

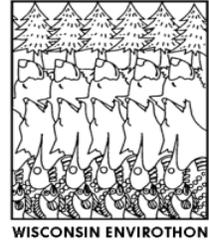


Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association

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High School and Middle School Students Compete in the 2019 Wisconsin Envirothon

~ Winning High School Team to Represent Wisconsin in North Carolina at the NCF-Envirothon Competition in July ~

ROSHOLT – WI Land+Water’s Envirothon, sponsored by the Outdoor Heritage Education Center and many other supportive organizations, was held at the Wisconsin Lions Camp on Friday, April 12, 2019. The Wisconsin Envirothon is the state’s ultimate middle and high school environmental science challenge, where teams of four to five high school or middle school students participate in four hands-on field challenges designed by natural resources professionals and educators. The exams test the students’ knowledge in four categories: forestry, soils/land use, aquatic ecology, and wildlife.

Schools from across the state spent a snow-filled spring day at the stations, applying critical thinking and teamwork skills to solve the multiple hands-on challenges. At the forestry station, students identified tree species and measured tree diameters in the woods. The soils and land use station challenged students to assess the engineering and agronomic properties of soils. Students also identified aquatic invertebrates and invasive plants at the aquatic ecology station, as well as wildlife pelts and tracks at the wildlife station. Additionally, they tested their classroom knowledge on written exams.

“The Envirothon was a really unique experience that helped me to better understand what goes on in the field of natural resources. And in working towards the competition, I learned about being part of a team and dealt with an ever-changing one. Overall, I really enjoyed the Envirothon and am looking forward to being a part of it again next year,” **said Elina Abrahamson**, a student from Hudson High School.

“The Wisconsin Envirothon is a great way to demonstrate knowledge about the environment in a competitive manner,” **said Trent Vollendorf**, a student from Ladysmith High School.

Finally, the students created a team presentation based on this year's current issue *Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge & Technology to Feed the World*. Teams were given a little over three weeks to prepare their team presentation. The team presentation provides an opportunity to apply fundamental knowledge and reasoning to understand and articulate today's critical environmental concerns. Ultimately, 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 their future civic and career choices.

"This was an eye-opening experience and as a freshman at Pecatonica High School, it got me thinking about my future decisions about college and future jobs," **said Bryce Johnsrud**, a freshman at Pecatonica High School.

"The Envirothon gave my students the opportunity to participate in a practical field experience, which helped them understand the complexities and conflicts between natural resources and production agriculture," **said Cindy Landers**, Hudson High School Agriculture Science Teacher and FFA Advisor. "The students learned to collaborate and work as a team to develop a solution to a real life problem. As always, they had a great time and look forward to returning next year."

The overall winner for the high school category will advance to the national competition, representing Wisconsin at the National Conservation Foundation-Envirothon, taking place at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina, July 28-August 2, 2019.

The following teams won first place in the following categories:

- **Overall: High School** - Onalaska High School, **Middle School** - Fox River Academy
- **First Place FFA School** - Pulaski High School FFA
- **Aquatic Ecology: High School** - Onalaska High School, **Middle School** - Fox River Academy
- **Forestry: High School** - Pulaski High School FFA, **Middle School** - Fox River Academy
- **Soils and Land Use: High School** - Middleton High School, **Middle School** - Fox River Academy
- **Wildlife: High School** - Pulaski High School FFA, **Middle School** - Fox River Academy
- **Team Presentations: High School** - Onalaska High School, **Middle School** - Fox River Academy

For a complete list of second and third place winners, please visit our website <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/events/envirothon> and click on the scoresheet.

The Wisconsin Envirothon is a program of the Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association's Youth Education Committee and is made possible in part by the many generous volunteers, natural resource professionals, and educators. The Wisconsin Envirothon also relies on the support of many of our agency partners, county conservation departments, businesses and organizations dedicated to conservation.

Special thanks to our sponsors:

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Click [here](#) for the complete summary of the 2019 Envirothon.

To view event photos, visit our [Facebook page](#) and [Flickr](#) album.