

# **Connecticut Envirothon 2026 Advisor's Guide**



**Current Issue Theme:  
Non-Point Source Pollution:  
It Begins at Home!**

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# Introduction and Goals

Welcome to Connecticut Envirothon 2026! By participating in the Connecticut Envirothon Program, you have become part of our state's environmental education history. This advisor's guide contains information necessary for successful participation in this program.

The Envirothon is the ultimate natural resource education experience. After several months of previous classroom study, participants prepare themselves for competition in Soil, Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife, and this year's current issue theme: **Non-Point Source Pollution: It Begins at Home!**

Designed to foster cooperation and teamwork, five-member teams are tested on their basic knowledge in these topic areas and their ability to apply that knowledge to solve real-life problems. Problem-solving and teamwork will enhance the participant's ability to take leadership roles after high school or college, no matter their chosen field or career.

The Envirothon concept began in Pennsylvania in 1979 as an outgrowth of a vocational agricultural land judging contest. Conservation Districts felt a need for a statewide environmental program highlighting different disciplines within the natural resource field. By the mid-eighties, New York, Ohio, Massachusetts, and Maine had their own state Envirothon programs, and interest was spreading to other states. In 1988, the first National Envirothon was held in Pennsylvania, with five states participating. By 2000, over 40 states and several Canadian provinces participated in the National Envirothon.

In 1991, Connecticut sent a team by special invitation to the national competition in Maine. The next year, Connecticut held its first statewide competition, with 15 schools participating. Forty-six schools from all corners of the state participated in the Connecticut program in 2000, with the number of schools expected to grow each year. Envirothon attracts public and private urban and rural high schools.

The Envirothon aims to promote natural resource education so that succeeding generations will be environmentally literate, with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions regarding the environment.

All questions regarding the Connecticut Envirothon may be directed to the Envirothon Program Coordinator, [ctenvirothon@gmail.com](mailto:ctenvirothon@gmail.com) (860) 875-3881.

More information regarding the NCF Envirothon Program may be found at [www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org).



# How Does the Competition Work?

The competition is based on instructional stations and oral presentations, all addressing a current issue developed by the NCF Envirothon committee.

Students competing as a five-member team rotate through four teaching/testing stations where they receive instruction from natural resource professionals. For example, a forester may conduct the forestry station, and a soil scientist can be expected to coordinate the activities at the soil station. The students receive instruction and may conduct hands-on experiments at each teaching/testing station.

After the teaching portion at each of the five teaching/testing stations, each team will be given a written test. The test is to be taken as a team, with all team members participating in answering the questions. Each team will also complete an oral presentation of their PowerPoint/Google slides based on a hypothetical problem scenario (reflecting the theme) that students must solve as a team.

Scores from the station tests and current issue presentations are combined to determine team placement.

## Scoring Criteria:

4 Teaching/Testing Stations (100 points per station)	400 points
Current Issue Presentation	100 points
Current Issue Test questions	50 points

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<b>Maximum Total Score</b>	<b>550 Points</b>
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The champion team will represent Connecticut in the NCF Envirothon competition ([www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org)).



# 2025-2026 Calendar of Events

## **Advisor Orientation and Educational Hike**

When: Tuesday, September 17th, 2025 from 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Where: The Quinnipiac River Watershed Association Headquarters/Learning Center  
540 Oregon Road, Meriden, CT

## **Forestry/Aquatics Workshop**

When: Saturday, November 8th, 2025, from 9 am-1 pm (teams arrive 9 am-9:15 am)

Where: Chatfield Hollow State Park  
381 Route 80, Killingworth, CT

## **Aquatics/Current Issue Workshop**

When: Saturday, January 17th, 2025, from 8:10 am-1:25 pm (teams arrive 8:10 am-8:40 am)

Where: CT River Academy  
9 Riverside Drive, East Hartford, CT

## **Wildlife Workshop**

When: Saturday, March 21st, 2025, from 8am-12:30pm (Registration begins at 7:30)

Where: Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center  
341 Milford Street, Burlington, CT

## **Soils Workshop**

When: April 2026, Date TBA

Where: TBA

## **Field Day Competition**

When: Thursday, May 21st, 2026

Where: TBA

## **National Envirothon Competition**

When: July 20th-26th, 2025

Where: Mississippi State University  
Starkville, Mississippi



# Current Issue Presentation

Connecticut Envirothon is challenging teams to create a PowerPoint or Google Slide presentation based on the current issue scenario to present in front of a panel of judges. One standard size note card is allowed per team member to use during the presentation and the oral presentation will have a time limit.

This year's international current issue theme is "Non-Point Source Pollution: It Begins at Home!". More information on the presentation scenario relating to the theme will be released in early 2026. Similar to last year, the presentations will be due via email PRIOR to the competition date (exact due date TBD).

One of the most important presentation rules: **Do not include your team/school name on your presentation slides and do not announce what school your team is representing.**

## Rubric For Current Issue Presentation

This will be released in early 2026 when the scenario document is posted.

## Awards and Recognition

In the Connecticut Competition, the first-, second-, and third-place winning teams will be awarded placement plaques and medals. The first-place team will also have its name added to our champion plaque, which is added to each year.

Teams receiving the highest test score at each station will also be recognized with station plaques.

There will also be a press release featuring the schools that participated and scored the highest.

## What is Expected of the Winning Team

The first-place team will be able to represent Connecticut at the 2026 National Conservation Foundation Envirothon competition. This event, featuring teams from throughout the United States, Canada, China, and Singapore, will be held in Starkville, Mississippi, July 19-25, 2026. Connecticut's Champion Team must register **exactly five members** for that event.



