



ENVIROTHON

ENVIROTHON 11: Personal Development Credit

Nova Scotia Envirothon

Last Revised February 2016

ENVIROTHON 11: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT

Since September 2012, all high school students in Nova Scotia have been able to earn Personal Development Credits and have these count as one of the five elective credits they need to graduate.

What are Personal Development Credits?

A credit is awarded when a person achieves all of the requirements in an area of training or learning. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's Personal Development Credit (PDC) was designed to recognize the achievements of students who successfully complete courses or meet all of the assessment standards of organizations that are external to the high school system.

In recognizing an organization, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development ensures that the courses or programs offered are high quality, support provincial Principles of Learning, do not duplicate courses that are part of the public school program for Nova Scotia high schools, and allow students to work toward achieving Nova Scotia's Essential Graduation Learnings (EGLs).

Students in grade 10, 11, or 12 may have a PDC recognized on their high school transcript when they are able to provide evidence of successfully completing a recognized course or program to a guidance counsellor or administrator at their school. The policy also allows students who have earned the credential required for a PDC while attending junior high school to apply to have the credit recognized as a grade 10, 11, or 12 elective credit once they enter high school. Therefore, students can start earning the credit in grade 9.

For more information on personal development credits, students and parents are encouraged to visit the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's website: <https://pdc.ednet.ns.ca/>.

ENVIROTHON 11 REQUIREMENTS:

In order to receive a grade 11 half credit, students must achieve a combined score of 80%, or greater after:

Please Note: Students must participate in the NS Envirothon program for two years in order to be eligible.

40% successfully competing in two NS Envirothon Competitions:

Each year the student must:

- Complete four written tests (20% each, total of 80%)
- Participate in the team oral presentation (20%)

60% 2. 55 hours of Envirothon-related work

Each annual Envirothon competition accounts for 16 hours (32 hours total)

Additional Envirothon-Related Work Criteria:

**A minimum of 2 hours of work must be done in at least 4 out of 5 following categories:*

1. Promote Citizenship & Stewardship

Examples include:

- Visiting a younger grade level to talk about stewardship / natural resources / environment
- Participating in a stewardship / environmental club (school or community based)
- Volunteering in the natural resources field (government or non-government organization)
- Planting trees

2. Personal Career Development

Examples include:

- Job shadowing
- Attending a post-secondary education open house / tour
- Attending a career fair / information session

3. Structured Learning

Examples include:

- Attending at least two NS Envirothon workshops
- Participating in field trips
- Attending information sessions

4. Personal Skill Development (public speaking and leadership)

Examples include:

- Participating in a public speaking event
- Volunteering on a committee (school or community based)
- Helping to organize an event (school or community based)

5. Action Items:

Examples include:

- Starting a stewardship / environmental campaign (school or community based)
- Advocating for a stewardship / environmental movement (school or community based)
- Engaging in local politics

Personal Portfolio:

Students will be required to keep a personal portfolio to track Envirothon-related work.

Students must complete a portfolio in order to be eligible for the credit. Clear and concise forms are available for students to use for tracking Envirothon-related work. Forms require that students briefly explain what they did, hours contributed, and a contact person will be required to provide their information and signature for verification. Students will be required to submit their portfolio prior to the first Envirothon competition and again prior to the second. Upon submission, the NS Envirothon Program Coordinator will evaluate the portfolio. After each evaluation, portfolios will be returned to students, along with an up-to-date mark on their Envirothon-related work. This will be helpful for student’s entering the second and final year of the credit process by enabling them to know the additional work necessary to meet the criteria requirements.

Get Started Today!

For additional information or to start working toward your PDC, please contact NS Envirothon Program Coordinator, Kari Brown at kari@nsfa.ca

ENVIROTHON 11

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT APPLICATION

Name: _____

School: _____

Student's Contact Information:

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Contributing Years:

First Year: _____ Grade: _____ Second Year: _____ Grade: _____

Please submit this application to:
Kari Brown, Envirothon Program Coordinator
PO Box 696, Truro, Nova Scotia, B2N 5E5

kari@nsfa.ca

