Accept the Natural Challenge of the SC Envirothon

Are you a high school teacher? Do you want to meet some science, language arts or social studies standards? Do you try to incorporate any outdoor studies into your curriculum? Do you take your students into nature to learn about plants, water quality or wildlife? Do you think that maybe a little bit more could be done in educating your students about the environment? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you, and a team of your students may be perfect candidates for the SC Envirothon!

The Envirothon is a hands-on environmental competition open to all students in grades 9-12 in the state. Teachers train their team members in the areas of forestry, wildlife, soils, aquatics, and a current environmental issue. For 2009, the current topic is "Biodiversity in a Changing World". Students will also develop an oral presentation which will be performed in front of a panel of judges the day of the competition.

You don't have to be an expert in any of these areas to compete. There are individuals out there who would be willing to meet with you to assist. You also don't need to commit and pay the registration fee of $100 until after attending a coaches' training day. On February 7th the station managers for each area of the Envirothon will be available to provide you with all you need to know for the competition in May. The training is free, just submit a training registration form to Joy Sullivan, Envirothon Coordinator by the January 23rd deadline.

Many of the state's Soil and Water Conservation Districts sponsor local Envirothon teams, and are a great source of information when looking for resource materials. [Add your own district information about how many teams you will sponsor or what resources you may have available and a contact #] So what do you have to lose? Accept the Natural Challenge of the Envirothon, you and your team may be the lucky ones to win first place scholarships and attend the Canon Envirothon hosted by the University of North Carolina, Asheville in August of 2009…you never know!

Visit www.dnr.sc.gov/education/Envirothon for more information about all of the scholarships and opportunities available.