

## Oral Presentations

Being able to orally



communicate natural resource material is crucial in addressing environmental problems/issues, particularly in situations where collaborative efforts are required to develop practical solutions and effect change. Canon Envirothon strives to challenge and promote the development of oral communication skills in each student participant, which is why the oral presentation is emphasized as a major component of the total competition score.

On the day prior to the oral presentations, resource professionals present students with information relevant to the topic/problem on which they will be required to present. After receiving the presentation problem, each team has approximately ten hours to prepare an effective presentation, using only the resources provided by the Canon Envirothon Committee (e.g., poster board, flip charts, transparencies, markers, crayons, etc.). Teams may use their field notebooks as a resource, but no other materials are permitted (e.g., text books, field guides, etc.). An adult, other than the team's volunteer advisor, is assigned to each team to answer questions, run errands, and occasionally order/deliver food. At the end of the allotted preparation period, all materials are collected and secured until thirty minutes prior to each team's presentation.

Oral presentations are conducted in two parts. During the preliminary round, each team gives a 20 minute presentation to a panel of judges followed by a ten-minute question and answer period. Each team receives a group score based on the overall quality of their presentation, their preparation and presentation of a plan, and their application of relevant data to the resource issue/problem (see **Judges' Criteria and Scoring**). All five team members must participate orally in the presentation.

In the preliminary round, the high and low scores awarded by the judging panel are discarded and the remaining scores are averaged to produce a final score. Only the top five scoring teams, with combined scores from the five testing stations and the oral presentation, advance to the final round of the competition.

During the final round, the top five teams present to another panel of judges for final ranking. Scores are calculated in the same manner as in the preliminary round. However, the score for the final round replaces the preliminary presentation score for final determination of team rank. The team with the highest combined score in the final round of the oral competition wins the Canon Envirothon.

See **Canon Envirothon Rules and Regulations** for more details about oral presentations.