

Pictures from the 2008 Junior Envirothon...



The Holy Family Home Educators team placed first in 2008. Winners receive individual ribbons for their efforts, along with a certificate with the student's names, their teacher/advisor name, and is mailed to the principal of their school.



Jordan Middle School brought 3 teams to the 2008 Junior Envirothon. Pictures are taken of all the teams in the morning when they arrive and are used in press releases and sent to the schools.

Area IV Soil & Water Conservation District's

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Minnesota Association of
Conservation District
Employees (MACDE) Area IV
JUNIOR ENVIROTHON

**An Opportunity for
Students in Grades 6-8
Organize your
team today!**



MACDE Area IV
Junior Envirothon

Junior Envirothon — An Opportunity for Middle School Students

WHAT is a Junior Envirothon?

It's a problem-solving natural resources competition for middle school students. Students are tested on their knowledge of Minnesota's natural resources — aquatics, soils, forestry, wildlife and a current environmental issue. For 2009, "[Biodiversity in a Changing World](#)" is the current topic.

Students will visit five "in-the-field" test stations where written and hands-on problem solving is required. The event is competitive, education is the bottom line.

The 5 learning stations are staffed by Natural Resource Professionals in that particular field. The Envirothon is a nationwide event that began in Pennsylvania in 1979. Minnesota started a Senior Envirothon (grades 9-12) in 1993, and a Junior Envirothon (grades 6-8) in 2006.



Students from the 2008 Junior Envirothon examine and identify the type of organic soil provided.



Students at the Aquatics station work on identifying non-native species that invade aquatic ecosystems in MN.

WHO Participates?

Teams of 5 students from the same school (or group—i.e. 4-H groups) enrolled in grades 6-8 can participate. Schools are allowed to bring more than one team, if there is space available. Each team has an adult advisor that travels with the teams from station to station.

All participants in the Junior Envirothon will receive a drawstring sports backpack (see below), and the top three teams with the highest points will receive individual ribbons and a framed certificate for their school.



Commemorative backpacks are given to all students.

WHEN is the Junior Envirothon?

The Junior Envirothon will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at the U of M Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen. Team registration begins at 8:30 AM, with the entire event being completed by about 12:20 PM.

WHY an Environmental Competition?

The Envirothon teaches the students about the environment, and how they can become involved in protecting our natural resources now as students, and later as adults. It also teaches them teamwork. Students representing their school compete as a five-member team. They cooperate with one another in order to collectively come up with the solution and correct answers in each of the five tests.

Teachers across the country are recognizing the value of the Envirothon as a means of strengthening the environmental awareness of students.

WHERE are they held?

Many states along the east coast have been hosting Junior Envirothon events for quite a few years. Coincidentally, some of these states have also had teams that won the National Senior High Envirothon.

This is the third annual Junior Envirothon for this region in Minnesota. Area IV started the first Junior Envirothon in Minnesota in 2006 with only 3 counties participating (Carver, Hennepin, & Scott). The Junior Envirothon has been a huge success in Area IV, and continues to grow every year. Other areas of the state are now organizing Junior Envirothon's in their own areas.

Organize your team TODAY to be ready to compete in the Junior Envirothon on May 14, 2009!