



2021 Washington State Envirothon

2021 WA State Envirothon Competition FAQ

Q: When and how will the competition be held?

A: The 2021 Washington State Envirothon competition will be held May 17th- May 21st virtually over Zoom. Each team will be sent a unique schedule ahead of the competition and links to join the Welcome ceremony, test taking and presentation sessions, and the Awards ceremony. You will be required to complete a quick registration to enter the Zoom meetings. A free Zoom account will be sufficient to participate in this competition.

Q: Do we need a Team Captain?

A: Yes, each team will be required to assign a Team Captain ahead of the competition. The Team Captain will be responsible for submitting test answers and ensuring that all Google Form tests are submitted.

Q: How do I use Zoom?

A: If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, we recommend you watch the below introductory videos to get a feel for the platform:

- [How to join a Zoom meeting](#)
- [Meeting controls](#)
- [How to share your screen](#) (necessary for Team Captain during test-taking and oral presentation segments)

In particular, please be sure that you are familiar with logging on to Zoom and joining a meeting, turning on and off your camera, muting and unmuting your microphone, and screen sharing capabilities. The Team Captain should be familiar with adjusting the display settings on their computer in case their team members need the test to be displayed in larger text. We highly recommend that all participants check that their video and sound are functional prior to the competition.

Q: What is the Welcome Ceremony?

A: The Welcome Ceremony will take place on Monday, May 17th from 8:30- 9:15 am. All teams will be expected to attend. Teams will receive an introduction to the competition and the volunteers that they may interact with throughout the week.

Q: What should our Zoom display names include?

A: Please be sure that your Zoom display name includes your first name and assigned team number (i.e. Team 1). If you do not consent to the photo release, make sure to write "NP" (No Photos) before your first name. Team members are **not** permitted to have their school's name or affiliation in their display name. To change your Zoom name while in a meeting, hover your cursor over your video box, click the 3 white dots that appear at the top right of your frame, and then choose "Rename" from the dropdown list.



2021 Washington State Envirothon

Q: What are team advisor's role during the competition?

A: Team advisors are welcome to attend competition but will not be allowed in the zoom breakout rooms while their team(s) are taking tests or presenting.

Q: Are we required to wear the Washington State Envirothon t-shirt during the competition?

A: During the competition, we encourage teams to wear their WA State Envirothon t-shirt that was mailed to them. If team members have not received their shirts in the mail, they are not allowed to wear any identifying clothing from the school or conservation district they are representing. They are also not allowed to have any school or conservation district identifying posters, flags or items in the background during the competition.

Q: What will the test-taking sessions look like?

A: Your team will be sent a Zoom link the week before the competition for your test-taking session. You simply need to click the link in the email and complete a quick registration to join the meeting. All four tests, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use and Wildlife, will take place on Monday, May 17th. There will **not** be a test on the current issue topic this year. Once you join the meeting, a brief introduction of the first test will be provided. Then you will be sent into a breakout room with the rest of your team and a test proctor. There will be a 15-minute buffer time for the test introduction and to allow teams to enter the breakout rooms. 30 minutes are allotted for each test. Volunteers will be available to assist with any problems that arise during the test. All team members will receive a link to the Google Form test at the start of their test taking time allotment. Each member of the team will be expected to participate in the test, but only the Team Captain or their delegate will enter and submit your team's answers. Your team is allowed one attempt per test; once submitted, you will be unable to go back and change your answers. Once the first test is completed, you will be brought back to the main room to hear the introduction to the next test.

Q: Are teams allowed scratch paper during the tests?

A: Teams will be allowed to use a blank shared document, like a Google Doc, to work together during the tests. Teams will be required to delete this Google Doc and notes after the test is completed. For the duration of the tests, teams will not access any other websites other than the testing link, any other links that are directly embedded within the test, and the shared blank document.

Q: Are teams allowed to use a calculator while taking tests?

A: Yes, teams can use a calculator while taking their tests.

Q: Will teams be provided with any resources during the tests?

A: Any charts, keys, digital guides, etc. necessary for each test will be embedded in the Google Form that you are testing on. Team members are not permitted to consult any additional print or digital resources beyond those provided to them. If any team member consults resources (including photos, websites, textbooks, personal notes, etc.) during the test beyond those provided by Washington State Envirothon in the Google Form, the team will be disqualified.



2021 Washington State Envirothon

Q: Will alternates be allowed into their team's breakout room during the competition?

A: Unless alternates are replacing a team member's spot, they will not be allowed in the breakout room during the competition. If alternates would like to participate in the competition, a team of alternates from all participating schools will be formed. The Alternate(s) team will only be able to participate in the testing portion of the competition, not the oral presentation.

Q: What is the role of the test proctors?

A: Test proctors will be present to assure that students are aligning to the Washington State Envirothon Code of Conduct. Test proctors will be provided by the Washington State Envirothon committee. They will be permitted to assist with technical issues and to relay clarifying questions to the test writers; however, they will not be permitted to help students answer questions in any way.

Q: What will the presentation session look like?

A: We will send out the presentation scenario two weeks ahead of the competition to give your team time to prepare a presentation. [You will also receive a rubric detailing how presentations will be graded.](#) Please email or upload your team's presentation to Google Drive or Dropbox and send to educationIP@kingcd.org. This will be a backup in case your team is unable to share the presentation or other technical issues come up. All final presentations slide decks need to be sent to us by 5PM, the day before your team is scheduled to present. You do not need to record your presentation ahead of time, you will only need to present it live to our judges during your presentation time slot. Your presentation slot will be scheduled on either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. You will receive a link to join the presentation meeting the week before the competition. You can log on to the meeting 30 minutes before your scheduled presentation time. Once you log on, you will be sent to a breakout room where you can prep for your presentation. A moderator will be present in the breakout room. After 30 minutes, the judges will enter your breakout room and you will be given 15 minutes total for your presentation. The presentation must be 10 minutes long and 5 minutes will be dedicated to questions from judges. All team members must participate during the presentation.

