



## CT Envirothon Alumni Spotlight: Paul

**1. What inspired you to participate in Envirothon?**

*As a kid, I always enjoyed being outside and quickly developed an appreciation for the wildlife I would often encounter. Throughout most of my public education experience, there were very few opportunities to learn about local wildlife. Once I started high school, I saw a poster for Envirothon and was thrilled to finally have an opportunity to learn all about the critters that were in my own backyard. After our first meeting, I knew this was the “club” I wanted to be a part of.*

**2. What year and what school did you attend when you participated?**

*I participated in Envirothon all four years of high school from 2007-2011 for Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham.*

**3. What were your areas of focus in Envirothon?**

*Wildlife and Aquatics.*

**4. Which workshops did you attend – and can you give any specific feedback on them? For example – did you learn any skills that you currently use?**

*I attended nearly every workshop each year. While some of the workshops made for a long day, I learned something new and exciting every single time. I would say attending the workshops helped me become more of an environmentally-conscious person, and a big part of how I see the natural world around me today was shaped by attending these workshops.*

**5. What college or institution of higher learning did you, or are you attending, and the area(s) of study?**

*I attended Southern Connecticut State University and majored in Biology and Secondary Education.*

**6. What degree(s) do you hold?**

*I hold a B.S. in Biology/Education.*

**7. What is your current career?**

*Currently, I am a Wildlife Biologist that works for the Outreach Program of the Wildlife Division of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.*

**8. How did your CT Envirothon experiences impact your life? (Career wise, Environmental Awareness or some other way?)**

*Envirothon has a tremendous impact on my life, as I now serve as a co-advisor for my former high school. As a participant of Envirothon, I quickly became aware just how exciting the natural world is and of the environmental challenges we face as a society. I think it is absolutely necessary to help inspire the next generation of students or at bare minimum, make them aware of how the choices we make in our everyday lives impact the environment. Envirothon is truly a special program that is now more relevant than ever and will hopefully continue to inspire many students to come.*