

# NCF- ENVIROTHON

*Knowledge & Skills to  
Change the World*



**NCF-Envirothon**

509 Capitol Court NE  
Washington DC 20002

[www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org)



## NATIONAL CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

NCF

509 Capitol Court NE  
Washington DC 20002

[www.nacdnet.org/  
national-conservation-foundation](http://www.nacdnet.org/national-conservation-foundation)

### *Our Mission*

The mission of the NCF is to identify and advance strategic programs and partnerships to **deliver conservation solutions** through locally-led conservation and to **develop the next generation** of conservation leaders.

### *Our Vision*

The vision of the National Conservation Foundation is to support delivery of **locally-led conservation** and to create future conservation leaders.





# Our Leadership

## NCF Executive Committee

**Chair Steve Robinson**..... Ohio  
**Vice Chair Tim Reich**.....South Dakota  
**Treasurer John Redding**..... Georgia  
**Secretary Mike Mosel** .....Nebraska  
**NACD Immediate Past President Brent Van Dyke**.....New Mexico  
**At Large Gene Schmidt** ..... Indiana  
**Executive Director Jeremy Peters** .....Washington, D.C.

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At-Large Representative..... Arkansas

**Patricia Lardie**  
At-Large Representative..... Wisconsin

# Our Team



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Washington, D.C.

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Debbie Waycott

Nova Scotia

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***Volunteers are the backbone of the NCF-Envirothon, providing more than one million hours of service to Envirothon team trainings, competitions and programs each year.***



## How do we balance quality of life and the quality of the environment?

Over 25,000 high school students across the United States, Canada and China embark on a journey each year to offer solutions to this critical question through the NCF-Envirothon.



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@ncfenvironthon



# NCF-Envirothon

## Operating Committee

**Chair**  
**Lorelle Steach**  
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**Vice Chair**  
**Wendee Dodds**  
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**Past Chair**  
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**Sid Lowrance**  
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**Jeanne Dryburgh**  
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**Andrea McKeown**  
Missouri

**Becky Geneau**  
New Brunswick

**West U.S. Representative**  
Vacant

**Canadian Representative**  
Vacant

## Mission Statement

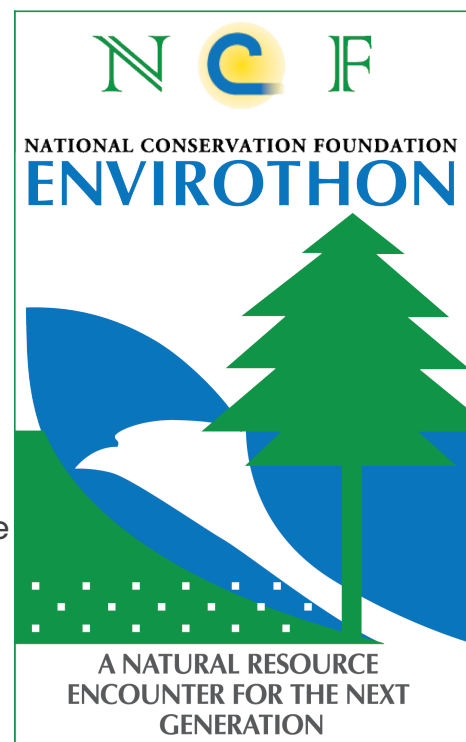
To develop knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated citizens who have an understanding of natural resources and are willing and prepared to work towards achieving and maintaining a balance between the quality of life and the environment, accomplished by developing in young people an understanding of the principles and practices of natural resource management and ecology and through practice dealing with complex resource management decisions.

## Overview

NCF-Envirothon is a program of the National Conservation Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization, and supported by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

As the complex natural resource issues facing our planet evolve, the mission and impact of the Envirothon has never been more important. Created in 1979, the Envirothon is a hands-on environmental and natural resources problem-solving competition that builds leadership skills for high school students in the U.S., Canada and China. The Envirothon is managed and directed by the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) and its NCF-Envirothon Operating Committee. Participating high school teams are trained and tested in five natural resource categories: **Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Wildlife, Forestry** and **Current Environmental Issues**.

The Envirothon works in partnership with conservation agencies and non-profit organizations to organize and conduct competitions across North America and beyond. Winning teams from each state and/or province advance to the international event to compete for recognition, scholarships and prizes.



