

Connecticut Envirothon



• Outdoor Learning • Hands On • Problem Solving • Leadership • Team Work • Scholarships • Future Careers

The Envirothon Program

Connecticut Envirothon is a natural resource based education program that was started in 1992 by the state's Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Over the past 2 years we have been transitioning our program to virtual platforms to make our training and resources more accessible to students. For this upcoming year we will be combining hands-on activities with interactive scavenger hunts, as well as providing short educational videos on our YouTube channel. We hope that these resources provide students with the knowledge in the five core topic areas to be confident going into the Field Day competition in May (format is still TBD).



Five Core Topics



Soils

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.



Aquatics

Envirothon students learn through hands-on training with experts how to identify organisms from the Sound, fresh water streams/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.



Forestry

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.



Wildlife

Diverse wildlife populations are valuable from many standpoints, as indicators of a healthy ecosystem, as well 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 encourages optimum populations.



Current Issue

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.

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



The Steering Committee Members Represent:

CT Council on Soil and Water
CT Conservation Districts
USDA - NRCS
University of Connecticut &
UConn Coop-Extension
GEI Consultants, Inc.
Manchester Community College
Municipal Land Use Staff
CT Water Company
CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental
Protection (CT DEEP)



Envirothon Advisors:

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



"Take the Natural Challenge"

What: The Connecticut Envirothon is a natural resource based environmental education program which culminates in an exciting and fun field day competition. The CT State Champion Team is eligible to compete in the National Envirothon Competition! The format and location of the competitions are TBD.

Who: Eligible high school students (grades 9-12) can form a team with up to 5 members (plus 2 alternates) with an advisor. Teams participate in training activities and workshops and take part in the annual CT Envirothon competition. Envirothon team members come from science classes, vocational agricultural programs, ecology clubs, etc.!

When: Each of the four core stations will provide kits full of hands-on materials and training activities. Students can follow along, at their own pace, with short informational videos that will be released on our YouTube channel. These training materials are created by soil scientists, foresters, wildlife and aquatic biologists, natural resource managers and other environmental professionals. Two kits will be delivered in the fall and the other two in the spring. There will also be a scavenger hunt in the fall with all of the teams competing for prizes. The goal is to get the students out in nature!

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.



Email our Program Coordinator Mindy at CTEnvirothon@gmail.com or visit CTEnvirothon.org for more information!