

Dear ECO-Meet Coach or New Contact:

The 2010 Milford Lake ECO-Meet is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6th at the Milford Nature Center. (See [Schedule of Events](#))

If you're a new teacher to the area or to the ECO-Meet event, please refer to the [Fact Sheet](#) for a quick introduction to our program. You should also check-out the statewide ECO-Meet web site at www.kansasecomeet.org. This site will give you valuable information along with various reference lists that we use to help form the test questions and the Scavenger Hunt lists. The 2010 Kansas State ECO-Meet will be held Thursday, November 4th at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center (Great Bend) and Camp Aldrich (Barton Community College). Detailed information about the State meet will be posted on the aforementioned web site.

The 2010 schedule for the Ecosystem and Focus tests are as follows:

- Woodlands (Ecosystem Test)
- Reptiles/Amphibians (Focus Test)

Each of the four ECO-Meet activities makes up ¼ of the team's total points; every activity carries the "same weight" in final scoring.

The Milford Lake ECO-Meet is open to the **first 32 teams to register and pay their registration fees**. 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 32 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 32 teams have paid, registration will be closed. (Coaches – although you do not need to supply us initially with the final roster of student's names, you do need to register the "number of teams" you are bringing and supply us with t-shirt sizes for your team members. **T-shirts must be ordered in a timely manner.**) Final team rosters should be turned in no later than 4 October and can be e-mailed to cynthia.dierks@att.net. (See [Registration Form](#)) All ECO-Meet rules and regulations are available on the web site.

Due to a restricted access policy for "after hours" adopted at the Milford Fish Hatchery/Nature Center, any team wishing to study for the scavenger hunt after normal hours (9-4:30 M-F year around or 1-5 pm Sat/Sun April thru September) must call to obtain a permit. This permit will be issued at no cost and can be faxed back to you the same day. Please call the Milford Nature Center at 785-238-5323 for more information or to obtain a permit. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

The Milford Lake ECO-Meet invites schools from an eleven county area including Republic, Washington, Marshall, Cloud, Clay, Dickinson, Riley, Pottawatomie, Geary, Wabaunsee, and Morris Counties. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Milford Lake ECO-Meet committee members below. If you choose not to participate in 2010, we will contact your school again next year for the 2011 ECO-Meet.

Sincerely,

Pat Silovsky
KS Dept. of Wildlife & Parks
Museum Education Coordinator
Milford Nature Center
785-238-5323
pats@wp.state.ks.us

Steve Prockish
US Army Corps of Engineers
Park Ranger
Tuttle Creek Lake
785-539-8511 ext. 3167
stephen.e.prockish@usace.army.mil

Cynthia Dierks
Retired USACE Park Ranger
Hutchinson, KS
620-662-6880
cynthia.dierks@att.net

2010 Milford Lake ECO-Meet Registration Form
Registration Fee - \$5.00/Student

Name of School: _____

Name of Coach: _____ Coach's t-shirt size: _____ (S, M, L, XL, etc.)

Coach's e-mail address: _____

<u>Team:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Grade Level:</u>	<u>T-shirt size:</u>
A	1. _____	_____	_____
	2. _____	_____	_____
	3. _____	_____	_____
	4. _____	_____	_____
B	1. _____	_____	_____
	2. _____	_____	_____
	3. _____	_____	_____
	4. _____	_____	_____
C	1. _____	_____	_____
	2. _____	_____	_____
	3. _____	_____	_____
	4. _____	_____	_____
D	1. _____	_____	_____
	2. _____	_____	_____
	3. _____	_____	_____
	4. _____	_____	_____

Note: Please mail completed registration form and fees to:

Cynthia Dierks
907 E 36th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67502-3003

Checks should be made out to Milford Lake ECO-Meet.

Final rosters with names are due 4 October. They may be e-mailed to cynthia.dierks@att.net.

Last minute substitutions are allowed the day of the Milford Lake ECO-Meet; however please note, **no substitutions** are allowed at the State ECO-Meet.

T-shirts: Must be ordered in advance of event (at least two weeks).
 If you don't supply us with sizes - we guess - you may be unhappy.
 If you can't give us student's names initially - "guess-timate" t-shirt size.
 (Thank-you for your cooperation on this matter.)

