Minnesota State Envirothon
2020 Rules

1. All students must be enrolled in grade levels 9-12 (or equivalent home school ranking). Top age for participation is 19 (based on Minnesota State High School League rules for participation).

2. Each team will consist of 5 students from the same school, non-traditional schools, or youth organization. In the event of an emergency that would prevent a registered 5-member team from competing at the MSE, the MSE Coordinators may allow a team to compete with fewer than 5 members.

3. The top 3 teams from each Area (regional) compete at the MSE. Area competitions that have 25 teams (or more) participating at their local event may send 4 teams to the MSE.

4. All teams must be accompanied to the event by a teacher/advisor. Teams will not be allowed to register or compete without an advisor. Advisors may leave the event site only in cases of emergency, or as part of an Envirothon sponsored training session.

5. Teacher/advisors shall not accompany their teams during and after the exam rounds. Teachers/advisors may watch their own team during oral presentations, provided the team wants their teacher/advisor to watch. However, teachers/advisors are NOT to interact or converse with their students in any way before or during the MSE competition.

6. Advisors will be responsible to ensure that teams display proper conduct during the competition.

7. If sickness or emergency prevents an original team member from attending the MSE, an alternate may be sent. Alternate students listed must have competed at the Area event. Teams may list up to 7 total students on the registration form—5 original team members, and up to 2 alternates. We encourage you to list 2 alternate students. However, to reduce overall costs we ask each team to only bring alternate students if necessary [i.e. family or medical emergency happens to an original team member].

8. Teams may not bring a student that is not listed on the state registration form to the MSE. Any alternates attending, but not participating with their team, will be placed into groups of alternates, and work through the stations as an “Alternate Team.” Alternate teams will be scored but will not be eligible for any of the prizes or awards.

9. Team members cannot carry notes, books, cell phones, iPads/iPods, or any other electronic devices with them during the competition; UNLESS such equipment is necessary and requested for the student(s) to participate [i.e. to reasonably accommodate those students covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)]; and has been approved by the MSE Committee prior to the event. Exception: standard calculators (not scientific calculators) can be used. Teams using any other devices without prior approval may be penalized/disqualified.

10. Students may ask presenters for clarification of a question.
11. All exams are worth a possible 25 points total, with the exception of the oral presentation station (30 points). In case of a tie for the first through third place teams, the winners will be determined by category scores in the following order: Oral Presentation, Current Issue, Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife.

12. Teams may use up to 3 visual aids for the oral presentation portion of the event. Students may not use electronic media (PowerPoint presentations) for their oral presentation. Oral presentations will be 7-10 minutes in length. A score reduction will be assessed for less than 7 minutes or over 10 minutes. **Teams are allowed a maximum of 12 minutes with the judges.** Teams that come from the same school must have different oral presentations. The team with the highest oral presentation score may be asked to give their presentation in front of all the teams at the end of the event, prior to the award announcements.

13. All judges and presenters decisions are final.

14. Use of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol is prohibited.

15. Teachers and students may not visit the site of the MSE the day before the event.

16. Rules and regulations of the MSE are subject to change. Rules are final as per MSE Committee.

**NATIONAL Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon Information:**
A travel stipend may be provided to the first place team from the MSE competition traveling to the NCF Envirothon, depending on the Envirothon budget for the year. It is the expectation that the winning team will cover their travel costs to the North American Envirothon.

Teams must have 5 members to compete at the North American Envirothon. In the event of an emergency that would prevent a registered 5-member team from competing in the Annual Competition, the NCF Envirothon operating committee may allow a team to compete with fewer than 5 members. The NCF operating committee will determine if a penalty shall be assessed to a team in the oral presentation for the absence of a complete 5-member team.

**Food Allergy Notice:**
The Minnesota State Envirothon (MSE) committee recognizes that students may be severely allergic to certain foods. We do provide a continental breakfast, as well as lunch for all attendees of the MSE. If anyone attending the MSE has certain food allergies, please let us know. The Itasca Biological Station can accommodate many food allergies.