

# How - To Book



California Envirothon

2006 Revision

# Table of Contents

Committee.....	2
Introduction.....	3
Study Concepts.....	4
What It Takes.....	5
Resource Conservation Districts.....	6-16
Rules.....	17-19
Checklist.....	20
Notes.....	21

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# The California Envirothon Program

## It's About Challenging Our Youth!

The Envirothon uses the outdoors and hands-on experiences as a complement to classroom learning. In natural settings, students become aware of the many environmental issues that exist today. Working as a team, they learn to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to arrive at solutions to specific real-world environmental problems.

## What

The Envirothon is a problem-solving, natural resources conservation education program for high school students. In the field, teams of students are challenged as a team to answer written questions and conduct hands-on investigations of environmental issues in five disciplines: aquatics, soils and land use, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. A sixth component is an oral presentation that integrates all five test categories to solve a problem in a given scenario.

## Why

The Envirothon stimulates, reinforces and enhances students' interest in the environment and our state's natural resources. The concept was created by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts as an outdoor hands-on competition. From "Environmental Olympics", the concept expanded to other states. When the national competition was added in 1988, the name was changed to "Envirothon". Envirothon affords a unique approach to teach environmental education, and it's fun!

## How

Team sponsorship is available through local Resource Conservation Districts. Resource Conservation Districts in conjunction with cooperating agencies, organizations, educators, community and interest groups, conduct the California Envirothon competition each spring. As the Envirothon program grows, regional competitions are being added. The winning team from the California Envirothon competition represents California at the Canon Envirothon held in July.

## When

The California Envirothon competition is usually held in the month of April. This, however, is dependent upon the availability of various sites. The Envirothon rotates annually between mountain, ocean and desert locations. Having the competition in April allows the students to have the majority of the school year to prepare.

# Five Study Concepts

## Aquatics

Water Ecology, Water Chemistry, Plants and Animals Living in or Around Water, Water Quality, Stream Improvements, Conservation, and Water Delivery

## Soils and Land Use

Classification, Profiles, Soil Characteristics, Soil Surveys, Site Suitability/Current Issues, Erosion, Conservation Practices

## Wildlife

Identification, Habitat Characteristics, Foods, Diseases, Species Rules and Regulations, Management

## Forestry

Forest Ecology, Tree Identification, Insects, Diseases, Timber Measurements, Improvement of Timber Stands, Forest and Multiple-Use Management

## Current Environmental Issues

The current issue topic is selected by the state hosting the current year Canon Envirothon competition. Topics have been, or could include: Non-Point Source Pollution, Endangered Species, Mining Issues, Air Pollution, Wetlands, Loss of Farmlands Due to Urban Encroachment, and current newsworthy or controversial issues.

The California Envirothon Steering Committee will provide pertinent information in the study concepts. All study concepts are linked to state educational standards.

The California Envirothon has developed a network of resource agencies, organizations and corporations that are responsible for, or do business in, areas related to the current issue. They are called upon to provide resource materials, volunteers and financial support whenever possible. For instance, if the current issue is a nuclear waste issue, the Nuclear Energy Commission (a regulatory agency), the Environmental Protection Agency (the agency involved in clean-up efforts), and the Department of Defense would be contacted first. Then, resource professionals from the first four disciplines would be asked to incorporate nuclear contamination-related issues to the topic at each station's test.

# What It Takes

## Professionals and Specialists

Resource Conservation Districts are encouraged to support their local teams, and can do this in many ways. Districts can organize learning workshops, identify resource professionals, agencies and organizations, and can help support teams financially. Also, any RCD can support any team; they do not have to be local teams.

Contact resource professionals and ask if they would be willing to meet with your team, in the field, to review various issues and providing training. They will need a copy of the study concepts found on the website ([www.caenvirothon.com](http://www.caenvirothon.com)), pertaining to their professions so they will know exactly on what the team will be tested at the competition.

## Resource Conservation Districts

Study concepts are online at the Envirothon website, but Resource Conservation Districts are responsible for providing additional materials on the five disciplines. Member RCD's must have a contact person in their office or district which is listed with the Steering Committee. If any changes occur, the Steering Committee must be notified.