Q: Do teams need to record presentation ahead of time?

A: Teams do not need to record your presentation ahead of time, you will only need to present it live to our judges during your presentation time slot. All final presentations slide decks need to be sent to us by 5PM, the day before your team is scheduled to present. Please email or upload your team's slide deck/virtual presentation to Google Drive or Dropbox and send to educationIP@kingcd.org. This will be a backup in case your team is unable to share the presentation or other technical issues come up. [Find more details how presentations will be graded on our presentation rubric here.](#)

Presentation Scenario Questions

Q. The guidelines ask for a conceptual drawing of the area. Are we supposed to create our own map of the area based on the information in the scenario, or are we supposed to use a map of the actual area?



2021 Washington State Envirothon

A: Use the map given in the scenario and add more features related to the users mentioned in the scenario. Team members should also edit the map based on their vision for the property. Teams can use online maps to orient themselves and add whichever features that deserve consideration in the area to their maps.

Q: Do teams need specific roles (e.g., Wastewater Specialist) while presenting? We were also confused about one of the considerations of the presentation: "How would you propose that the City acquire the property? Can you think of any potential funding sources that may be available to conserve this property?" For this consideration, what exactly do we need to include in the presentation?

A: You're welcome to use and assign specific roles to focus on different aspects of your presentation if you'd like but it's not a requirement. Regarding acquiring the property and funding resources, your team should include information in your presentation that will communicate to the judges your ideas to both of these questions.

Q: Will teams be permitted to be in the same room/on the same video?

A: Team members will be permitted to log on individually from home, log on together on one Zoom account in a group at school or have a mix of team members working from home and in a group. Please ensure that all team members are visible on video in either case. If students log on separately, we recommend that the Team Captain or their delegate screenshare your Team's Google Form so that all team members can see the questions as they work on the test together. Screen sharing will be enabled in the testing breakout rooms.

Q: What happens in the case of a tie?

A: Should there be a tie for the highest cumulative points the winning team will be determined first by their score from the Oral Presentation. If there is still a tie, the scores will be compared next by the Aquatic Ecology test, then the Forestry test, then the Wildlife test, and lastly the Soils and Land Use test.

Q: Will teams get to know our ranking in the competition, our scores on each of the tests, and/or what questions we missed, or if the only indication of how we did will be whether or not we received first place?

A: Washington State Envirothon will share team's overall scores for each test, the presentation, and totals with all the teams. The actual graded tests will not be shared with teams.

Q: Does the Washington State Envirothon committee have any recommended resources to prepare for the oral presentation?

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A: We recommend reviewing resources from natural resource agencies throughout the state and the [NCF-Envirothon site](#). Also feel free to reference the WA Envirothon Water Resources Management training with Tacoma Water [recording here](#).



2021 Washington State Envirothon

Q: What happens at the Awards Ceremony?

A: The Awards Ceremony will take place on Friday, May 21st from 9-10 am. All teams will be expected to attend. If your team wins first place in the competition, please plan to stay on after the ceremony so that the Envirothon Committee can give you instructions and information about the national competition.

Q: What happens if my team logs on to a meeting before our scheduled time?

A: If you log on before your scheduled time, you will be held in the waiting room and allowed in once it is your allotted time.

Q: Is it alright for a student to leave in case of a personal emergency, or will their team be disqualified?

A: If a student needs to leave before their team completes the competition, the Envirothon Committee will handle it on a case-by-case basis. Be sure to notify Envirothon staff at educationIP@kingcd.org as quickly as possible should this occur. Each team is required to have at least three members remain during the entire competition.

Q: Are team members permitted to take a short unscheduled break during testing?

A: Team members are permitted to take an unscheduled break during testing as necessary; however, the team will not be given any additional time to complete the test. If any student accesses prohibited external resources during their break, their team will be disqualified.

Q: What happens if we lose internet service during the test?

A: If a single team member loses internet access, they should notify their advisor as soon as possible and attempt to rejoin as soon as they are able. The remaining members should continue to take their test. If there are less than three team members that still have internet access, or if the Team Captain loses internet access, the remaining members should stop taking their test and note the remaining time and their answers on a piece of paper. The test proctor will coordinate with Committee members to have the link and timer reset with time remaining once more members/the Team Captain are able to rejoin.

Q: Are we allowed to take a screenshot of test questions to use for future study materials?

A: No. All testing materials are property of Washington State Envirothon, and they are to be treated as confidential. Team members are prohibited from taking pictures or screenshots or memorizing any test questions.

Q: Are team advisors permitted to assist their team during the tests?

A: No. Advisors are not permitted to assist their team in answering any test questions.



2021 Washington State Envirothon

Q: What resources are available for teams to prepare for the competition?

A: We have recordings from our virtual training sessions in April for teams to [review on our YouTube channel](#). We also recommend reviewing the Topic Resource pages at waenvirothon.org:

- [Aquatic Ecology](#)
- [Forestry](#)
- [Soils and Land Use](#)
- [Wildlife](#)
- [Current Issue: 2021 Water Resources Management](#)

[We also have the Oral Presentation Rubric and Recommendations handout saved here.](#)

Q: Is there someone that I can contact should I have persistent tech issues?

A: Should you have problems accessing the Zoom platform during the competition, please contact: educationip@kingcd.org or call (206) 379-5258