Fact Sheet – Kansas ECO-Meets

Mission Statement:

To challenge and inspire an interest, appreciation and understanding of the natural sciences and the Kansas environment through interscholastic competition.

Background:

Kansas ECO-Meets are based on a program developed in 1976 by the Pittsburgh, PA District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The original ECO-Meet was developed for students from grades 1 - 12. The program was created to "stimulate a greater awareness of the environment" in students as well as acquaint area schools with the environmental resources available at Corps' lakes. The one-day competition consisted of several individual environmental events.

What is a Kansas ECO-Meet?

A competition among students from grades 8 - 12 on their knowledge of Kansas' plants and animals. Participating students are selected in each school by their ECO-Meet coaches. Teams consist of three or four students. They compete in four events.

Scavenger Hunt - knowledge of Kansas' plants.

Interpretive Event - five-minute team presentation. Each team member portrays a Kansas plant or animal and must impart specific information about that plant/animal as they interact with each other.

Ecosystem Test and Focus Test - based loosely on a college level zoology lab. In each of these events students compete both as team members and as individuals.

<u>Focus Tests</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Ecosystem Tests</u>	<u>Year</u>
Reptile/Amphibians	09/10	Woodlands	10/11
Birds	11/12	Shortgrass Prairie	12/13
Mammals	13/14	Wetlands/Aquatic	14/15
Invertebrates	15/16	Tallgrass Prairie	16/17
Reptile/Amphibians	17/18	Woodlands	18/19

Kansas ECO-Meet Programs:

The first Kansas ECO-Meet was held in 1991 at Milford Lake near Junction City, KS. In 1994 scholarships were added for the top three overall teams as well as the top two individuals in the "table top zoology lab" events. The Scholarship Fund was set up through the non-profit Kansas Wildscape Foundation where the funds are held in trust until the students graduate from high school. The money may be used for education/training beyond the high school level.

In 1999 two additional Kansas ECO-Meets were added, one at Wilson Lake and the other at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, KS. That same year the first statewide playoff was held with the winners from the three regional ECO-Meets. Scholarships are awarded at State.

Does this program have an impact?

Over the years as our graduating base of students complete school and go on to become young career professionals, several have come back to help us with the ongoing ECO-Meet program. It's been gratifying to hear what an impact the ECO-Meet program had and how it influenced their choice of study and career. We don't expect all of our ECO-Meet participants to earn degrees in the natural sciences and go on to careers in forestry, park management, wildlife management, or biology. What we do expect of them is to have a better understanding of and appreciation for our environmental heritage.

Please visit the ECO-Meet web page at: www.kansasecomeet.org.

Milford Lake ECO-Meet Schedule of Events

October 6, 2010 (Wednesday)
Milford Nature Center

8:30 AM	Teams check-in Team photos taken Donuts and beverages provided
9:15 to 9:30 AM	Welcome and last minute guidance (Picnic Shelter)
9:30 to 10:30 AM	Event No. 1
10:30 to 11:30 AM	Event No. 2
11:30 to 12:00	Free Lunch for all participants (donations welcomed)
12:00 to 1:00 PM	Event No. 3
1:00 to 2:00 PM	Event No. 4
2:00 PM	Final scores tallied
ASAP	Presentation of Awards (Picnic Shelter) Photographs of winning teams and individuals
2:45 PM	Departure

NOTES:

1. The ECO-Meet competition will start promptly at 9:30 AM. If your school is late, students will have that much less time for their first scheduled event.
2. **Dress** - Clothing should be appropriate for October's weather conditions and outdoor activities.
3. **Awards** - Awards will be issued to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place overall event teams as well as the 1st and 2nd place individual winners of the Ecosystem and Focus tests.
4. **Supplies** - Students should bring any reference books they would like to use in the Scavenger Hunt. Clipboards and pencils will be provided to all students for the Ecosystem & Focus tests.
5. **Judges/Score Keepers** - Professionals from various fields of interest will conduct the competition.
6. **Rain Date** – The ECO-Meet is held rain or shine. The Scavenger Hunt is the only event requiring outdoor usage.
7. **Backpacks, notebooks, cell phones, cameras, etc. will not be allowed in the Ecosystem/Focus tests nor the Scavenger Hunt.**