



2026 Rules and Regulations

1. Students must be enrolled in grades 9-12 or the equivalent in a home school program. The maximum age is 19, per Minnesota High School League guidelines.
2. Each team must include 5 students from the same school, non-traditional school, or youth organization. In emergencies only, teams may be allowed to compete with fewer than 5 members at the discretion of Minnesota State Envirothon (MSE) committee. Further documentation of emergency may be required.
3. The top 3 teams from each Area Envirothon qualify for the MSE. Areas with 25 or more teams may send 4 teams.
4. All teams must be accompanied by a teacher or advisor; teams cannot register or compete without one. Advisors may only leave the event site for emergencies.
5. Advisors may not accompany teams during or after exam rounds. They may observe their team's oral presentation if the team permits, but must not interact with students before or during the competition.
6. Advisors are responsible for ensuring their teams behave appropriately throughout the event.
7. If a team member cannot attend due to illness or emergency, an alternate may be substituted. Alternates must have competed in their Area Envirothon. Teams may register up to 7 students—5 primary members and 2 alternates.
8. Students not registered with a team may not attend. Alternates who attend may be grouped into an "alternate team" that rotates through stations. These teams will be scored but are not eligible for awards.
9. Students may not carry notes, books, phones, tablets, or other electronic devices during the competition unless approved in advance by the MSE committee for ADA accommodations. Standard (non-scientific) calculators are allowed. Unauthorized devices may result in penalties or disqualification.

10. Students may ask presenters to clarify questions during the competition.
11. Each exam station is worth up to 25 points, except the oral presentation, which is worth 30. In the event of a tie for first through third place, scores will be compared in the following order: Oral Presentation, Current Issue, Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife.
12. Each team must prepare and deliver its own oral presentation, teams from the same school may not collaborate or combine presentations. Teams may use up to 3 visual aids during their oral presentation. Electronic media (e.g., PowerPoint, Canva, YouTube) is not permitted. Presentations must be 7-10 minutes long, with a maximum of 12 minutes total with judges. The top-scoring team may be invited to present to all attendees before awards are announced.
13. All decisions made by judges and presenters are final.
14. Use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol is strictly prohibited.
15. Teachers and students may not visit the MSE site the day before the event unless staying in on-site housing.
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 available to the first-place team from the MSE competition attending the NCF Envirothon, depending on the budget for that competition year. However, teams should plan to cover their own travel expenses to the national event.

To compete at the national level, teams must have five members. In cases of emergency where a full team cannot attend, the NCF Envirothon Operating Committee may permit participation with fewer members. The committee will also determine whether a penalty will be applied to the team's oral presentation score due to the absence of a complete five-member team

Food Allergy Notice:

The MSE committee understands that some students may have food allergies. While a light breakfast and lunch will be provided for all attendees, we encourage anyone with specific dietary restrictions to notify us in advance. To ensure safety, students and teachers with food allergies are advised to bring their own food.