

# HAMILTON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ENVIROTHON RULES

1. Students in grades 9 through 12 may participate.
2. A team will consist of a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 5 members. If there is an unforeseen emergency such as an illness, a team may compete with four players, or if an alternate has been selected in advance, they may attend in place of the regular team member. An alternate must be available for the New York State Envirothon. Alternates only attend the Hamilton County and NYS Envirothon competitions if a regular team member cannot participate.
3. The Hamilton County competition will consist of a minimum of two competing teams from county schools. Team members may not be drawn from different schools.
4. Each school must send an adviser/chaperone per two teams sent. The adviser/chaperone must accompany their teams during the competition; however, they shall not assist their team during the 5 exam categories. Teams will stay together during the competition.
5. The five exam categories are Soils, Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatics, and Current Issue\*. Students have 20 minutes to complete each exam, followed by 5 minutes of questions and answer review with the instructor.
6. Instructor decisions are final on events. The Hamilton County Envirothon Steering Committee will review contested decisions.
7. Registration forms must be submitted by Friday, April 1, 2011. Please complete forms neatly to insure correct spelling of student names for certificates. Complete one form per team with student and team names.
8. The Envirothon will be held Thursday, May 5, 2011 from 9:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District Office in Lake Pleasant. Students should dress appropriately as the event will be held rain or shine on our Nature Trail.
9. Transportation and lunch will be the responsibility of each participating school.
10. There will be a winning team in each of the 5 exam categories, as well as overall first, second, and third place. Certificates will be awarded during the presentation after lunch. In the event of a tie, the winning teams will answer a tie-breaker question. The overall winning team is the team with the highest cumulative score for the five events. Each test is 100 points, totaling a maximum of 500 points. The overall winning team will represent Hamilton County in the New York State Envirothon at Hobart and Willam Smith Colleges in Geneva May 25 and 26, 2011. The winner of the NYS Envirothon will go on to compete at the National Envirothon at Mt. Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada July 24-29, 2011.
11. Rules and regulations are subject to change. Any and all changes will be explained to all teams and advisers.
12. Cooperating agencies, advisers, and participants involved in the competition may be requested to complete an evaluation of the program following the competition.
13. Any suggestions or improvements to the rules and regulations will be considered by the Hamilton County Envirothon Steering Committee.

**\*Special Note:** This year's Current Issues is **SALT AND FRESHWATER ESTUARIES**. Study materials are available at the NYS Envirothon website ([www.nysenvirothon.net/](http://www.nysenvirothon.net/)) and the Canon Envirothon website ([www.envirothon.org/](http://www.envirothon.org/)). Visit the Hamilton County SWCD website ([www.hamiltoncountyswcd.com](http://www.hamiltoncountyswcd.com)) for registration forms, rules, and slide shows and photos from last year's event at. The State and National exams are based on the same 5 exam categories as the Hamilton County Envirothon.