



OREGON ENVIROTHON

Promoting Conservation of our Natural Resources

September 15, 2008

Dear Educator;

I am pleased to announce that the 2008 Oregon Envirothon environmental education competition was the largest in state history with 31 teams and 155 students competing. Above and beyond that, the champion team from Newberg High School went on to win 13th place out of 54 teams at the Canon North American competition in Arizona and also brought home first place in the Soil Ecology and Land Use division. Congratulations Newberg!

With nearly 60% growth in team participation this year, Oregon Envirothon is planning on expanding its services to provide for this larger state-wide venue. Administrators and teachers, please take a moment to study the enclosed handout explaining what Oregon Envirothon is and its benefits to students and society. Throughout North America, over 500,000 high school-aged students participate in regional, state and provincial competitions. They have the opportunity to study natural resources in-depth and gain crucial experience to prepare them for careers in environmental sciences.

With the increase in interest, we are inviting any and all teachers and potential advisors to contact us. A state advisory committee has been established with members representing federal and state agencies and Soil and Water Conservation Districts across Oregon to serve as points of contact for you and your students. To those of you interested, whether new to Envirothon or long time participants, we are seeking your input regarding the offering of teacher in-service orientation and training again this year at the Oregon Garden near Silverton. We are also considering expanding to regional locations in Southwest and Eastern Oregon. Please let me know if that appeals to you. Feel free to suggest potential dates and locations for this fall and early winter that would serve your needs. We also hope to continue offering student trainings at your school or facility in early Spring.

We understand that many schools and youth groups face the dilemma of travel costs and teacher substitute expenses for in-service and the competition. The Oregon Forest Resources Institute and Oregon Association of Conservation Districts have traditionally offered reimbursements and Oregon Envirothon is actively seeking foundation, corporate and agency sponsorship to make this valuable program sustainable.

I urge you all to consider the values of participation in Oregon Envirothon for you and your students. Please respond back to me if you are interested in attending an in-service session or plan on participating in the 2009 competition. **This information is critical to our search for funding.** Feel free to contact me if I may be of service.

Yours in Education,

Ron Crouse
Canon Envirothon/Oregon State Representative

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