be tolerated during the Envirothon:
 - a. Stealing of, or vandalism to, personal, private or public property
 - b. Cheating in any form
 - c. Possession and/or use of tobacco, alcohol or controlled substances
 - d. Possession and/or use of any vaping supplies/products
 - e. Alcoholic beverages, illegal or illicit drugs
 - f. Weapons; including firearms and knives
11. All materials/equipment needed will be provided by the Area Envirothon Committee. Students may only be in possession of supplied materials, pencils and clipboard.
12. The top four scoring teams from each of the five Area Envirothon competitions will be eligible and expected to compete in the State Envirothon. In the event that any of the top four teams cannot advance to 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 affiliated SWCD within five calendar days following the area competition. The district must in turn contact the area chairperson within 24 hours of notification. Area chairpersons are responsible for identifying the next eligible team and coordinating with their affiliated SWCD to ensure registration forms are submitted. In the event that the winning team(s) cannot represent their Area or State at the next higher level of competition, the team with the next highest score will be eligible to compete.

13. The Area II Envirothon Committee will provide monetary assistance to each winning team through local sponsorship. If the obligation of competing at the state competition is not met, the team then forfeits all rights to any assistance monies.
14. Judge's decisions are final on all events. Any questions regarding decisions must be directed to the Grievance Committee of Tom Holmes, Katie Nainiger, and Natalie Gertz-Young who will be identified prior to the testing and will have a decision regarding any grievance within 30 minutes following completion of the final test. Claims registered subsequent to the event will not be considered. Any violation of these rules and regulations as witnessed by an Envirothon official (i.e. traveling monitors, station monitors, resource personnel, etc.) may result in team disqualification.
 - a. An Envirothon team may be disqualified from advancing to the next level of competition.
 - b. A school may be barred from the Area Envirothon competition for a period of time, depending on the nature and severity of the incident.
 - c. A school or individual may be billed for damages.
15. Registration forms and release forms must be typed or neatly printed and received by the announced deadline. **All late or illegible registration forms will be rejected.** Advisors should bring a photocopy of the school medical form for each team member to the Envirothon competition.
16. The winning team will be the team with the highest cumulative point total at the end of all five events. In the event of a tie, the top scoring team in Forestry will be the tie breaker. In the event there is a tie in the Forestry eco-station, the top scoring team in the Environmental eco-station will break the tie.
17. Home school students currently in grades 9 through 12 or equivalent home school ranking when the Envirothon is held are eligible to participate. All team members must be students from the same school or the same home school association.
18. The SWCD staff, participants, volunteers, students, advisors, and sponsors may be asked to remove a coat, sweater, or similar type of clothing, bags, large purses, backpacks, etc. and are subject to inspection any time at the event. A security personnel or Area II committee member will handle inspection .

19. Rules and regulations of the Envirothon are subject to change. Any and all relevant changes will be explained to all teams and advisors at the affected Envirothon competition.
20. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist those with disabilities; unfortunately, the time allotted for each test cannot be changed.
21. Any suggestions for improvement of these rules and regulations will be considered by the Area II Envirothon Committee. Changes will be made only upon general consensus of the committee.

Weather Policy

In the Event of Rain: If rain occurs, without lightning, the contest will continue until the closing announcements.

In the Event of Lightning: At the first sign of lightning, all exams are collected by the Station Monitor. Teams may keep their scoring sheets. Team Leaders will lead and monitor teams upstairs and inside the Bronson-Norwalk Conservation Club. Teams are not permitted to review study materials.

If the lightning subsides quickly (within 30 minutes); the test session that is interrupted will not be counted. This should be noted by the Team Leader. Teams will move on to their next session where time will be reset to allow them the full 25 minutes. If the lightning continues, keeping teams from an additional two exams, the event is cancelled.

In the Event of a Tornado: Local sirens or other warning devices will be triggered. Students will be immediately led by their Team Leader to downstairs in the Bronson-Norwalk Conservation Club. All volunteers, event coordinators and visitors will be directed to follow the students to safety. Due to the shock of this experience and condition of the testing areas, the event will be cancelled and teams are excused after the all-clear has been given.

If the event is cancelled, a phone tree beginning with the Envirothon committee will begin no later than 7:30 a.m. on the day of the event. If the event cannot continue for whatever reason, a make-up test will be given. The make-up test should be compiled before the event. The make-up test should consist of 60 non site-specific questions. The soil survey still may be used to answer questions.

The make-up test developed by ODA Emily Heppner will be administered by a soil and water district employee or Emily Heppner and must be completed in 60 minutes. Each Team will need a makeup scantron sheet.

Updated 2023



Area 2 & Ohio Envirothon Registration Form (two sided)



Please type or neatly print.

