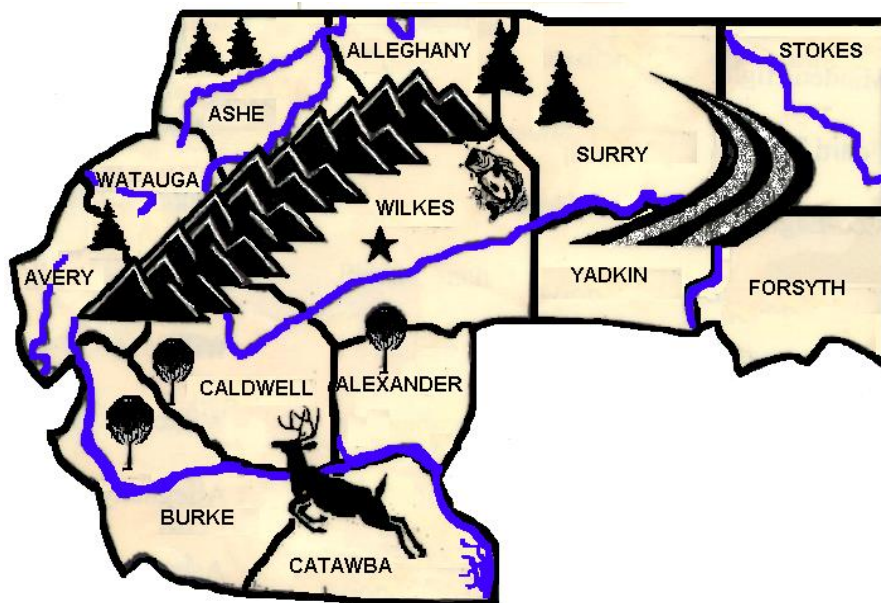


NORTHWEST ENVIROTHON

Edwin H. McGee Natural Resources Conservation Center
North Wilkesboro, NC
March 18th and 19th, 2024



2023-2024 Manual

SPONSORED BY THE AREA 2
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Northwest Envirothon Manual

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NORTHWEST ENVIROTHON

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pamela Bowman	Jessica Hodgson
151 West Main Avenue, Suite 3	134 Law Enforcement Drive, Ste 102
Taylorsville, NC 28684	Jefferson, NC 28640
ptbowman@alexandercountync.gov	jhodgson@ashecountygov.com
Phone: 828-632-0638	Phone: 336-846-5594

You may also contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District. The Soil and Water District Directory can be found on page 10 of this manual.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Envirothon program is a competitive event for a **five-member high school team** or a **three to five-member middle school team** to compete in a natural resources knowledge and ecology field day against other high school and middle school teams. It stimulates, reinforces, and enhances students' interest in the environment and our state's natural resources. Resource subject areas are Soils/Land Use, Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatic Ecology, and Current Environmental Issues.

An entire school class or group may participate in studying the resources; however, only five members may be on a team taking the test. Each team must have an advisor and will have to be registered. One advisor can manage multiple teams from the same school system.

A resource station will be set up for each of the subject areas, usually in an outside setting. There the teams will be given an exam on each of the resource subjects.

Each test will have a 25-minute time limit and will consist of 25 questions, to be answered as a team and not by individual students. After finishing one station and at a set time, the teams will rotate to the next station. The test papers are graded and the scores are totaled to select the winners.

The seven top-scoring high school teams and the seven top-scoring middle school teams in the Northwest Envirothon will be eligible to compete in the State Envirothon (**high school teams must consist of five members**). The first-place high school team and the first-place middle school team may receive financial assistance to compete in the state competition; however, they *must* request reimbursement from Area 2. Receipts will not be required. The Area 2 treasurer will confirm attendance at the State Envirothon before reimbursement. Requests for reimbursement must be sent to:

Lea-Ann Branch, Area 2 Treasurer
Burke County Soil and Water Conservation District
130 Ammons Drive Suite 3
Morganton, NC 28655
leaann.branch@burkenc.org

The final decision on teams that will advance to the State Envirothon will be the responsibility of the Northwest Envirothon Committee. The top-scoring high school FFA team from Area 2 will automatically advance to the State Envirothon competition.

