

Mount Academy Represents Ulster County at 2026 International Envirothon

After earning first place at the New York State Envirothon in May, the Mount Academy Envirothon team had the honor of representing both Ulster County and New York State at the 37th international Envirothon competition. Sponsored by the National Conservation Foundation, this year's



Team New York arrives in Starkville, MS for the NCF Envirothon

event was held in Starkville, Mississippi and included more than forty championship teams from across the United States, Canada, and China.



Nicole holds crab during team training day

Team New York traveled to Mississippi State University on July 19, 2026 for an intensive week filled with natural resource training, competition, and opportunities to collaborate with students from other regions.



Team New York prepares for competition at Mississippi State University



Biene determines Munsell soil color at the soil pit

On the opening day of the competition, natural resource professionals introduced participants to Mississippi's unique ecology and provided hands-on instruction in the use of environmental measuring tools and data-collection equipment.

The following day was devoted to field testing. Despite extreme heat and humidity and "real-feel" temperatures climbing well above 100°F, teams worked outdoors to complete five comprehensive station tests.

These tests required in-depth knowledge of

Envirothon's core areas of study, including forest management and stewardship, aquatic ecology, soil and land use, and wildlife management. Although the Ulster County team



Evelyn and Declan hard at work on field testing day



Ruby and the team discuss low impact development strategies during their oral presentation

found the intense weather conditions difficult, they demonstrated outstanding teamwork and perseverance as they successfully completed each test.

During the final two days of the competition, Envirothon teams were once again challenged to demonstrate their endurance, teamwork, problem-solving abilities, and oral presentation skills. Teams were presented with a real-world scenario requiring them to design a residential community while minimizing pollution impacts on the surrounding watershed. They were then given six hours to prepare a twenty-minute oral presentation and slide show outlining sustainable environmental, economic, and sociocultural solutions to the challenge.



Team New York wins awards for highest scores in both the oral presentation and the forestry testing station!

Each team presented its proposal before a panel of local natural resource professionals, who evaluated the presentations based on their quality, completeness, and effectiveness. The oral presentation score was then combined with the results of the field station tests to determine each team's final placement in the competition.

At the culminating awards ceremony, Team New York from Ulster County won **FIRST PLACE OVERALL** and received awards for earning the highest scores in both the oral presentation and forestry testing stations! The students and coaches are tremendously proud of the team's achievements, and we are deeply grateful for the generous support of the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District. We could not have accomplished this without all of you!



Team New York comes in 1st overall! Thank you to Ulster County SWCD for your support!