Submit all forms to your local SWCD by March 7, 2023 for review

All team members, alternates and advisors must submit release forms including COVID release with registration. County Cuyahoga

Team Name: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

<u>Name</u>	<u>M/F</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>T-shirt size</u>
Team Captain: _____	_____	_____	_____
Team Member: _____	_____	_____	_____
Team Member: _____	_____	_____	_____
Team Member: _____	_____	_____	_____
Team Member: _____	_____	_____	_____
Alternate: _____	_____	_____	_____
Alternate: _____	_____	_____	_____
Alternate: _____	_____	_____	_____
Alternate: _____	_____	_____	_____
Alternate: _____	_____	_____	_____

Only registered team members or alternates with signed release forms including the COVID release may participate in the Area or Ohio Envirothon. Alternate team members must be pre-registered, but may attend the Envirothon ONLY if substituting for a registered team member who is unable to participate.

Advisor 1 Name: _____ M / F: _____ T-shirt size: _____

Summer address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Advisor Participate in Envirothon competition _____ yes _____ no

Advisor 2 Name: _____ M / F: _____ T-shirt size: _____

Summer address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Advisor Participate in Envirothon competition _____ yes _____ no

NOTE: All # teams must be registered by March , 2023.

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Please note medical, dietary or other restrictions of which we should be aware.

Please select one:

Team will be staying for lunch YES NO

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

Name

Comments

Ohio/Area Envirothon

COVID-19 AND EVENT PARTICIPATION RELEASE, WAIVER, and INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

For the 2023 Ohio/Area Competition

TO THE PARTICIPANT AND THE PARENT/GUARDIAN: THIS DOCUMENT IS A RELEASE, WAIVER AND INDEMNITY THAT AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS. READ THOROUGHLY BEFORE SIGNING. IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT, OBTAIN INDEPENDENT LEGAL ADVICE BEFORE YOU SIGN IT.

"You" or "Participant" as used in this form means the person filling out this form and/or attending the 2023 Area II Envirothon or 2023 State Envirothon Competition in Ohio (if the individual attending is under age 18). "Representative" as used in this form means Ohio/Area-Envirothon board members, committee members, employees, state/provincial/partner nation Envirothon program representatives, agents, insurers, sponsors, partners/affiliates, successors, assigns and any and all other persons or entities on Ohio/Area-Envirothon's behalf.

The Ohio/Area-Envirothon COVID-19 and Event Participation Release, Waiver and Indemnity Agreement ("Agreement") must be completed by any and all individuals or the parent/legal guardian if a minor, attending the 2023 Area II Envirothon Competition activities on the date of April 26, 2023 (Area II Envirothon) or 2023 State Envirothon Competition June 11 to 13, 2023 including without limitation to attendance at meetings, trainings, receptions, meals, tours, and/or any other 2023 Ohio/Area-Envirothon Competition related activities.

If the individual attending the 2023 Ohio/Area-Envirothon Competition is under the age of 18, then an Authorized Parent or Legal Guardian must give their acknowledgement and consent to the Agreement, in addition to the underaged Participant.

Note that this Agreement:

- Must be completed without regard to the vaccination status of you, your minor child, your guests, or anyone else accompanying you.
- May be revised accordingly as appropriate to reflect changes made to federal, state, local requirements prior to the 2023 Area II/Ohio Envirothon Competition.

Governing Law and Jurisdiction

Any issue involving the creation, interpretation, performance, or enforcement of this AGREEMENT shall be governed by the applicable laws of the United States of America and the State of Ohio, notwithstanding any conflict of laws principles. You hereby consent to the exclusive jurisdiction of any state court located within the County of Huron (2023 Area II Competition) or within the County of Defiance (2023 State Competition) State of Ohio and/or a federal court having jurisdiction over Defiance County and/or Huron County, Ohio and irrevocably agree that all actions or proceedings arising out of or relating to this AGREEMENT shall be litigated exclusively in such courts. You expressly submit and consent to the jurisdiction of the aforesaid courts and waive any defense of forum non conveniens.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____ 2022

If on behalf of minor child, printed name of child: _____

Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19

The novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”), has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal, state, and local health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people, or significantly limited the size of any gathering.

With guidance from appropriate federal, state, and local COVID-19 health regulations, NCF/NCF-Envirothon will utilize preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. However, NCF/NCF-Envirothon cannot guarantee that you will not become infected with COVID-19, any other virus or any other communicable illness or disease (the “Illness” or “Illnesses”) as a result of attendance or through travel to/from the event or your stay at in the vicinity of the event as a result of participating in meetings or other activities related to your participation in NCF/NCF-Envirothon-sponsored events. Further, attending NCF/NCF-Envirothon programs or events could increase your risk of contracting an Illness.

