

August 17th, 2017

Dear ECO-Meet Coach:

It's time to gear up for the 2017 Southeast Kansas ECO-Meet at Greenbush, scheduled for Wednesday, October 18th. Please review the enclosed **Schedule of Events** for the agenda of the day. Scholarships and medals will again be awarded to the top placing team overall, and to the other placing teams and top two placing individuals in the Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem and Herpetology portions of the event if funding is available. The complete ECO-Meet packet is enclosed in this initial mailing.

Highlights for 2017:

1. Ten Regional ECO-Meets are scheduled for this year. The top three teams and top two individual winners in the Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem and Herpetology events from all ten regional ECO-Meets will qualify for the state meet, to be held at a site to be determined later on Thursday, November 2nd. Scholarships in the amount of \$300/student will again be the top team prize, as well as a traveling trophy and medals. Scholarships and medals will be awarded to second and third place teams and the top two individual winners of the Tallgrass Prairie and Herpetology test events. More information on the state meet is posted on the Kansas ECO-Meet website in August.
2. For the Southeast Kansas ECO-Meet, each school is allowed to bring a maximum of four teams. Students eligible for participation in the competition can be in grades **8-12**. **The first 28 teams to register and pay their registration fees will be assured of a space.** Spaces are available only on a first come/first served basis. We will acknowledge receipt of your registration forms and fees by telephone or e-mail. After 28 teams have paid, registration will be closed. (Coaches, the sooner you send us the completed registration forms along with the registration fees, the better chance you have of being among the first 28 teams. Team roster changes can be made up to the morning of the ECO-Meet.) The registration form is included in this packet. Please mail it back to Mike Rader at the address provided before October 9th.
3. **The registration fee is \$6.00 per student and non-refundable.** All registration fees are deposited directly into the Kansas ECO-Meet account. We currently have some scholarship funding, so at least the first-place team will have a scholarship award. We will offer more scholarships as funding allows.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism Office in Pratt or Jenn Rader at the Southeast Kansas Nature Center in Galena.

Sincerely,

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