The first step the RCD should take in sponsoring a team is to contact the high schools in their District and make an appointment with the Science, Agriculture or AP advisors. Try to spark their interest in having teams for the California Envirothon event by showing them the study concepts and the Canon Envirothon promotional DVD. Districts can also provide press releases to local newspapers to gain students' interest. This also gives public awareness and visibility to your RCD's public conservation outreach efforts.

Participating teams pay a pre-registration fee and it is the RCD's responsibility to return all forms to the Registrar on time. Pre-registration is not credited to final registration, but is a financial commitment to participate in the event. It is the duty of the RCD's to help the teams raise money to attend the competition.

Each team must consist of five students and one adult advisor. If the team is co-ed, a male and female advisor must attend. The students must be in grades 9 through 12. If at the time of the event you only have a partial team, you can still attend and participate, but your team will not be allowed to place in the competition. The advisors can be teachers, resource professionals, parents, or anyone who wants to teach a team and attend the event. Advisors are responsible for the team's conduct at the event, and to provide transportation to and from the event. It is important for member RCD's and Advisors to read the Rules and Regulations and any correspondence from the Steering Committee.

# California Resource Conservation Districts

## A

### [Alameda RCD](#)

3585 Greenville Rd. Suite 2,  
Livermore, CA 94550

Phone:(925) 371-0154  
Fax:(925) 371-0155:

### Amador RCD

42 Summit St. Ste. A  
Jackson, CA 95642

Phone:(209) 223-1846  
Fax:(209) 223-3758

### Antelope Valley RCD

44811 N. Date Ste. G  
Lancaster, CA 93534

Phone:(661) 945-2604  
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### Alpine RCD

1528 Hwy. 395 #100  
Gardnerville, NV 89410

Phone:(775) 782-3661  
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## B

### Bard RCD

PO Box 776  
Bard, CA 92222

Phone:(760) 572-0179  
Fax:(760) 572-0183

### Butte County RCD

150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite A  
Oroville, CA 95965

(530) 534-0112 Ext 122  
Fax:(530) 533-4936

## C

### Cachuma RCD

920 East Stowell  
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Phone:(805) 928-9269  
Fax:(805) 928-9644

### Central Modoc RCD

804 W. 12th Street  
Alturas, CA 96101

Phone:(530) 233-8872  
Fax:(530) 233-8869

<u>Chowchilla-Red Top</u>	11791 Ave. 22 Chowchilla, CA 93610	Phone:(559) 665-3502 Fax:(559) 665-7355
<u>Coachella Valley RCD</u>	80-901 Bliss Avenue Indio, CA 92201	Phone:(760) 347-7658 Fax:(760) 347-4967
<u>Coarsegold RCD</u>	PO Box 1288 North Fork, CA 93646	Phone:(559) 877-4516 Fax:(559) 877-2973
<u>Coastal San Luis RCD</u>	545 Main St. Suite B1 Morro Bay, CA 93442	Phone:(805) 772-4391 Fax:(805) 772-4398
<u>Columbia RCD</u>	6770 Ave. 7 1/2 Firebaugh, CA 93622	Phone:(559) 659-2426 Fax:(559) 659-2424
<u>Colusa County RCD</u>	100 Sunrise Blvd. #B Colusa, CA 95932	Phone:(530) 458-2931 Fax:(530) 458-3683
<u>Contra Costa RCD</u>	5552 Clayton Road Concord, CA 94521	Phone:(925) 672-6522 x4 Fax:(925) 672-8064
D		
<u>Dixon RCD</u>	1170 North Lincoln #110 Dixon, CA 95620	Phone:(707) 678-1655 Fax:(707) 675-5001
E		
<u>Eastern Kern County RCD</u>	PO Box 626 Inyokern, CA 93527	Phone:(760) 377-4525 Fax:(760) 377-4525
<u>East Lake RCD</u>	883 Lakeport Blvd. Lakeport, CA 95453	Phone:(707) 263-4180 Fax:(707) 263-0912



East Merced RCD

2135 Wardrobe Ave.Ste. C  
Merced, CA 95340

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Fax:(209) 725-2964

East Stanislaus RCD

3800 Cornucopia Way Ste. E  
Modesto, CA 95358

Phone:(209) 491-9320  
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El Dorado County RCD