By signing this Agreement:

- You acknowledge the contagious nature of the Illnesses and **VOLUNTARILY ASSUME THE RISK** that you or your minor child may be exposed to or infected by Illnesses by participating in or attending the 2023 Ohio/Area-Envirothon Competition and activities and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, disease, sickness, permanent disability, and possibly death to yourself or others with whom you come in contact.
- You acknowledge an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present, including those with or without masks and additional personal protective equipment (“PPE”) or improperly using masks or PPE.
- You understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by Illnesses while participating in the 2023 Ohio/Area-Envirothon Competition may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of yourself, your minor child, and others, including, but not limited to, Representatives, other program meeting participants and their families, carriers of the virus who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, as well as persons unrelated to Ohio/Area-Envirothon.
- You understand and acknowledge that Ohio/Area-Envirothon, its adult leaders and representatives cannot guarantee you or your minor child safety or mitigate all risks involved in your participation in the 2023 Ohio/Area-Envirothon Ohio Competition.

As affirmed and accepted by my signature below, I AGREE, UNDERSTAND AND VOLUNTARILY ACCEPT AND AGREE TO ASSUME ALL the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any exposure that could result in Illness to myself or my minor child (including, but not limited to, personal injury, sickness, disability, and death), as well as any Illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I or my child may experience or incur in connection with my participation in or at a sponsored or hosted Ohio/Area-Envirothon activity.

On my behalf and/or on behalf of my minor child, I hereby release and agree to not take any legal action, on behalf of myself and/or minor child and hereby formally discharge, release, and hold harmless Ohio/Area-Envirothon, its affiliates, subsidiaries, directors, officers,

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employees, agents, and representatives, and the directors, officers, employees and agents of each such affiliate and subsidiary of Ohio/Area-Envirothon from all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating to such participation.

Further, I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE that this release includes any claims based on the actions, errors, omissions, and/or negligence of Ohio/Area-Envirothon, its employees, agents, and representatives, whether an illness or event occurs before, during, or after participation in any 2023 Ohio/Area-Envirothon Competition activity or related event.

By the execution and delivery of this disclaimer, waiver, and release, I hereby acknowledge and affirm that neither I, my child, nor any other person that may accompany me or my child in connection with any 2023 Ohio/Area-Envirothon Ohio Competition program, activities or events:

- (1) has been diagnosed as having contracted any illness within the last 14 days; or
- (2) is suffering from symptoms related to any illness, including but not limited to: an elevated temperature (i.e., above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit), a persistent cough, body or muscle aches, a “runny” nose, diarrhea, fever, chills, unusual fatigue, a sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or a recent loss of the sense of taste or smell.
- (3) I further acknowledge that should I or my child become ill between the date of signing this release and the meeting dates, I will notify Ohio/Area-Envirothon immediately.

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD ALL OF THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT AND RELEASE, AND HEREBY DISCHARGE, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS NCF/NCF-Envirothon and its Representatives from any and all liability, claims, losses, suits, damages and demands of any kind or nature, including without limitation, costs, reasonable attorney’s and expert’s fees, any other expenses of any kind, that may be claimed, due, incurred or paid in connection with or arising out of any property damage, bodily or personal injury, death or other loss, injury or damage that were suffered by or associated with your and/or your minor child’s participation in the 2023 Ohio/Area-Envirothon Ohio Competition or transportation to or from the 2023 Ohio/Area-Envirothon Ohio Competition, and whether caused by the negligent, gross negligent or intentional acts of any person or entity, including but not limited to Ohio/Area-Envirothon’s own negligence.

FURTHERMORE, by signing this agreement:

- (i) I sign this Agreement on behalf of myself and/or my minor child voluntarily and without any coercion or undue influence and without any expectation or promise by Ohio/Area-Envirothon or its Representatives.
- (ii) I acknowledge on behalf of myself or my minor child, receipt of a full copy of this AGREEMENT.
- (iii) I acknowledge on behalf of myself or my minor child, the assumption of the risk from COVID-19, Other Viruses, and Communicable Illnesses.

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- (iv) I acknowledge and agree on behalf of myself or my minor child, to abide by all COVID-19 Preventative Measures put in place and enforced by Ohio/Area-Envirothon and Representatives to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- (v) I acknowledge and agree on behalf of myself or my minor child, that failure to comply with COVID-19 Preventative Measures may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to disqualification from the event and/or immediately being sent home at mine or my parent/legal guardian's expense.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____

Date: _____ 2022

If on behalf of minor child, printed name of child: _____



Area 2 & Ohio Envirothon Release Form



Please type or neatly print.

This form is to be completed by each student's parent/guardian and returned to your Local SWCD with registration no later than March 7, 2023 for review of completeness. This form must also be completed and signed by advisors, staff persons, and guests.

COUNTY Cuyahoga

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.) _____

Medications Currently Being Taken _____

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

I understand the Area/Ohio Envirothon may be strenuous and adverse weather conditions may occur. Nevertheless, I assume the risk involved for myself or my minor child. In the event of an accident, I authorize the Area/Ohio Envirothon to provide emergency medical treatment for me or my minor child during this event. I will also assess the covid level at the time of the event and make a decision that is in mine or my minor child's best interest to attend or decline participation. I understand the risk involved in high population events. I have been assured that all reasonable care will be taken to prevent incident: therefore, I, on behalf of myself or minor child, will not hold Area/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 or my minor child 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 _____