



Environmental Mind Grind Backgrounder

The Environmental Mind Grind competition began in Kelowna in 2000. Since then, more than 280 teams of elementary, middle and high school students have participated in Mind Grinds across the BC Interior.

1. Background on “Environmental Mind Grind”

- “Environmental Mind Grind” is an academic challenge that tests BC students’ knowledge of local environmental issues. The contest is a celebration of Earth Day.
- Teachers are supplied study packages shortly after they register so students may prepare themselves for the contest. Environmental issues addressed include air quality, watershed health, waste reduction, water conservation, endangered species, forestry, transportation and energy conservation. Schools can request in-class presentations on any of the topics to supplement the study package.



2. Game Format

- A mandatory prep meeting will be held in early April to familiarize everyone with the game format.
- The competition is based on games of seven questions. After a question is asked, the team to first buzz in has an opportunity to answer. If the team answers correctly, they receive a point, if the team answers incorrectly; one person from the opposing team has the opportunity to answer. If they answer correctly, their team receives a point, if they answer incorrectly, no points are given and the game proceeds to the next question. The team with the most points at the end of seven questions advances to the next round.
- Each participating team is guaranteed to play a minimum of 2 games at the event. The games will be played “double knock-out” style.
- First and second place teams are invited to play at the Playoffs against teams from other EMG communities.

3. Eligible Contestants

- Any school (public and private) may enter one team for each school category. A team is comprised of three student contestants, one alternate student (optional), and a support teacher.
- There are three categories: elementary (grades 4 - 6), middle (grades 7 - 9) and high school (grades 10 - 12).
- Students from the North and Central Okanagan, the South Okanagan-Similkameen, Kootenay Boundary, and Kamloops will also compete in the Environmental Mind Grind.



Event Date

- The contest will be held on Saturday, April 22 in honor of Earth Day. The BC Interior play-offs will be hosted in Kelowna, BC on May 6.

Event Prizing

- Each participating student and teacher receives a t-shirt and a goodie-bag filled
- The **first place** winning team receives fleece vests, a pizza party for their school and an invitation to participate in the BC Interior play-offs.
- The **second place** prizes are trendy hats/caps, a pizza party for the class and an invitation to participate in the Play-offs.
- The most enthusiastic and supportive school receives ice cream cones for the entire school.
- The Play-off winners receive \$1000 cash for each of their schools.