100 Forni Road Ste. A  
Placerville, CA 95667

Phone:(530) 295-5630  
Fax:(530) 295-5635

Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza RCD

24280 Washington Ave.  
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Excelsior/Kings River RCD

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F

Fall River RCD

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McArthur, CA 96056

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Feather River RCD

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Firebaugh RCD

PO Box 97  
Mendota, CA 93640

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Florin RCD

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G

Georgetown-Divide RCD

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<u>Gold Ridge RCD</u>	874 Gravenstein Hwy. S.#6 Sebastopol, CA 95472	Phone:(707) 823-3037 Fax:(707) 823-1436
<u>Goose Lake RCD</u>	PO Box 212 New Pine Creek, OR 97635	Phone:(530) 233-4137 Fax:(530) 233-2709
<u>Grassland RCD</u>	22759 S. Mercy Springs Rd. Los Banos, CA 93635	Phone:(209) 826-5188 Fax:(209) 826-4984
<u>Guadalupe-Coyote RCD</u>	888 N. First Street # 204 San Jose, CA 95112	Phone:(408) 288-5888 Fax:(408) 993-8728
<u>Gustine-Romero RCD</u>	2199 S. Jensen Road Gustine, CA 95322	Phone:(209) 854-3123 Fax:
<b>H</b>		
<u>Honey Lake Valley RCD</u>	170 Russell Avenue #C Susanville, CA 96130	Phone:(530) 257-7271 Fax:(530) 257-5252
<u>Humboldt County RCD</u>	5630 South Broadway Eureka, CA 95503	Phone:(707) 442-6058 Fax:(707) 442-7514
<b>I</b>		
<u>Imperial Irrigation RCD</u>	PO Box 937 Imperial, CA 92251	Phone:(760) 339-9477 Fax:(760) 339-9392
<u>Inland Empire RCD</u>	25864-K Business Center Drive, Redlands, CA 92374	Phone:(909) 799-7407 Fax:(909) 799-1438

Inyo-Mono RCD

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Bishop, CA 93514

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Fax:(760) 872-1166

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James RCD

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San Joaquin, CA 93660

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Fax:(559) 693-4357

K

Kern Valley RCD

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Weldon, CA 93283

Phone:(661) 378-2747

L

Lava Beds-Butte RCD

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Tulelake, CA 96134

Phone:(530) 667-5531  
Fax:(530) 667-5017

Loma Prieta RCD

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Gilroy, CA 95020

Phone:(408) 847-4171  
Fax:(408) 847-1521

Los Banos RCD

745 W. J Street  
Los Banos, CA 93635

Phone:(209) 826-5770  
Fax:(209) 826-7052

Lower Cosumnes RCD

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Elk Grove, CA 95624

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Fax:(916) 485-9883

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Madera RCD

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Marin RCD

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Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

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Fax:(415) 663-0421

Mariposa County RCD

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Mariposa, CA 95338

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Mendocino County RCD

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Ukiah, CA 95482

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Fax:(707) 468-5278

Mission RCD

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Mojave Desert RCD

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Victorville, CA 92392

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Mono County RCD

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Gardnerville, NV 89410

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Monterey County RCD

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Napa County RCD

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Escondido, CA 92025 Fax:(760) 745-3210

[Riverside-Corona RCD](#) 4500 Glennwood Drive Phone:(909) 683-7691  
Riverside, CA 92501 Fax:(909) 683-3814

Rosedale-Rio Bravo RCD PO Box 867 Phone:(805) 861-4125  
Bakersfield, CA 93302 Fax:(805) 861-4333

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<u>Siskiyou RCD</u>	PO Box 268 Etna, CA 96027	Phone:(530) 467-3975 Fax: (530) 467-5617
<u>Sloughhouse RCD</u>	9701 Dino Dr. #170 Elk Grove, CA 95624	Phone:(916) 714-1104 Fax:(916) 714-1117

