**2025 LFSWCD Envirothon Rules**

1. Students in grades 9-12 or an equivalent home school ranking during the current competition are eligible to participate.

2. Each team should represent a single high school, Governor’s School, FFA, 4-H Club, or Ecology Club, etc. Groups of home-schooled students organized to work together as a team are eligible. There is no limit to how many teams can participate from a single source. The top three teams will advance to the Area 1 Regional Competition on April 29th at McCormick Farms.

3. A team must consist of five members from the same school or club. One or Two alternates are allowed. In the event that an original/regular team member is unable to participate, (illness, injury, death in family, etc.) an alternate may take their place and then becomes a permanent member of the team for all future competitions (State and National). In the event of an emergency that would prevent a registered five member team from competing, LFSWCD may allow a team to compete with fewer than five members. Unless replacing a regular team member, alternates will not be allowed to travel with their team while at the competition and will not be allowed to help the team set up during the presentation part of the contest, but may participate on the alternate team as assigned. Each team will be assigned a team letter for representation during the event.

6. Coaches or advisors must accompany their team to the competition. They will not have contact with their team at the testing stations during the competition and will serve as guides for other teams during the contest. Discussion regarding the competition between coaches and their team during the contest is a violation of the rules and subject to penalty.

7. Decisions of resource personnel or station judges are final with respect to test questions, answers and timekeeping. The majority of the test questions will be generated from the resource materials listed or provided for the competition and/or related to learning objectives.

8. The contest will consist of questions in the subjects of soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and special issue: “Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change”. Each station/subject area will be worth 1/7 of the overall score. In addition the contest will also include an oral presentation; the presentation will be worth 2/7 of the total score.

9. In the event of an overall tie, tiebreakers shall be as follows: Current Issue score, Soils score, Aquatics score, Forestry score and Wildlife score.

10. Team members should work together to answer test questions, submitting one completed test to the station judge(s) before moving to the next station. Approximately thirty (30) minutes will be allowed for test completion at each station. Approximately five (5) minutes will be given for travel between stations.

11. Teams will not be permitted to take their tests with them at the conclusion of the competition. Teams will have time to review their tests while at the competition grounds. No pictures or detailed notes will be allowed to be taken of the tests. Copies of the tests will not be provided to the teams after the competition.

12. Presentations will be given during the appropriate time slot in each team’s rotation. Each team will have five (5) minutes to set up, twenty (20) minutes to make their presentation, and five (5) minutes to answer questions from the judges–for a total of approximately thirty (30) minutes. The Dominion Virginia Envirothon Judges’ Scoring Sheet for Team Presentations will be used for scoring at the contest. There will 3-5 oral presentation judges. The oral presentation judges and/or the assigned helpers are responsible for the official timekeeping at the oral presentation station. The only visual aids or resources allowed will be Microsoft PowerPoint (PPT). Google slides may be used in creating the presentation but should be downloaded to a PPT file for competition day. Students should include a list of resource references and information to present to oral presentation judges in their final power point slide of their presentation.

12. Certificates will be presented to the top three overall teams in the LFSWCD Competition.

13. Medical needs, emergencies and student conduct during the LFSWCD competition are the responsibility of the school/coach or group the team represents during the contest. Please have students share medical information such as allergies or medication needs with coaches before leaving for the contest. The contest should be considered a school or group-sanctioned field trip. Participating schools or groups are responsible for the appropriate permission slips or liability waivers that apply to field trips. It is the duty of the coach to make sure appropriate chaperones align with their schools policies for field trips.

14. The lunch break is considered a part of the Envirothon competition. Studying or use of other materials is prohibited during the lunch break. Team escorts shall remain with their assigned team during the entire competition, including the lunch break.

15. Students are not permitted to carry electronic devices on the day of the event. Teams may carry only the agenda, writing tools, water bottles, and snacks (calculators, clipboards and other items will be provided as needed at stations).

16. Teams should not wear clothing that identifies their school or Conservation District during any part of the competition. Teams should not mention or identify their school or Conservation District during any part of the competition.

17. Any infraction of the LFSWCD Rules may result in disqualification and dismissal from the event.

18. Any concerns should be brought to the immediate attention of the Chair of the Envirothon Appeals Committee (LFSWCD Staff). Teams must submit written appeals using the Virginia Envirothon Appeals Form to the Appeals Committee within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the final testing station. The Appeals Committee will review appeals and take proper action if necessary. The Appeals Committee will consist of the LFSWCD Education and Information Committee.

19. The LFSWCD Envirothon will be held rain or shine. Participants should be prepared to encounter mud, rain, wind, ticks, poison ivy, etc. and should dress accordingly. A change of clothes and/or shoes is highly recommended.

20. In order to participate and or compete in the LFSWCD Envirothon competition, each team must complete the LFSWCD registration form. Each team member must also submit a signed media release form and risk release form.