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Amy Coan, Teacher
East Catholic High School

"Incoming students that have participated in the CT Envirothon are enthusiastic and are familiar with many of the environmental science concepts."
Professor Jack Clausen
UCONN

The Steering Committee Members Represent:
Connecticut Council on Soil and Water
CT Conservation Districts
USDA NRCS
University of Connecticut &
UConn Coop-Extension
GEI Consultants, Inc.
Manchester Community College
United Technologies (UTC)
CT Water Company
CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)
Yale Peabody Museum

This brochure was originally designed by:

www.ctenvirothon.org

The Natural Challenge for High School Students
• Outdoor Learning
• Hands On
• Problem Solving
• Leadership
• Team Work
• Scholarships
• Future Careers

MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE
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"The Envirothon has been awesome, it gives me a chance to learn about the environment in a fun and interactive way."
Student from Nonnewaug High School

"It's great being around a group of people who truly care about the environment."
Sabrina Camboulives
Bacon Academy class of '09

www.ctenvirothon.org
Soils
More Than Just a Competition
CT Envirothon goals promote the CT Science and Engineering Framework by having students:
- Ask questions and define problems
- Develop and use models
- Plan and carry out investigations
- Analyze and interpret data
- Use mathematics and computational thinking
- Construct explanations and design solutions
- Engage in argument from evidence
- Obtain, evaluate and communicate information

Have Fun!

www.ctenvirothon.org

Envirothon Advisors:
Use professionally-developed materials in all their environmental classes
Collaborate with other teachers
Develop unique opportunities to meet CT State Science Standards
Learn alongside their students

Aquatics
Forestry
Wildlife

Current Issue
Take the Natural Challenge!
Envirothon students will learn about the importance of soil in natural resource management and the inter-relationships between soil, water, and other resources. Soil provides a growth medium for all plant life, including food and energy resources. Soil also provides habitat, filters and retains water.

Diverse wildlife populations are valuable from many standpoints, as indicators of a healthy ecosystem, as recreation, and aesthetics. Understanding a species’ habits and needs is the first step in ensuring its survival.

Proper protection and management of an animal’s habitat will encourage optimum populations.

Envirothon students learn through hands-on training with experts how to identify organisms from Long Island Sound, fresh water streams and ponds, and vernal pools. Workshops cover skills and information necessary to protect our most vital natural resource from stormwater runoff, aquifer over-drawdown, invasive species and other negative impacts.

Forests are a renewable resource. Envirothon students will explore the dynamics, management and value of forest ecosystems with the help of professional foresters. Using the same tools that foresters use, they learn the basics of tree identification, tree and forest measurements and forest management strategies.

The current issue changes annually and reflects real issues facing environmental professionals. Envirothon students receive relevant topic information at a specially designed workshop. For the Envirothon event, students prepare and present their solutions to the current issue challenge to a panel of judges.

History:
Envirothon is a natural resource based education program that was started in 1992 by the state's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Since 1995, CT has placed first three times in the North American Competition.

Connecticut Competition:
The Connecticut Envirothon competition is held at a park, wildlife preserve, camp or other outdoor facility usually the third week in May. NCF-Envirothon Competition:
Certified winners of the Connecticut Envirothon compete in a week-long international competition in the summer following the state competition. For more information about this event visit the website at www.envirothon.org

More Information:
For more information about the Connecticut Envirothon, event dates, workshops, and resource materials, visit the website at www.ctenvirothon.org

What:
The Connecticut Envirothon is a natural resource based environmental education program which culminates in an exciting and fun field day competition. Winners are eligible to compete in The NCF-Envirothon Competition.

Who:
Any eligible high school team with an advisor may participate in the training workshops and annual Envirothon competitions. Envirothon team members come from science classes, vocational agriculture programs and ecology clubs.

When:
Four to five training workshops by soil scientists, foresters, wildlife and aquatic biologists, natural resource managers and other working environmental professionals are conducted throughout the school year. The state competition takes place in May each year followed by the North American Envirothon competition in the summer.

Why:
Participating in the Connecticut Envirothon provides unique opportunities for high school students and their advisors to interact with working environmental professionals in the increasingly diverse field of environmental studies. Beyond simple species identification, the competition challenges students to problem solve and address real-world issues, as well as enrich their high school experience and improve college applications.

More Than Just a Competition