

# Topic Station Format

## Massachusetts Envirothon

I. The topic-stations generally incorporate questions that are:

- **Written** - multiple choice/true & false/fill in the blank
- **Practical** -This may include species identification (mammals, reptiles, invertebrates, plants, fish, amphibians, insects, shrubs, trees), questions that are site specific relating to the soils or habitat surrounding the station, and hands on.

### ALL QUESTIONS WILL PERTAIN TO MASSACHUSETTS

II. When students arrive at each topic station the examiners will instruct them to get into their distinct teams. They will need to listen to examiners for a brief time to become familiar with that station, its questions and any other special instructions. They will be instructed to leave their personal belongings in a designated area until the session ends. The team name/label must be put on the top right hand corner of every page of the exam. It is then up to the team to determine what strategy they will use in taking the exam. They can break up and utilize individual strengths (example: one or two students focus on species I.D, the other does the written section), or go through the exam as a team one question at a time. Some questions will require detailed examination which will be helpful in answering later questions. If there is a crowd around a particular resource, decide if you could work on another question and then come back when those students move on. If there is a question you get hung up on, skip it, and come back to it later. Always remember to double check all answers before turning in the exam.

III. There will be field guides (Peterson) & other resources available for use by all students. It is imperative that students be very familiar with field guides and how to use them.

#### **allowed during the exam**

- questions directed at the examiners
- writing implements
- team work & positive attitude!

#### **not allowed during the exam**

- team coaches or alternates at or near the topic stations while the exam is underway
- cell phones or other electronic devices
- textbooks or notebooks of any kind
- notes of any kind
- interaction between different teams while taking the exam
- field guides other than those provided at the ecostation