

Trial/Pilot Event

Contact the organizers of your tournament to find out what trial/pilot events will be held.

NATURE QUEST

DESCRIPTION: Nature Quest is a combination of a scavenger hunt, orienteering, and nature study. The event **may** consist of TWO parts: 1: a nature-orienteering part; and in the event of inclement weather, an optional part 2: an indoor nature station part. During the indoor nature station part, participants will rotate through a series of interpretive nature stations. During the nature-orienteering part, participants will complete tasks while traversing a designated route with the aid of a compass and printed directions. During the nature-orienteering part of the event, students will answer questions by observing the environment, collecting samples, making measurements or interpreting data at a number of stations along the way. Stations will be designed where students must use a compass.

THE COMPETITION: A TEAM OF UP TO: 2 APPROXIMATE TIME: 50 Minutes

1. During the nature orienteering part of the competition, students will follow a set of written directions and must use a compass to travel along a route, which may include entering and exiting buildings. Questions must be answered along the way.
2. The indoor nature station part will consist of 5-6 stations of natural specimens, pictures, models, and/or drawings about which multiple choice, matching, and/or short answer questions will be asked. One team at a time will start at the first station. Teams will be given 1 to 2 minutes, as determined by the event supervisor, to analyze and answer the questions about the specimens at each station. Upon a signal, participants will move to the next station. Stations may not be skipped, nor may participants return to a previous station. As each team finishes the last station, they will begin the timed nature-orienteering portion of the event. The total time of the indoor nature station part WILL NOT be added to the orienteering time for an overall time.
3. During both the nature stations and orienteering sections of the event, questions will be answered that will include, but not be limited to: fish and wildlife; plant life; geology and conservation or environmental concepts; principles and issues.
4. Students must bring a compass and a pencil or pen. Reference books, computers, keys, notes, and a clipboard are optional. Dress should be appropriate for existing weather conditions. Distances will be stated in meters wherever possible, but be prepared for both meters and feet.

SAMPLE TASKS

Part I: Nature Stations

Compare the plants at this station. Classify each as a sedge, grass, or rush.

Classify the plants at this station as monocots or dicots. Then explain the characteristics that helped you make your decision.

Look at the camouflage pattern for each of these insects. Match each insect to its probable habitat.

Compare the teeth within the skulls of each of the mammals. Classify each as a carnivore, omnivore, or herbivore. Explain how you can tell.

Match the footprint to the appropriate animal.

Part II: Nature-Orienteering

The event supervisor may ask questions regarding the correction for declination at the event site.

From an established starting point, travel along the southwest pathway until you come to the street. Carefully cross, enter the front entrance of the Museum and enter the Birds of North America Exhibit. Answer the following questions:

Which bird of prey has a great sense of smell?

What physical characteristic easily identifies the Sandhill crane?

NOTE: These answers could be answered by close observation of the exhibits.

Exit the building through the north doorway, turn 90° down the pathway. As you continue on the pathway, collect a leaf with a serrated margin and pinnate venation from the ground.

The sidewalk you are on will take you past a huge rock. Is this a sedimentary, metamorphic, or igneous rock? What characteristics about this rock helped you make this decision? Identify the pink mineral within the rock.

Go 156 meters at 267°, identify the tracks under the large oak tree.

SCORING: 1. There will be a total of approximately 20-30 questions, that may be weighted by the event supervisor, to give a total number of points. 2. The final score will be computed by subtracting the elapsed time (of the orienteering part only) in minutes from the total points.