

# 2024 Manitoba Envirothon Advisor's Guide



Manitoba  
Association of  
Watersheds

# INTRODUCTION

This guide is designed for advisors of Manitoba Envirothon teams. The Envirothon relies on a dedicated team of volunteers to put on a successful Envirothon annually, including our Steering Committee, Regional and Provincial Event volunteers, and Team Advisors! Our students need your help to study and engage with the resource materials provided. Without your guidance, there would be no Manitoba Envirothon!

If you require any additional information please feel free to contact Kathryn at [kathryn@manitobawatersheds.org](mailto:kathryn@manitobawatersheds.org)

Thanks so much!

[manitobawatersheds.org](http://manitobawatersheds.org)

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# FAST FACTS



- Each participating school enters a team. A team is made up of five grade 9 - 12 students.
- Each team has an advisor. An advisor is usually a teacher or coach.
- Teams study provided resource materials about five key discipline areas. The discipline areas are Aquatic Ecology, Wildlife Ecology, Soils & Land Use, Forest & Plant Ecology, and a Theme that changes every year.
- The Envirothon competition has two parts: an outdoor field test and an oral presentation.
- Teams will compete at a Regional event in April. There are 5 Regional events across Manitoba. Your school will be placed in the appropriate Regional event based on your location. The top teams from the Regional events will be invited to compete at the Manitoba Envirothon Provincial event in May.
- The top team from the Manitoba Envirothon will then represent our province at the international Envirothon hosted by the National Conservation Foundation (NCF). The NCF Envirothon is held each July in either a U.S. or Canadian location.

# GETTING STARTED

The Envirothon is a high school environmental education program that is designed to encourage team work, problem-solving skills, and public speaking skills while fostering an appreciation and understanding for current environmental issues. Getting started with the Envirothon is easier than you think! Here are some basic steps:

