

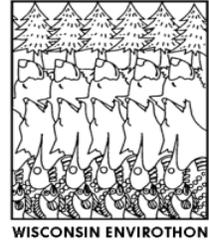


Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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High School and Middle School Students Compete in the 2018 Wisconsin Envirothon

Winning High School Team to Represent Wisconsin in Idaho at the NCF-Envirothon Competition in July

MADISON – WI Land+Water’s Envirothon, sponsored by the Outdoor Heritage Education Center and many other Wisconsin organizations was held in Rosholt, WI at The Wisconsin Lions camp on Friday, April 13, 2018. Wisconsin Envirothon is Wisconsin’s ultimate middle and high school environmental science challenge where teams of four or five high school or middle school students participate in four hands-on, mostly outdoor field challenges designed by natural resources professionals and educators. The exams are based on four categories: forestry, soils/land use, aquatic ecology and wildlife.

Schools from across the state spent a rainy, blustery spring day testing their knowledge at various stations where they participated in multiple hands-on challenges. Students identified tree species and measured tree diameters in the woods, and assessed the engineering and agronomic properties of soils at the soils and land use station. They also identified aquatic invertebrates and invasive plants, as well as wildlife pelts and tracks. Additionally, they tested their classroom knowledge on written exams.

“Envirothon is an amazing way to learn new environmental practices and facts needed for a future career,” **said Rachael Valeria**, a student from Pulaski High School.

Finally, the students created a team presentation based on this year’s current issue: Western Rangeland Management: Balancing Diverse Views. They had a little over three weeks to prepare their team presentation. The Current Issue team presentation provides an opportunity to join fundamental knowledge and reasoning ability to understand and articulate today’s critical environmental concerns. Participating in Wisconsin Envirothon helps students develop knowledge and skills to either pursue careers in conservation or use their knowledge to preserve our natural resources in whatever civic and career choices that lie ahead.

“I enjoy working with kids in my agriculture department preparing for the Envirothon. It really fits into my curriculum very well, covering all of the bases in our studies of the environment (soils, water, wildlife and forestry). Also, preparing for the oral presentation portion of the contest has really benefitted my students, deepening their understanding of the topics and helping them to relate their learning to the world around them,” **said Tim Heeg**, Marshfield High School Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor.

The overall winner for the High School category will represent Wisconsin at the National Conservation Foundation-Envirothon taking place July 22-July 28, 2018 at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho.

The following teams won first place in the following categories:

Aquatic Ecology: High School- Ladysmith High School, **Middle School-** Fox River Academy

Forestry: High School- Ladysmith High School, **Middle School-**Hurley Middle School

Soils and Land Use: High School- Middleton High School, **Middle School-** Wildlands Middle School

Wildlife: High School-Marshfield High School FFA, **Middle School-**Fox River Academy

Team Presentations: High School-Onalaska High School, **Middle School-**Wildlands Middle School

First Place FFA School-Marshfield High School FFA

Overall: High School-Ladysmith High School, **Middle School-**Fox River Academy

For a complete list of second and third place winners, please visit our website at:

<http://wisconsinlandwater.org/events/envirothon>

The Wisconsin Envirothon is a program of the Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association’s Youth Education Committee and is made possible by the many generous volunteers made up of natural resource professionals and educators. The Wisconsin Envirothon also relies on the volunteer and financial support of many of our agency partners, county conservation departments, and organizations and businesses dedicated to conservation. For a complete list of our financial supporters visit our website at:

<http://wisconsinlandwater.org/events/envirothon>.

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