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<u>Suisun RCD</u>	2544 Grizzly Island Road Suisun City, CA 94585	Phone:(707) 425-9302 Fax:(707) 425-4402
<u>Surprise Valley RCD</u>	PO Box B Cedarville, CA 96104	Phone:(530) 279-6110 Fax:(530) 233-8869
<u>Sutter County RCD</u>	1511 B Butte House Road Yuba City, CA 95993	Phone:(530) 674-1461 Fax:(530) 674-1480
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<u>Tehama County RCD</u>	2 Sutter Street #D Red Bluff, CA 96080	Phone:(530) 527-3013 Fax:(530) 527-7451
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U

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V

Ventura County RCD

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3380 Somis Rd.  
Somis, CA 93066

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Fax:(805) 386-4890

Vina RCD

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Vina, CA 96092

Phone:(530) 839-2130

W

Western Kern RCD

C/O Antelope Ranch-Gen. Delivery  
Cholame, CA 93431

Phone:(661) 861-4129

Western Shasta RCD

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Lakeport, CA 95453

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Fax:(559) 227-0215

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Patterson, CA 95363

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Y

Yolo County RCD

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Woodland, CA 95695

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Yuba County RCD

1511 Suite B Butte House Rd.  
Yuba City, CA 95993

Phone:(530) 674-1461

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Each school may have up to two teams registered at one time. In the event that space for the California Envirothon event becomes limited, the Envirothon steering committee reserves the right to limit the number of teams from each school and the number of schools participating in the event each year. This will occur on a first come first serve basis.
2. Only students in grades 9 through 12 are eligible to compete in the California Envirothon. If the current winning team has enrolled students that have graduated after the California Envirothon event, they are still eligible to compete at the National Event. In the event that the winning team cannot send the same students that won the California Event, a named alternate may be inserted into the winning team. That named alternate must have been approved by the steering committee. If the first place team still cannot go, then the second place team will go on to the National Event.
3. Each team must consist of five members from the same school, organization, or club and must be sponsored by a California Resource Conservation District or an Association of RCD's. Each team is encouraged to have one alternate. That alternate could act as a volunteer for the event. Any substitution to the competing team must receive approval from the Registration Subcommittee of the California Envirothon Steering Committee at least two weeks prior to the event.
4. To compete in the California Envirothon, each team must submit a pre-registration form, along with a non-refundable fee. These forms, for the current year, will be sent to all member RCD's and all team advisors from the previous two years' events. Final registration forms will be sent to all team advisors who submitted pre-registration forms. Final registration forms must be typed, must contain both team members and advisors names, and must be accompanied by final registration fees, which are non-refundable. **LATE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
5. Each team consists of five students and one advisor. If a team is a coed team, there must be an accompanying chaperone for both gender. Advisors will be responsible for their team's conduct at the host facility during the event. Any conduct deemed inappropriate by the Steering Committee of advisors or students, will be grounds for disqualification and dismissal from the event site. **TEAM MEMBERS AND ADVISORS MUST ATTEND ALL SCHEDULED EVENTS AT THE COMPETITION.** No team member or advisor may leave the California Envirothon site without first obtaining permission from the Steering Committee.
6. Advisors and/or Chaperones may not travel with, or speak to, their respective teams once the station testing has started. Provisions will be made

for advisors to visit the test sites and view tests.

16

7. The five station testing, preliminary orals problem and the final orals problem, will be conducted and judged by resource professionals and educator's from the private sector, government or natural resources agencies when possible. No person involved with a team may be a judge or serve on any part of the Steering Committee. All judges decisions are final.

8. Study materials, suggested resources, and reading lists available at the California Envirothon website (<http://www.caenvirothon.com/>). Resource Conservation Districts are encouraged to provide each team with additional resource and training materials. Team Advisors should contact the Steering Committee directly in the event they are unable to access the Envirothon website.

9. All resource materials must be checked in upon arrival at the host site. Use of these materials or any other material other than what is provided at each test site is strictly prohibited, with the exception that each team may use a calculator. All materials that are checked in upon arrival will be returned at the end of competition.

10. The five station tests will be comprehensive in nature. Each station will be 30-45 minutes in length, including a brief orientation at each station. Teams will be given at least ONE hour to prepare the final problem solving oral presentation. The oral presentation will be a maximum of 15 minutes in length, followed by 5 minutes of questions by the judges. All five members of the team must participate orally in the presentation. Materials for visual aids will be provided to the teams. No other materials or props may be used. Judges will be instructed to reduce the points awarded for teams violating this rule.