WHO

Competition is open to ecology clubs, Girl/Boy Scouts, FFA Chapters, 4H clubs, home study groups, environmental groups, Vo-Ag groups, or any group interested in competing. Team members must be from the same school or the same county (if a “non-school” group). An advisor is required.

WHERE

The Northwest Envirothon will be held at the Edwin H. McGee Natural Resource Center in Wilkes County.

WHEN

The Northwest Envirothon will be a two-day event. The middle school competition will be on Monday, March 18th, 2024, and the high school competition will be on Tuesday, March 19th, 2024. Inclement weather dates will be Tuesday, March 26th (middle school) and Wednesday, March 27th (high school), 2024.

REGISTRATION

FEES AND DEADLINES

There is no registration fee to participate in the Northwest Envirothon. Each team must complete a registration form and submit it to their respective District, which can be found in Appendix A of this manual or online at www.area2swcd.org/envirothon. The registration deadline is **February 2nd, 2024 (No Exceptions)**. It is advised that if you do not know the names of your team members yet, go ahead and register your team and fill in the names later. The deadline for changing the names of team members is **March 2nd, 2024 (No Exceptions)**.

TEAMS SLOTS

The Area 2 Northwest Envirothon can accommodate 52 teams per day. Each District will have eight team slots available, to split between the middle and high school teams as they choose. However, only the first 52 teams registered per event day will be allowed. Should counties have more than eight teams, they may request extra team slots if they are available, but this must be done by the area event registration deadline. Be sure to REGISTER EARLY! Advisors are encouraged to register their teams in the order they wish to be considered for attending.

Materials to study can be found at www.ncenvirothon.org.

SPONSORSHIP

Please secure your local Soil and Water Conservation District to sponsor your team. If the local District is not able to sponsor your team, the Northwest Envirothon Committee *may* sponsor your team. A list of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the northwest area is included in this packet.

TEAM SIZE

HIGH SCHOOL – Teams **must** consist of five members.

MIDDLE SCHOOL – Teams must consist of three to five members.

Any high school team with less than five members and any middle school team with less than three members will be allowed to participate but **will not be eligible** to win or advance to the state competition.

ALTERNATE MEMBERS

HIGH SCHOOL – A limit of two alternate members may be registered with a team. Alternates will be allowed to participate in the morning but will not be allowed to test in the afternoon. Alternates will be the responsibility of the advisor during the testing session.

MIDDLE SCHOOL – No alternate members will be allowed to participate in the middle school portion of the Northwest Envirothon.

PARENTAL CONSENT/ MEDICAL INFORMATION

Advisors are required to have a completed Parental Consent/Medical Information form for each team member on the day of the event. The form can be found in Appendix A of this manual or online at www.area2swcd.org/envirothon. **A student cannot compete without a completed Parental Consent/Medical Information form.**

SPECIAL NEEDS

So that appropriate arrangements can be made, if you have a student who requires ADA accommodations, please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District sponsor at least 2 months prior to the competition. For those with other unexpected special needs, please contact Julia Hardy at 336-990-5000 at least 3 days prior to the competition.

TESTING

RESOURCE INFORMATION

Once a team has registered, information will be sent to each advisor listing where resource materials may be found that the team will need to study. In some cases, materials or photocopies of materials may be sent. Questions will be developed from materials sent out or from materials that can be obtained locally. All resource materials and notes must be left behind during testing. If anyone is caught with materials while taking the test, their entire team will be disqualified.

TEST STATIONS

Professionals from cooperating agencies and/or independent environmental organizations will conduct the station competitions. The five test stations will cover, but are not limited to, these:

Wildlife	Covers habitat, identification, foods, rules and regulations, bird calls, diseases, and management.
Aquatic Ecology	Covers the ecology of water, stream improvement, water chemistry, plants and animals living in or around water, pollution, and conservation.
Forestry	Covers tree identification, improvement of timber stands, forest ecology, insects, and diseases, use of Biltmore sticks, best management practices, forest management, and forest measurements.
Soils/Land Use	Covers classification, erosion, soil surveys, site suitability, current issues, profiles, soil, texture, characteristics, and conservation practices.
Current Environmental Issues	Covers any current or newsworthy environmental issue.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

A Grievance Committee has been established to review and resolve complaints about teams not following the rules, cheating, etc. If team members wish to file a complaint, this must be done as soon as possible and before the winners are announced. The guides at the stations are available to take grievances. They should be written down by the guide, who will present them to the Grievance Committee.