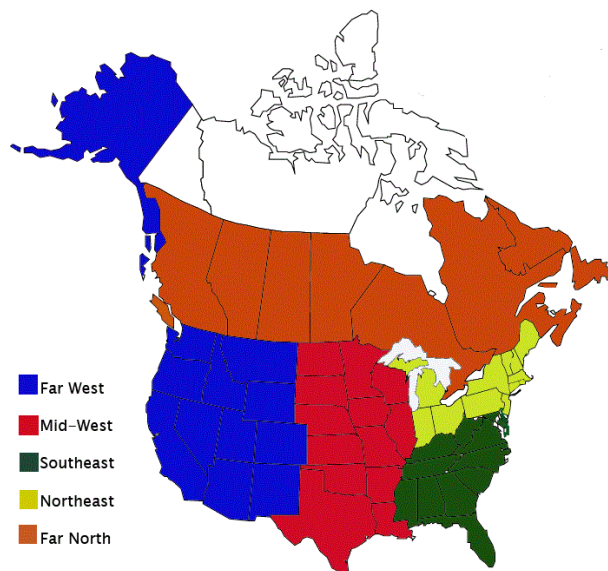




## NCF and the NCF-Envirothon Operating Committee

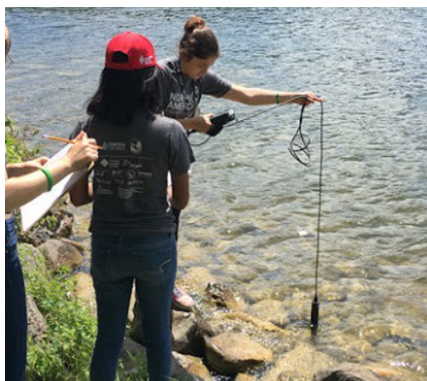
The National Conservation Foundation (NCF) assumed leadership of the Envirothon program in 2014.

The mission of the NCF is to identify and advance strategic programs and partnerships to deliver conservation solutions through locally-led conservation and to develop the next generation of conservation leaders. The Foundation understands the big impact Envirothon makes on so many students' lives that will help meet the goal of developing new leaders in conservation.



The NCF-Envirothon Operating Committee (NCFEOC) is comprised of elected representatives from the five Envirothon regions in North America: Southeast, Northeast, Far West, Mid-West and Far North, as well as one representative from the National Conservation Foundation board. The NCFEOC provides recommendations to the NCF Board regarding the direction of the NCF-Envirothon. They work continually to update educational guidelines and curriculum frameworks to aid the states and provinces in better serving their educators and students.

# NCF-Envirothon Areas of Study



## Aquatic Ecology

Study marine and freshwater ecology to assess the quality of delicate aquatic ecosystems. Students learn how to identify aquatic organisms, manage watersheds, and mitigate the effects of non-point source pollution.



## Forestry

Develop an understanding of forest ecosystems through the help of professional foresters. The basics of species identification, forest structure and dynamics, as well as management techniques are learned by students.



## Soils/Land Use

Learn about the amazing world below our feet from soil scientists and conservationists. Soil characteristics, structure, ecology and conservation that affect urban, rural and agricultural land issues are explored.







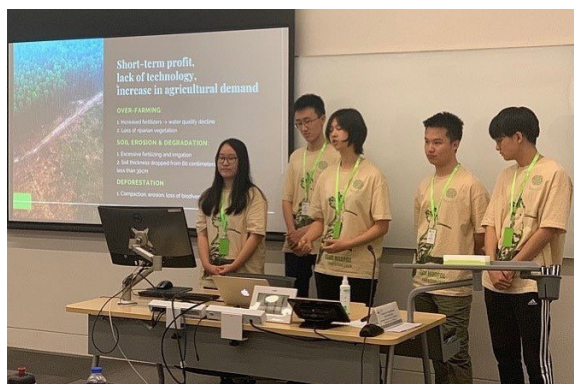
## Wildlife

Learn about wildlife ecology, classification, adaptations, species identification, interactions with and impacts of human society, and the importance of wildlife and habitat conservation.



## Current Environmental Issues

Analyze environmental issues and take an in-depth look at some of the top environmental issues facing our world today. Students work as a team to explore the many facets of current environmental issues and the complexities of real-life decision making.



## Oral Presentations

Using the knowledge learned from the core 5 topics, teams are given the opportunity to address a real-world environmental/natural resource issue and their ideas on addressing it. Working as a unit, the team must analyze a given scenario, develop a plan of action to address it, and then present their plan to a panel of judges for scoring.