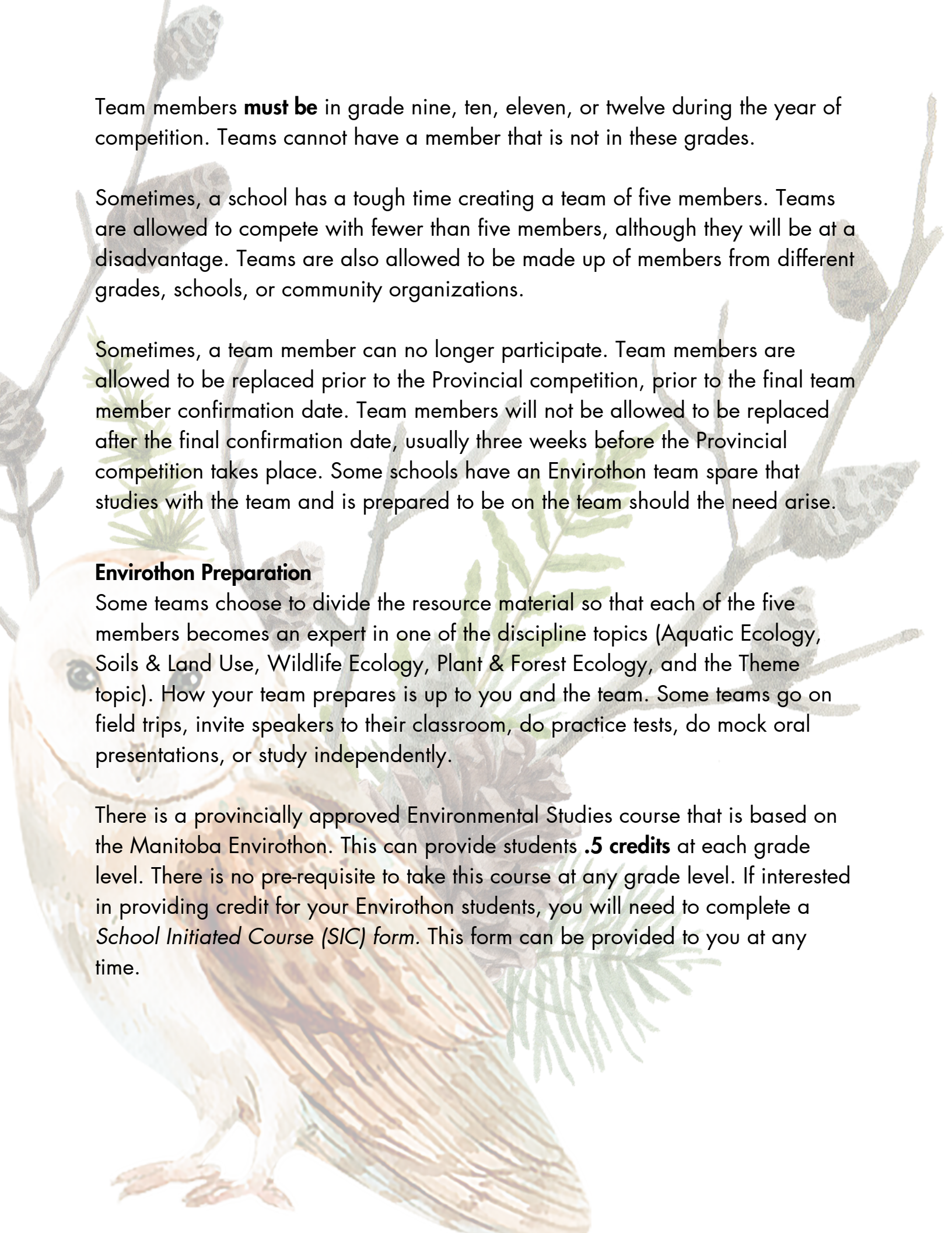
## Team Advisor

Every Envirothon team needs an **advisor**. An advisor is usually a high school teacher who becomes the team leader and performs such activities as registering the team, distributing resource materials, and organizing team meetings. An advisor can be an adult such as a resource person at your school or a volunteer from the community.

Once you have identified yourself as an advisor who would like to form a team, you may want to talk to your **school administration** about the registration fee, time away from school for the Regional and Provincial competitions, and how to structure prep time with your team.

## Creating Your Team

Each Envirothon team is composed of **5** grade nine to twelve students. There are a number of ways that teams are chosen. Some are self-selected students who have a particular interest in environmental issues; others compete within their school for a place on the team. Team members are often found in science or environmental studies classes, environmental clubs, and land-based learning courses.



Team members **must be** in grade nine, ten, eleven, or twelve during the year of competition. Teams cannot have a member that is not in these grades.

Sometimes, a school has a tough time creating a team of five members. Teams are allowed to compete with fewer than five members, although they will be at a disadvantage. Teams are also allowed to be made up of members from different grades, schools, or community organizations.

Sometimes, a team member can no longer participate. Team members are allowed to be replaced prior to the Provincial competition, prior to the final team member confirmation date. Team members will not be allowed to be replaced after the final confirmation date, usually three weeks before the Provincial competition takes place. Some schools have an Envirothon team spare that studies with the team and is prepared to be on the team should the need arise.

### **Envirothon Preparation**

Some teams choose to divide the resource material so that each of the five members becomes an expert in one of the discipline topics (Aquatic Ecology, Soils & Land Use, Wildlife Ecology, Plant & Forest Ecology, and the Theme topic). How your team prepares is up to you and the team. Some teams go on field trips, invite speakers to their classroom, do practice tests, do mock oral presentations, or study independently.

There is a provincially approved Environmental Studies course that is based on the Manitoba Envirothon. This can provide students **.5 credits** at each grade level. There is no pre-requisite to take this course at any grade level. If interested in providing credit for your Envirothon students, you will need to complete a *School Initiated Course (SIC) form*. This form can be provided to you at any time.

## Registration Fees

Teams are required to pay a registration fee for both the Regional and Provincial event. We use the registration fee to help offset the cost of food and accommodation for 5 team members and up to 2 advisors at the Manitoba Envirothon in May, the resource/study materials, and other equipment or supplies needed for the events. Some teams fundraise or look for a sponsor to help cover the registration fee and travel costs.

*Please see current registration form for the most up to date fees for both the Regional and Provincial events.*



# FIELD TEST

## Overview

Team members join forces to compete a Field Test. The Field Test has questions that are about content, usable equipment, and scientific processes from all of the five discipline areas. While the team members often become an expert in one of the discipline areas, they are encouraged to work together and share knowledge throughout the Field Test. All team members must participate in the Field Test.

## Team Preparation

Teams prepare for the Field Test by studying all provided materials, watching provided training videos, practicing hands-on skills with equipment, and participating in additional training sessions (if provided). Teams also prepare for the Field Test by practicing support and teamwork skills. Teams can access field tests from previous years to practice.

## What to Expect

The Regional Field Test is about two hours long, with the Provincial Field Test running about three hours long. Teams need to be prepared for any weather conditions such as snow, sun, wind, and even rain. Teams are encouraged to bring sunscreen, bug spray, a refillable water bottle, and to dress in layers. Teams must have sturdy footwear to be allowed to compete (i.e. no open-toed shoes).



# ORAL COMPETITION

## **Overview**

Teams are given a scenario where they will need to provide a response or solution. Teams will create required items which may include a poster, props, speech cards, or other needed items. Teams will present their response to a panel of judges. All team members must participate in the Oral Presentation.