EVENT DETAILS

CHECK-IN

Check-in will be from 8:15 am until 9:15 am on the day of the competition.

PARKING

There will be an area set aside for parking and someone will be directing traffic. Please park in the designated areas only.

MEALS

Lunch for participants and advisors will be provided on the day of the competition. If anyone has special dietary needs, it will be their responsibility to bring their food and a cooler to store it.

VISITORS

Visitors are welcome to come and observe; however, no children (other than those competing) will be allowed at the stations at any time. All visitors are required to register. Please contact Julia Hardy at 336-990-5000 to register as a guest. Visitor meals will be \$5 per person.

WEATHER

The competition will be held regardless of rainy weather. Wear/bring appropriate clothing (**close-toed shoes, jackets, raincoats, etc.**). If it is sunny, please consider sunscreen, hats, and insect repellent. In the event of extreme inclement weather, the decision to postpone will be made within 24 hours of the competition and information will be relayed via email. We will follow the Wilkes County inclement weather school closing policy.

DRESS

Do not wear any item of clothing or anything else that may identify your team by city, county, or school.

SEATING

Seating will not be provided for students or visitors/guests. You are urged to bring chairs, cushions, etc. to sit on.

FIRST AID

A first aid provider will be on-site to handle medical emergencies.

AWARDS

After the day's competition, there will be a brief awards program to announce the winners, present plaques, and recognize financial contributors and important guests.

PLAQUES

Plaques will be awarded to the first through seventh-place high school teams and the first through seventh-place middle school teams.

FUNDING

The Northwest Envirothon Committee will pay and mail the \$250 State Envirothon registration fee for the first-place high school team and first-place middle school team. The first-place high school team and the first-place middle school team may also receive \$150 from the Northwest Envirothon Committee to assist with travel expenses if available in the budget (processed after competition by a reimbursement request). Additional team registration fees may be paid if funds become available.

CERTIFICATES

Certificates will be prepared for each participating team. Please submit legible names of all team members (preferably typed).

COMPETITION RULES

1. Middle school students are eligible to compete as a team. Team members should be in the fifth through eighth grades.
2. High school students are eligible to compete as a team. Team members should be in the ninth through twelfth grades and ages 14 through 19. No fifth-year seniors, super seniors, or thirteenth-year students are allowed to compete.
3. All team members must be from the same school or home study group and the same county.
4. Each team must have a designated Team Captain who is responsible for keeping all team members together as they traverse the station course. Team members must stay with their team during the morning and afternoon sessions.
5. Teams must be accompanied to the event by an advisor and/or a Soil and Water Conservation District representative.
6. During testing, no parents or advisors may traverse the station course with the teams. Advisors shall not assist their teams in any way during the testing.
7. Advisors will be responsible for assuring that teams follow the rules and display proper conduct during the competition and at the host facility.
8. Drugs and alcohol are NOT permitted during any part of the competition. Rules/laws applicable to the local area will be adhered to strictly.
9. No clothing or other identification of local schools, towns, cities, or counties will be permitted.
10. All identification keys to be used will be furnished by the Envirothon Committee.
11. Biltmore sticks used in the competition will be provided to the teams at the Forestry Station.
12. The winning high school team will be the five-member team with the highest cumulative point total. The winning middle school team will be a three to five-member team with the highest cumulative point total. Pre-selected questions will be used as tie-breakers. Tied teams will have the pre-selected questions compared until the tie is broken.
13. Rules and regulations of the Envirothon are subject to change. Changes will be explained in advance to all teams and advisors.
14. No advisors, alternates, or spectators are allowed in the testing areas.
15. The judges' decisions are final on all events.
16. All grievances must be reported before final judging.
17. Advisors are responsible for obtaining and maintaining Parental Consent/Medical Information forms. Confirmation of the forms will be done at check-in.
18. Substitutions may be made on a team selected to go to the state competition, but there must be at least three original members able to compete at the next level.
19. No backpacks/pocketbooks or electronic devices (digital cameras, cell phones, smart watches, etc.) will be allowed in the testing area. Filming and taking photographs during testing is strictly prohibited.
20. All student's electronic devices (digital cameras, cellphones, smart watches, etc.) must be given to the team advisor upon arrival, prior to teams traversing the station course. Advisors may allow students access to their devices only during the lunch break.

