

## Get Involved With Arizona Envirothon!

**NRCD Representatives** – Would you like an opportunity to see first-hand how the financial support of NRCD's throughout Arizona benefits the students and teachers served by the Arizona Envirothon program? What better way than to volunteer as a judge during the 2016 competition.

Arizona Envirothon is seeking volunteers for Saturday, April 9 to be judges at its 2016 competition in Peoria, AZ (Lake Pleasant Desert Outdoor Center) and we would like to offer you the opportunity to be a part of this unique and valuable program.

First Round Judges are needed from 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Lunch, refreshments and an Envirothon t-shirt will be provided.

As you are aware, Envirothon is a natural resource education program for high school students. Students from high schools throughout Arizona form 5 member teams to compete in this hands-on outdoor competition. They must demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and problem solving skills in resource areas including agriculture, aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife and a current issue topic. **The 2016 current issue topic will focus on "Invasive Species: A Challenge to the Environment, Economy and Society"**

To insure a worthwhile competition, judges with diverse backgrounds are needed for the oral presentation portion of the competition. Teams will be presented with a scenario related to the current issue topic for which they must develop a viable management solution. Teams then present their management solutions to a panel of judges who will rate them based on Envirothon's scoring criteria.

Significant awards are provided to top winning teams as well as an expense paid trip for the first place team to compete at the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon (formally known as North American Envirothon).

**Please contact Rodney Held, AZ Envirothon Chair at [480-250-8786](tel:480-250-8786), or via e-mail: [azenvirothon@gmail.com](mailto:azenvirothon@gmail.com) for more information.**

**Background** - Since 1997, the Envirothon program has reached thousands of high students across Arizona and has challenged them to explore basic science concepts, increase their awareness of natural systems and explore natural resource career options with professionals employed in the field. In addition, the Envirothon program develops important critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork and communications skills in participants.

Teachers see the Envirothon program as a way to celebrate and encourage students' interest in the environment and as an opportunity to build fundamental skills. Envirothon alumni have identified the program as a formative experience which resulted in their decision to pursue schooling and careers in the natural resources sector. The program provides a unique opportunity for students to be a part of a larger network that celebrates youth interest in the environment and to experience new ideas, perspectives, and cultures throughout North America.

Perhaps most importantly, the Envirothon is a unique and valuable program because it puts sustainability in the minds of today's youth. Participating in the program enables youth to be more confident, knowledgeable, articulate, and collaborative – skills that are vital in making a sustainable future a reality. The Envirothon program is playing a major role in building tomorrow's green leaders.