# For Advisors

The advisor is the backbone of the Envirothon team. This individual serves to organize the team, motivate the members and provide materials pertinent to the Envirothon program.

Throughout the year, the advisor guides the team's preparation for the competition. The major components of the advisor's job is teaching team skills and providing learning opportunities in each of the Envirothon categories. The advisor has a tremendous responsibility and is to be congratulated for making such an important contribution to the growth of the team members in knowledge and experience.

## Before the Competition (Advisors)

Maintain close contact with our Program Coordinator. Ensure the following checklist is completed. *(Note: All fees must be paid before the competition.):*

1. Ensure team members are trained in the five focus areas—soils, Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife, and the Current Issue—Roots and Resiliency: Fostering forest stewardship in a canopy of change.
2. Locate resource materials and ensure team members have prepared PowerPoint and oral presentations for the current issue scenario.
3. Team members and advisors **must** be familiar with all the rules of the Connecticut Envirothon.

## Policies for CT Envirothon

The mission of the Envirothon is to promote environmental awareness, knowledge, and active personal stewardship among high school students through education and team competition. The CT Envirothon Steering Committee works to improve the program continually and to increase student participation.

To ensure that the program effectively supports that mission and to convey its approach to the program, the Connecticut Envirothon Steering Committee has recorded policies and procedures which will be posted on the Connecticut Envirothon website ([www.ctenvirothon.org](http://www.ctenvirothon.org)) for reference by all teams, advisors, volunteers, sponsors, and committee members. At the field day event, teams found in violation of these policies by the Proctor Committee of the CTESC may be penalized or disqualified.



## **Section One: PARTICIPATION IN THE CONNECTICUT ENVIROTHON PROGRAM**

1. Participation in CT Envirothon is open to Grades 9 through 12 students or the equivalent home-school ranking.
2. Any organization may register one team consisting of at least five students from the same school.
3. A team registration fee determined by the Steering Committee is required.
4. Teams are led by one or more advisors who may be teachers, parents or community members.
5. The CT Envirothon may allow a school or organization to field a second team depending on the year's registration numbers. Each team must register separately and is considered as a separate team.
6. Schools that offer a separate vocational agriculture or vocational technology curriculum may send a team to represent that program.
7. Teams may bring additional students to the Training Workshops held during the school year, depending on the space available, as determined by the station leader.
8. Transportation is the responsibility of each participating team.

## **Section Two: PARTICIPATION IN THE CT ENVIROTHON FIELD DAY EVENT**

### **Teams and Alternates**

1. A team consists of five competing members and up to two alternate members.
2. If a school fields two teams, two members of the second team may be designated as alternates for the first team.
3. Two members of the first team may also be designated alternates for the second team.
4. In the case of a last-minute emergency absence from a registered five-member team with no designated alternates, that team may compete with at least four team members. If less than four team members are available, they will be assigned to a "Wild Card Team."
5. Alternates will be assigned to a Wild Card Team with alternates from other schools. Wild Card Teams may compete but are not eligible to place or win.

### **Competition**

1. At the competition, all students will wear the official CT Envirothon T-shirt.
2. Name tags or other items with their school name will not be permitted during the competition.
3. Teams must be accompanied to the event by an adult team advisor.
4. Advisors may not travel with their teams during the competition. Separate activities, usually workshops, will be provided for the advisors.
5. Team placement will be determined by the highest cumulative total points scored.
6. The decisions of the Judges are FINAL in all events.
7. The Connecticut Envirothon Steering Committee and cooperating agencies will conduct the competition.





### **Code of Conduct**

1. Students may not use notes, study guides, or electronic devices, including cell phones, during the field testing component of the event.
2. Students may not use any electronic devices during the oral presentation component of the event.
3. All tobacco products, drugs, and alcohol are prohibited during the entire competition and all Envirothon program activities, such as workshops.
4. Rules applicable to the local venue will also be followed.
5. Advisors ensure that teams display proper conduct during the competition and at the host facility.

The Connecticut Envirothon policies and Procedures are subject to change, and we expect a revision in the coming years. Please send suggestions to [ctenvirothon@gmail.com](mailto:ctenvirothon@gmail.com) for consideration by the Connecticut Envirothon Steering Committee.

## **CT Envirothon Resources**

Study materials are available by station on our website under the “Station Training” tab (<http://ctenvirothon.org/study-guides/>).

Connecticut Envirothon also has a YouTube channel where all recorded webinar workshops are posted. There are ‘playlists’ created for each station (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiJB5g6YGbmKe7c8WKdqUdg/featured>).

**ADVISORS:** Please take the time to review all resources and study materials located on the Connecticut Envirothon website (<http://ctenvirothon.org/>) and the NCF Envirothon Website ([www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org)). These materials, references, and guidelines may make the difference in placing higher in either Envirothon program.



# CT Envirothon Coordination and Contacts

A complete list of Connecticut Envirothon Steering Committee Members can be found at <http://ctenvirothon.org/steering-committee-2/>

## **Steering Committee Contacts:**

Chair:	Paul Benjuna	paul.benjuna@ct.gov
Co-Vice Chairs:	Chris Sullivan Karen Nelson	csullivan@conservect.org kgnelson@snet.net
National Chair:	Chris Sullivan	csullivan@conservect.org
Program Coordinator:	Ginny Patsun	ctenvirothon@gmail.com
Soils Station:	Amelia Magistrali	amelia.magistrali@uconn.edu
Forestry Station:	Frank Cervo	ctenvirothonforestry@gmail.com
Wildlife Station:	Peter Picone	peter.picone@ct.gov
Aquatics Station:	Kelsey Sudol	kelseys@nwcd.org
Current Issue:	Beth Bernard	bbernard@ctwoodlands.org