Violations of these rules may result in the disqualification of a team.

~ NORTHWEST ENVIROTHON ~

Edwin H. McGee
Natural Resource Conservation Center
North Wilkesboro, NC

EVENT SCHEDULE

8:15 - 9:15	Registration
9:15 - 9:25	Welcome and Instructions
9:30 - 9:50	1 st Station Presentation
9:55 - 10:15	2 nd Station Presentation
10:20 - 10:40	3 rd Station Presentation
10:45 - 11:05	4 th Station Presentation
11:10 - 11:30	5 th Station Presentation
11:30 - 12:15	Break for Lunch (provided)

During the afternoon session, advisors will stay at the shelter.

12:20 - 12:45	1 st Station Testing
12:50 - 1:15	2 nd Station Testing
1:20 - 1:45	3 rd Station Testing
1:50 - 2:15	4 th Station Testing
2:20 - 2:45	5 th Station Testing
2:45 - 3:00	Break
3:00 - 3:15	Awards and Depart

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORY

AREA 2 DISTRICTS	CONTACT PERSON	PHONE NUMBER
Alexander SWCD	Pamela Bowman ptbowman@alexandercountync.gov	828-632-0638
Alleghany SWCD	Chelsie Bobbitt chelsie.bobbitt@alleghanycounty-nc.gov	336-372-7777
Avery SWCD	Beth Hughes beth.hughes@averycountync.gov	828-733-2291
Burke SWCD	Lea-Ann Branch leaann.branch@burkenc.org	828-439-9727
Caldwell SWCD	Jessica Wilson jwilson@caldwellcountync.org	828-758-1111
Catawba SWCD	Leia Hamlyn lhamlyn@catawbacountync.gov	828-465-8950
Forsyth SWCD	Mike Bowman bowmanml@forsyth.cc	336-703-2843
New River SWCD	Jessica Hodgson jhodgson@ashecountygov.com	336-846-5594
Stokes SWCD	Janice Pack jpack@stokesswcd.net	336-593-2490
Surry SWCD	Laken Creed lake8903@gmail.com	336-386-8751
Watauga SWCD	Michelle Kasey michelle.kasey@watgov.org	828-264-3850
Wilkes SWCD	Julia Hardy jhardy.wilkes@gmail.com	336-990-5000
Yadkin SWCD	Jennifer Angell jangell@yadkincountync.gov	336-849-7584

Informational Websites

Area 2 Soil and Water Conservation District Website:

www.area2swcd.org

North Carolina Envirothon Website:

www.ncenvirothon.org

National Envirothon Website:

<http://www.envirothon.org/>

NRCS Website:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/>

Soils Videos:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/soils/home/>

Division of Soil and Water Conservation Website:

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/envirothon.html>

North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Website:

<http://www.ncaswcd.org/>

ADDRESS AND MAP

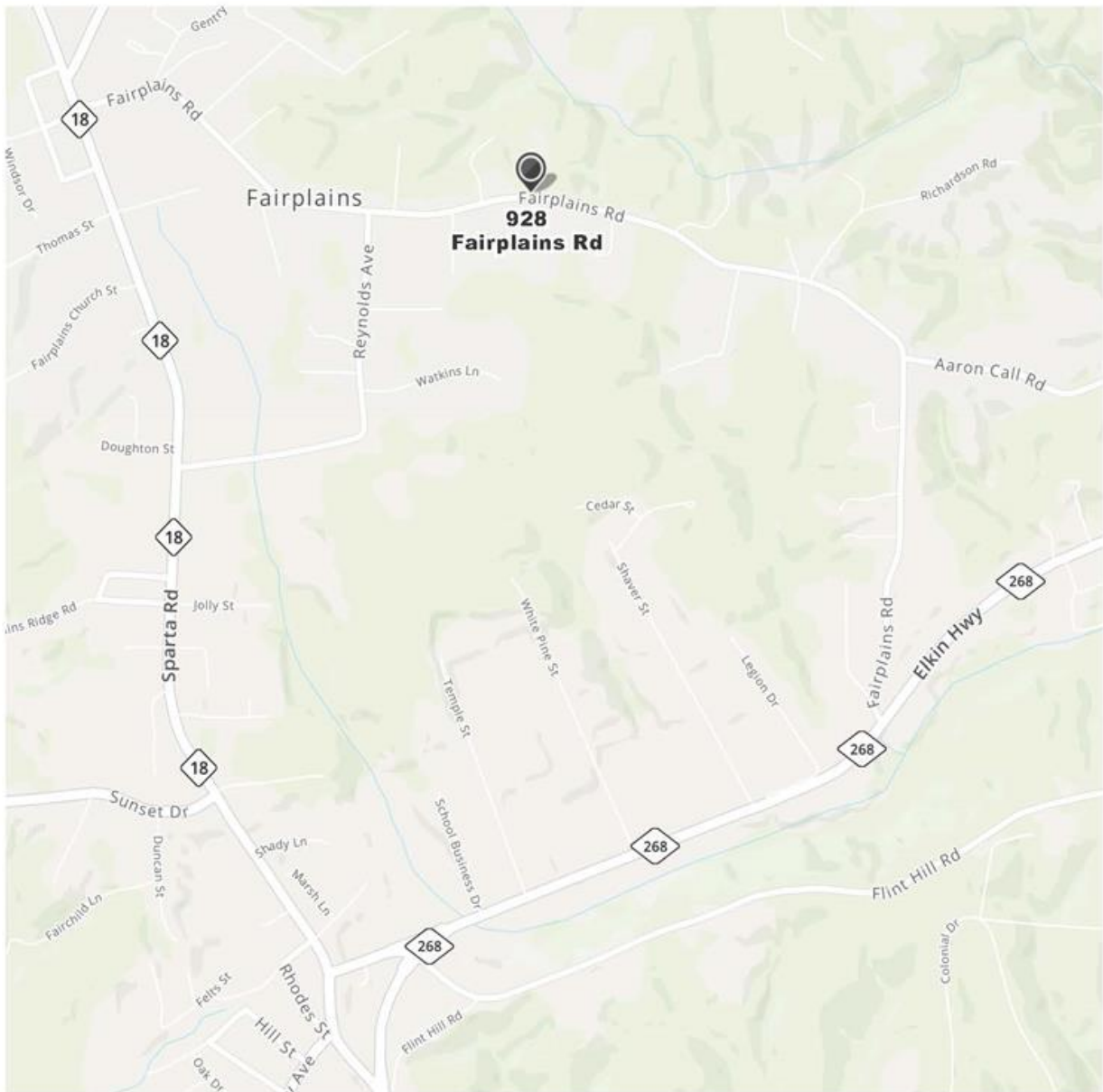
For driving directions, use the address below:

928 Fairplains Rd

North Wilkesboro | NC 28659-8338



Edwin McGee Center
928 Fairplains Road
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659-8338



APPENDIX A

REQUIRED FORMS

NORTHWEST ENVIROTHON REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline: February 2, 2024

County: _____ Area: 2

Soil and Water Conservation District Contact Name: _____

Soil and Water Conservation District Contact Email: _____

Team Type: High School High School FFA Middle School

Team Name: _____

School Name: _____

Team Advisor Name: _____ T-Shirt Size (S – XXL)

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell phone for texting/email purposes

Email: _____ For timely updates and notices

Secondary Team Advisor Name: _____ T-Shirt Size (S – XXL)

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell phone for texting/email purposes

Email: _____ For timely updates and notices

Is your team able to attend and compete in the State Envirothon on April 26 - 27, 2024 if they place in the top seven? No Yes

Are there any special arrangements that we need to make for your team or a team member? No Yes
If yes, please explain: _____

Accommodation requests must be relayed in a timely manner, at least 2 months in advance of the competition.