11. During the competition, all team members and advisors must wear the California Envirothon T-shirt provided to them upon arrival. No school or team identification, either written or stated is permitted. The final three teams will receive new shirts for their final orals presentation.

a. Team shirts are not mandatory during entertainment events such as ice cream social, dance, volleyball games, etc., HOWEVER, no clothing or identification reflecting team or student name may be worn during these events.

b. Under California Envirothon rules, competition is defined from the time the team checks in upon arrival, until such time the winning team is identified.

c. NAME TAGS MAY NOT BE WORN AT ANY TIME BY COMPETING TEAMS.

d. CELL PHONES ARE PROHIBITED DURING TESTING. Advisors

may hold students' phones during station and orals testing, and during oral presentations.

e. The final three winning teams will receive new shirts for their final orals presentation.

12. All judges will be approved by the California Envirothon Steering Committee by the meeting one month prior to the event. A brief biography on each judge will be available in the program.

17

13. Each of the five test stations will be equally scored 1/7 each and the final problem will be scored 2/7. (see [Judges' Scoring Sheet](#) for Team Presentations) Scoring for the California Envirothon will be as follows:

- a. Each of the five test stations will be worth 1/7 of the score.
- b. Preliminary oral presentations will be 2/7 of the score.
- c. The results of 13A and 13B will be totaled together to determine the top three teams to advance to the final round.
- d. In case of a tie, the tie breaker shall be based on station scores in the following order: Current Issue score, Aquatics score, Forestry score, Soils score or the Wildlife score until the tie is broken.
- e. Preliminary oral presentation scores will only be used to determine team placement for the final round.
- f. Final team placement will be accumulative totals for five station test scores plus final oral presentation scoring only.
- g. The high and low score will be thrown out for the oral presentations.

14. Any grievance may be submitted in writing by an advisor to the California Envirothon Steering Committee's "Grievance Committee" up until one hour after the close of the first day of competition. On the last day of competition the Committee will accept written or oral grievances up to 15 minutes after the 1st place team is announced. After that time all decisions are final.

15. Awards for the California Envirothon will be at the discretion of the California Envirothon Steering Committee.

- a. Each team member of the top three teams will receive an individual award.
- b. The first place team and their Advisor will both receive the California Envirothon perpetual trophy for display (which will be returned each year for passing on to the succeeding first place team.).
- c. All team members and advisors will receive certificates of participation.
- d. The team that places first at each station will receive an award.

16. All team members and advisors will be required to complete an

evaluation form of the Event. Resource professionals, volunteers and guests will be requested to complete an evaluation form of the Event.

17. Tobacco, drugs and alcohol are strictly prohibited during the event. Rules applicable to the host site will be strictly observed.

18. Fees for housing, meals and transportation will be the responsibility of each team. Every effort will be made to keep these fees to a minimum. The sponsoring Resource Conservation District is encouraged to help their teams with fund-raising efforts.

19. All participants of the California Envirothon are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical manner appropriate to this youth education environment. The Steering Committee reserves the right to exclude participation from future events. Refer to Rule 5.

20. Any infraction of the California Envirothon rules could result in disqualification and dismissal from the event and the host site. All rules are weighted the same. All decisions of the Envirothon Steering committee are final.

18

Rules and Regulations of the California Envirothon are subject to change by the California Envirothon Steering Committee. Any and all changes will be explained in advance to all registered teams and advisors. Canon Envirothon Rules and Regulations will govern any questions which are not covered by the California Rules. However the Canon Envirothon Rules do not supersede any California Rules.

## CHECKLIST

- Choose team members and advisors. Make sure each COED team has a male and female advisor.
- Locate your local Resource Conservation District (you may check the phone list contained in this booklet). Request any information needed to compete in the California Envirothon.
- Fill out and submit pre-registration form before appropriate deadline.
- Campaign for support from your school, local businesses or Resource Conservation District.
- Research study concepts found on the California Envirothon website ([www.caenvirothon.com](http://www.caenvirothon.com)).
- Contact resource professionals in your area who are willing to conduct workshops related to topics covered in the study concepts.
- Submit final registration forms before the appropriate deadline.
- Work hard and enjoy the event!







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