

Dear WV Envirothon Participants,

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the WV Envirothon Committee (WVEC) decided to move the state competition to a virtual format. The WVEC did not want another year to lapse for students who not only look forward to the competition, but also look forward to the chance at college scholarship funds. While we are not able to gather in person, we think it can be agreed that this is our best alternative given the situation. This is much more than a competition, it's the chance to win scholarship money, to make lifelong friends and connections, and to find and mold career paths.

While the format may be slightly different this year, the concept is still the same: to train as a well-rounded team and to have fund doing so. We have kept all aspects of the competition as true to form as possible. There will still be four test sections and an oral presentation will still be required. Alternate team members are also encouraged to participate as well and there will be availabilities for those teams to compete as well.

The virtual competition is slated for April 15-16, 2021. There will be two tests available per day using Google Forms. The oral presentation will be uploaded to the WV Envirothon website (<u>www.wvca.us/envirothon</u>) by the end of the testing day on April 15. Test links will be emailed to the team captain the morning of each test day. While the team has the entire period to complete the tests, once the test is opened, it will be timed and must be completed within the provided time frame. Students may take the tests virtually or in person, depending on what local regulations are.

# **Timeline:**

# March 15, 2021

Registration closes **March 15, 2021.** Registration forms can be found on the <u>WV Envirothon website</u>. Due to being a virtual format, there will be NO registration fee. *This is an update as previously announced*.

# April 7, 2021

A teacher training will be held via a live video conference at 4 pm. This meeting will go over the procedure and last-minute question and answers. The meeting link will be sent to registered teams only.

#### April 12-15, 2021

An upload link will be available on the WV Envirothon website for the oral presentations. The link will be available all week to ensure teams are able to upload their presentations.

#### April 15, 2021

Testing day #1!! Test links will be available from 8 am - 8 pm. The test links for Soils and Forestry will be sent to the designated team captain as was indicated on the registration form. While the links will be valid for the 12 hour period, once each link is opened, the timer will begin and the test will automatically shut down at the end of the allowed time period.

The oral presentations will also be due by 8 pm. There will be a designated upload link on the <u>WV Envirothon</u> <u>website</u> where teams can upload their oral presentation. After 8 pm, the upload link will no longer be available. We recommend to upload your presentation early just in case you run into problems.

# April 16, 2021

Testing day #2!! Test links will be available from 8 am - 8 pm. The test links for Wildlife and Aquatics will be sent to the designated team captain as was indicated on the registration form. While the links will be valid for the 12 hour period, once each link is opened, the timer will begin and the test will automatically shut down at the end of the allowed time period.

# April 17-29, 2021

Tests and oral presentations will be scored and ranked. The time period allows judges to confer from across the state.

# April 30, 2021

Winners announced! We are hoping to host a live streamed event to announce the winners. We will also have our traditional awards to include, but not limited to: station awards, attendance awards, and rookie team award. More information about the awards ceremony will be sent prior to the ceremony.

We hope that this provides an overview of the 2021 WV Envirothon competition and maybe eases minds and answers lingering questions. We encourage teams to continue to review the testing materials that are provided on the <u>WV Envirothon website</u> and to also use the <u>NCF Envirothon website</u> as a resource.

If there are any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Chairman Wayne McKeever or Secretary Heather Duncan at (681) 247-3013 or <u>hishman@epcd.us</u>. We appreciate your continued dedication to this competition. If this is your first year competing in the WV Envirothon ... WELCOME!

Sincerely,

The WV Envirothon Committee