Team Members: **PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE – Use ethnicity codes below. Status = Member (M) or Alternate (A).**

Name (Place a star (*) before the name of the team captain)	Email	Grade	T-Shirt Size (S – XXL)	Gender	Ethnicity	Status

*Ethnicity: **AA** – African American **AI** - American Indian **API** – Asian/Pacific Islander **H**-Hispanic **W**-White **O**-Other

I understand that my team will not be able to compete at **any** NC Envirothon competition unless appropriate forms (medical, code of conduct, etc.) are completed as required. By registering this team, I agree to have all required forms at the time of the event.

Team Advisor's Signature _____

Secondary Team Advisor's Signature _____

Submit this form by mail or electronically to your local Soil and Water Conservation District office

(contact information on page 10). You will receive a confirmation of your registration.

NOTE: The event ends at 3:30 pm. Plan accordingly!!!

County: _____ School: _____ Team Name: _____

Parental Consent/Medical Information

(Form must be with the advisor during the competition)

Student Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Street Address: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian Name(s): _____

In case of an emergency, please list all available numbers where you could be reached, **including the area code**.

Father/Guardian Home #: _____ Mother/Guardian Home #: _____

Work #: _____ Work #: _____

Cell #: _____ Cell #: _____

Information requested below must be completed in full

Allergies (food, drugs, insects, etc.): _____

Special medical conditions/concerns (epilepsy, asthma, diabetes, old injuries to bones/joints, etc.):

Medication currently taking (dose and frequency): _____

Family Physician Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Date of last tetanus booster: _____

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The law requires that parental/legal guardian permission be obtained for medical procedures performed on minors (under age 18). This consent form must be signed by the parent/legal guardian so that such procedures can be promptly carried out. We will make a genuine attempt to notify you in case of a serious emergency.

I, the undersigned parent/legal guardian of _____, hereby permit the attendant staff to perform such diagnostic, therapeutic, and operative procedures for him/her as they deem necessary, and refer him/her to a physician when deemed appropriate. I further permit my/the child treated by a physician and perform any diagnostic, therapeutic, and operative procedures they deem necessary.

X _____
Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Video/Picture Release (must be signed)

_____ I permit my/the child to be photographed/videotaped for the Envirothon.

_____ I do not permit my/the child to be photographed/videotaped for the Envirothon.

X _____
Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Adult Code of Conduct

For North Carolina Envirothon Participants

(To be completed by all Adult Advisors, Volunteers, and Guests)

Envirothon participants have an excellent reputation for honesty, sportsmanship, and integrity. Your conduct at any Envirothon function should make a positive contribution to the reputation that has been established by those who have participated before you.

1. The NC Envirothon and its participants operate on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or physical/mental challenges.
2. Adult Participant conduct is the responsibility of each individual at the event.
3. Your behavior at all times should be such that it reflects credit to yourself, your county/district, and the Envirothon.
4. Advisors, Volunteers, and Guests are expected to attend all orientation sessions and other scheduled activities concerning their duties. Please be prompt and show respect.
5. Adult Participants and guests are to report any accident, injury, or illness to the NC Envirothon Committee for assistance.
6. Adults are requested to observe any designated curfews.
7. Any adult participant or guest determined to be responsible for stealing, vandalism, or other activities that are in conflict with NC Envirothon rules will be asked to leave the competition at their own expense and expected to pay for any and all damages.
8. **NO Possession or Use of the Following:**
 - Illegal/illicit drugs
 - Weapons, including firearms; unless they are carried in the official line of duty (law enforcement, park rangers, wildlife officers, etc.)
9. The NC Envirothon requires all Adult Volunteers, Advisors, and Guests to adhere to a strict anti-fraternization policy. For this reason, all Adult Volunteers, Advisors, and Guests shall refrain from having any personal contact that may be perceived as inappropriate with any participant of the NC Envirothon during the event.
10. If an Adult Participant or Guest is determined to be disregarding the NC Envirothon Rules, this Code of Conduct, and/or the NC Envirothon Policies, he/she will be asked to leave the event at their own expense immediately and may be prohibited from participating in future events associated with the NC Envirothon.

I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE ABOVE NC ENVIROTHON ADULT CODE OF CONDUCT.

Print Name

Signature

Date

County

School/team name if applicable

State Committee Form - Revised 04/5/10