

Dear ECO-Meet Coach or New Contact:

The 2024 Topeka Area ECO-Meet is scheduled for Thursday, October 24th at the Kansas History Museum Center, 6423 SW Sixth Ave, Topeka, KS (See Schedule of Events). This is an exciting competition for grades 7-12 that focuses on being outside and learning about Kansas plants and animals. This regional meet moves from the Lawrence area to Topeka to allow for more access for teams to the west.

If you're a new teacher to the area or to the ECO-Meet event, we invite you to check out the ECO-Meet website at www.kansasecomeet.org for a detailed explanation of how an ECO-Meet works. This site is also home to the various reference lists that we use to create the test questions and the Scavenger Hunt so these lists are a great place to start when studying for an ECO-Meet.

The 2024 Kansas State ECO-Meet will be held November 7rd at Webster Conference Center Kansas. Detailed information about the State meet will be posted on the aforementioned website. The top three teams from the Topeka ECO-Meet along with the first and second place finishers from the Ecosystem and Focus tests will advance to state. Winners will compete for scholarships at the State level (\$100-\$300)

The 2024 schedule for the Ecosystem and Focus tests are as follows:

Wetlands (Habitat Test)

Mammalogy (Focus Test)

Each of the four ECO-Meet activities makes up $\frac{1}{4}$ of the team's total points; every activity carries the "same weight" in final scoring. All ECO-Meet rules and regulations are available on the web site.

The Topeka ECO-Meet has space for up to 10 teams. Spaces are available on a "first come/first served" basis and coaches are initially allowed to bring up to 4 teams per school. If all 10 team positions do not fill, then schools may be allowed to bring more than 4 teams. We will acknowledge receipt of your registration forms/fees by e-mail. After 10 teams have paid, registration will be closed. You do not need to supply us initially with the final roster of student's names; however, you do need to register and pay for the "number of teams" you are bringing.

Registration fee is \$10.00 per student and \$8.00 for the coach. Final team rosters should be turned in no later than noon on Friday, October 13th and can be e-mailed to marty.woolard@yahoo.com. We will not be able to take late registrations.

Lunch will be provided with the registration fee. We will also have snacks available in the morning before the competition begins.

Any teams wishing to study for the scavenger hunt (and we encourage you to do so) should arrange to visit the Kansas History Museum's prairie area.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me for more information. If you choose not to participate in 2024, we will contact your school again next year for the 2025ECO-Meet. If you are not the correct contact but feel someone else at the school would be a better fit, please pass this information along.

We are looking forward to a great ECO-Meet in 2024. We hope you will join us. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Marty Birrell

Nature Edventures