

Florida Envirothon

Proposed Program Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: To promote a desire to learn more about the natural environment and skills to apply the basic principles and practices of resource management and ecology.

- A. *Basic knowledge and awareness:* Students should be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of concepts in resource management and ecology, especially in the areas of soil, water, forestry, wildlife and current environmental issues.
- B. *Analysis skills and resource management practices:* Students should be able to apply methods of analyzing soil, water, wildlife, forestry and current environmental issues to hands-on analysis or problem solving activities involving resource issues.

Goal 2: To promote stewardship of natural resources and develop critical thinking, cooperative problem solving skills, and decision making skills of students to balance the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

- A. *Identification of environmental problems:* Students should be able to identify environmental issues in a given situation and the various interests involved in the issues, taking into consideration ecological, social and economic factors.
- B. *Issue investigation:* Students should be able to investigate issues using both primary and secondary sources of information and synthesize the data gathered and demonstrate the following skills: listening with comprehension, collecting, organizing and analyzing information, framing appropriate questions to guide their investigation, use a range of resources and technologies in addressing questions, and critically examine information from a variety of sources.
- C. *Comprehension of different points of view:* Students should be able to assess the nature of information and materials from a variety of different viewpoints and evaluate their implications.
- D. *Ability to generate alternative solutions:* Students should be able to identify alternative solutions for various issues and value perspectives associated with these solutions. They should be able to evaluate alternative solutions with respect to their ecological and cultural implications. Alternatives generated should attempt to take into consideration the variety of interests involved while maintaining a healthy environment.
- E. *Evaluation of personal positions:* Students should be able to identify and evaluate their own position on environmental issues and associated solutions. These positions should be based on balanced information, critical analysis, careful synthesis, and test their position against new information and personal experiences and beliefs.
- F. *Ability to think ahead:* Students should be able to evaluate the interaction of proposed solution with other ecological and social factors and to plan ahead when evaluating the long and short-term implications of possible solutions to environmental problems.
- G. *Ability to communicate:* Students should be able to communicate information and view points regarding environmental issues effectively based on balanced information, critical analysis and sound resource management principles and practices.

Goal 3: To provide students with experience in environmentally-oriented activities to enable them to become environmentally aware, action oriented citizens

- A. *Knowledge of strategies:* Students should have a knowledge of a wide range of action strategies involved in seeking solutions to environmental problems.
- B. *Working with resource management agencies and organizations:* Students should have a knowledge of agencies and organizations that can be used as resources to seek solutions to environmental problems.
- C. *Evaluating the effect of personal actions:* Students should be able to evaluate the impact of their own actions affecting a particular environmental problem and devise alternative actions to work towards improving environmental conditions.
- D. *Ability to work alone and with others:* Students should be able to work individually and cooperatively with others to develop action plans for solving environmental problems.