



Connecticut Envirothon Soils Station is looking for a new co-lead!

We are looking for a new volunteer to co-lead the soils station with an emphasis on improving diversity in our program and educational resources. Are you enthusiastic about soils, applying new technology to education, and working toward justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion? If so, please read on.

Background:

Envirothon is a natural resource based curriculum for high school students that culminates in a field day competition. The program was started and is carried out by Conservation Districts across the country. The mission of Envirothon is to promote environmental awareness, knowledge, and active personal stewardship among Connecticut high school students through education and team competition.

Diversity:

The Connecticut Envirothon welcomes and encourages the participation of all high school students and advisors in its mission to increase environmental awareness and stewardship. In our educational activities and team competition, we are committed to four principles (the "JEDI" principles):

- (1) **Justice** - Dismantling barriers to resources and opportunities
 - (2) **Equity** - Allocating resources to ensure everyone has access to the same opportunities
 - (3) **Diversity** - Recognizing and valuing differences in human experience, culture, knowledge, interests, and appearance
 - (4) **Inclusion** - Fostering a sense of belonging. We also commit to increasing representational diversity on our Steering Committee, and in our invited speakers, volunteers, and sponsorships.
- Connecticut Envirothon recognizes the challenging work ahead and promises our best effort as we move forward together to provide an equitable and inclusive opportunity for all.

Future of the Soils Station:

One of our most important natural resources is soil. Soil is essential for food and biomass production. Soil also provides habitat, ecosystem services like water filtration, and is used as a platform for engineered structures. Envirothon students learn the importance of soil in natural resource management and the interrelationships between soil, water, forests, and other resources.

During the past two years, soils station volunteers have put a lot of effort into creating new educational resources including instructional videos (both presentations and in-field content), virtual workshops, and take-home kits. *We are looking for a new volunteer to co-lead the soils station with an emphasis on improving diversity in our program and educational resources.* Are you enthusiastic about soils, applying new technology to education, and working toward justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion?

If so, please consider contacting the CT Envirothon coordinator at ctenvirothon@gmail.com to indicate your interest. Include your name, employer, current profession, soils education background, educational experience, and short statement summarizing your interest in becoming co-lead.

Station Co-Lead Duties:

Meetings:

Envirothon station co-leads need to be able to participate in a monthly meeting, on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2pm. This regular meeting typically lasts 2 hours. The meeting is hosted by the CT Envirothon Steering Committee, and station leads typically provide a short update on any of the past month's activities.

**Workshops:**

There has historically been 1 in-person workshop held on a Saturday in the Spring (exact date changes yearly). The workshop is 4-5 hours, and is sometimes held with another station to make a full-day workshop (e.g., forestry station).

There have been additional ad-hoc virtual workshops held during the pandemic, though this has been evolving and may change with schools going in-person during the 2021/2022 school year.

Competition:

The Envirothon competition is held on the 3rd Thursday of May. This event will take up an entire workday.

For general information on our Program, please visit:

<http://ctenvirothon.org/>

For additional information on this volunteer opportunity contact:

Mindy Gosselin, Connecticut Envirothon Program Coordinator

Email: ctenvirothon@gmail.com