# A Global Challenge

Each year, thousands of students spend months studying, researching and learning about conservation, natural resources, environmental issues and more to prepare for a competition like no other.

Participating states and provinces host local Envirothon competitions among high school students, grades 9-12 (ages 14-19), utilizing the five areas of study: soils, forestry, aquatics, wildlife and current environmental issues. Teams consist of up to five students from the same school, non-traditional school or youth organization. Led by a volunteer advisor, teams usually meet from late autumn until spring, studying and practicing. The teams are often organized and sponsored by local conservation districts, tribal or educational organizations and/or state or provincial agencies.

The competition consists of a blend of in-class curriculum and hands-on field experiences that incorporate both indoor and outdoor learning opportunities for students. Teams work collaboratively to develop their knowledge of ecology and natural resource management and to practice their environmental problem-solving skills.

Each participating state or province will hold a competition, usually in the spring of each year. The winning team from each state/provincial competition is then eligible to attend the NCF-Envirothon Annual International Competition.

Each team arrives at the NCF-Envirothon annual competition as a result of extensive training and superior performance at state/provincial Envirothon competitions.

More than 500 students, volunteers and guests, representing up to 50 teams from three different countries, journey to the event to learn and compete in environmental ecology and natural resource management.

The week-long competition includes hands-on and written tests and oral presentations on the students' knowledge of aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and soils/land use. Each team receives extensive on-site training to help familiarize themselves with the competition site, oftentimes a vastly different world from their home region. The competition culminates with an announcement of the winning teams and cash awards to be used as scholarships.







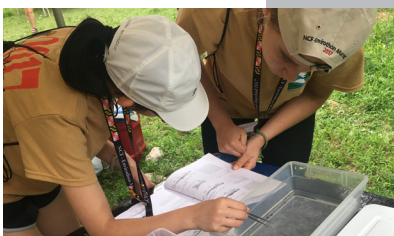
### Envirothon in the United States

Began in Pennsylvania in 1979 as the “Environmental Olympics”, the Envirothon has grown and expanded across the United States ever since. Today, 46 states participate in the NCF-Envirothon program and attend the annual competition to compete for prizes and scholarships.



### Envirothon in Canada

The first Canadian province, Nova Scotia, began participating in the Envirothon program in 1992. Today, nine Canadian provinces and one territory (Newfoundland, Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon Territory) participate in the international competition.



### Envirothon in China

In 2016, the Envirothon China joined the program and held its first Envirothon competition. Partnering with the Duke Kunshan University, the Envirothon China program continues to grow each year.

# Outreach and Education

Numerous studies have shown the benefits and importance of engaging students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) -based education. Just as important are programs that incorporate the environment into the curriculum. Dubbed 'E-STEM', environmental STEM education is at the essence of the NCF-Envirothon program. From the science of ecological systems, to technologies, engineering practices, and mathematical calculations used to determine environmental health or mitigate environmental problems, the Envirothon uses real-life situations to help students learn.



The NCF-Envirothon program has delivered over 29 years of E-STEM education.

## Alumni Spotlight

*"As a program, Envirothon has what it takes to be extremely effective in influencing adult environmentalism, including extended duration, adult mentors and time in nature. So here I am, throwing my weight behind this exceptional educational experience, and thanking all who make it possible."*

### -Erin Hines

Three-time North Carolina Envirothon champion and current Environmental Educator for the Gaston County Soil and Water Conservation District



# NCF-Envirothon Partners & Sponsors

In addition to the NCF, the NCF-Envirothon has several vital sponsors and partners, including the National Association of Conservation Districts, the U.S. Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Smithfield Foods, Inc., the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA), the National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA), Cabot, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Project Learning Tree.

The Envirothon program has been recognized by leading corporations and organizations nationwide. These caring corporate citizens, nonprofit organizations and government agencies have partnered with us to find innovative ways to provide natural resource/environmental education to the world's youth. A special thank you again to our loyal sponsors and donors.



## Become a Partner

The NCF-Envirothon is actively seeking partners and corporate sponsors who wish to support educating today's youth for leadership in tomorrow's world. If you or your organization/agency are interested in helping the NCF-Envirothon succeed in its mission, contact:

**Laura Demmel**

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*National Conservation Foundation Envirothon Annual Competition is offered and operated on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, origin, sex, age, marital status or physical/mental challenges. All teams and participants will be treated with utmost respect and fairness.*

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