## **Team Preparation**

Teams prepare for the Oral Competition by practicing public speaking skills. Often, this includes practicing in front of peers, using prior Oral Competition scenarios, and becoming proficient in communicating a message to an audience in an effective, efficient, and convincing matter.

## **What to Expect**

For the Regional Event, teams are given the Oral Competition scenario in advance. They arrive at the competition with their Oral presentation pre-prepared. For the Provincial event, teams are given time to create their Oral Presentation in the moment. Advisors are not involved in this preparation - they are separated from the teams until after the Oral Competition is complete. Presentations are expected to be about 10 minutes long - specific guidelines will be given ahead of time.



# CONNECTING AT THE ENVIROTHON

At the Provincial Event, teams are invited to participate in two great socializing events. First, teams are asked to prepare a short skit introducing themselves. All teams will have the opportunity to introduce themselves in a fun way in front of other teams. In the past, teams have told jokes, written songs, performed dances, and more!

Second, teams are invited to participate in the *Trading Post*. Teams can bring small items from their home communities to trade with other teams. Students can bring as many items as they choose - the more items they have, the more than can trade! Typically, a student would have about 5 items to trade. In the past, teams have brought trade items such as painted rocks, postcards, school swag, buttons, and other souvenirs representing their communities.

## **Accommodations**

The Regional events are one-day events, held around the province, generally running from 8:30am until no later than 5pm, with the exception of the Northern Regional event that takes place over two days to accommodate for travel and training for teams.

The Provincial event is held annually over a 3-day period. The Steering Committee does their best to rotate the Provincial event annually throughout the Province's West, North, East, South and Central regions. They are generally hosted at camps with overnight accommodations for all students, advisors and volunteers, as needed. When you register, you are asked to provide any rules and regulations required for your team, including room assignments, dietary requirements, and accessibility needs.

# SAMPLE EVENT SCHEDULES

## Sample Regional Event Schedule

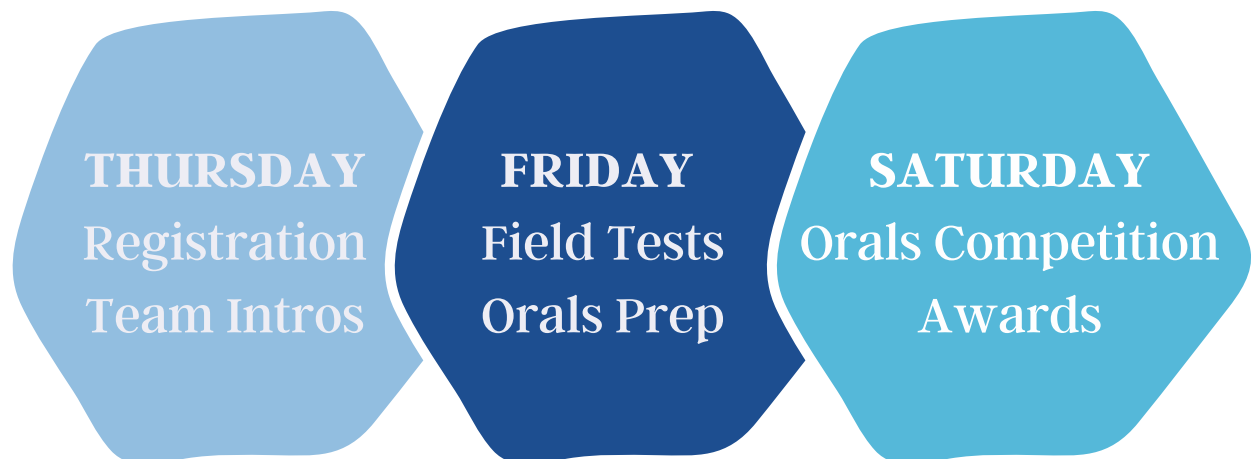
Regional events are all held in April over the course of a single day. The Northern Regional is the only one held over **two days**, to accommodate any travel and a day of training for teams.

<i>Morning</i>	Arrival Discipline Training*
<i>Afternoon</i>	Field Test Orals Competition

\*All students will be provided training on any equipment that will be necessary to compete in the Field Tests.

## Sample Provincial Event Schedule

The Provincial competition is held over the course of **three days** in May, generally the weekend following the Victoria Day long weekend.



## Sample Provincial Schedule Breakdown

### THURSDAY

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.      Arrival and Registration  
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.      Dinner  
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.    Welcome Ceremony  
Team Introductions

### FRIDAY

Morning                  Discipline Training  
Afternoon                Field Test  
Evening                  Dinner  
Oral Competition Workshop for Teams/Advisors  
Trading Session, Recreation and Downtime

### SATURDAY

Morning                  Team Preparation for Oral Competition  
Test Review & Debriefing for Advisors  
Afternoon                Lunch  
Oral Presentations  
Awards and Closing  
Departure

