

NCF-Envirothon

State/Provincial Representatives Meetings

November 2020

National Conservation Foundation Logo

On October 1, 2020, the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) unveiled its new official logo. If you have NCF's previous logo on your website or other materials, please contact us at administration@envirothon.org about updating these resources.



National Conservation Foundation - #FUTUREFOCUSED Fall Fundraising Campaign

On October 1st, the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) launched its 2020 Fall Fundraising Campaign. The campaign will run until the end of 2020 and will feature interviews from conservation leaders and Envirothon alumni. Please help spread the word about this campaign through email or social media.



NCF-Envirothon Operating Committee

Three new Operating Committee members will join beginning in January 2021:

- ❑ Brooke Myers, South Carolina – Southeast Region Representative
- ❑ Carrie Milligan, Utah – Western Region Representative
- ❑ Mark Hedge, New Mexico – At-Large Representative

For a complete list of current Operating Committee members, [please click here](#).

NCF-Envirothon AmazonSmile Reminder

The National Conservation Foundation (NCF) is a member of the AmazonSmile Foundation. The AmazonSmile Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private foundation created by Amazon to run the AmazonSmile Program. AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com, with the added bonus of earning proceeds for charity. AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charity selected by its customers.

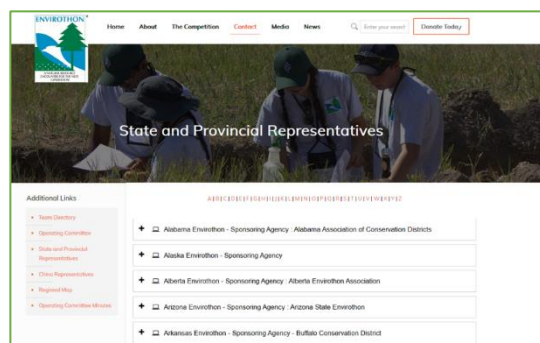
It's a simple and automatic way to support the NCF-Envirothon EVERY time you shop, at no cost to you. Plus, you can use your existing Amazon.com account. Support the NCF and the NCF-Envirothon by shopping this Holiday season at smile.amazon.com.



State/Provincial Representatives Webpage/Email Verification

Help us keep our website up-to-date and make sure we can provide you with timely information! Please take 5-10 minutes to 1) check your state/provincial details at envirothon.org, and 2) verify the correct email address where you want to receive important Envirothon messages:

- 1) Visit <https://envirothon.org/contact/state-and-provincial-representatives/>, find your state/provincial Envirothon program and check the information posted: Website links, Sponsoring Agency names, Representative/Alternative Rep(s) Names, et cetera (*Address/Phone #'s listed are optional*).



- 2) Verify email addresses on file: NCF-Envirothon utilizes an email forwarding service that creates a unique email alias using the @envirothon.org domain, redirecting incoming messages to the personal or work email you provide to us. The 'alias email' is the one you will see listed below each Representative name on the website (above). The alias email has no inbox, the forwarding service will send all emails sent to that address directly to existing account inboxes on file with the NCF-Envirothon Program Manager. Please verify that your state's/province's email addresses on file are correct by reviewing the [spreadsheet found here](#).

NCF-Envirothon State/Provincial Representative Emails list November 2020				
State/Province	State/Provincial Rep & Alt(s)	alias address	personal/work address on file	Name
Alabama	Alabama Alternative 1	al-alt1@envirothon.org	bettyruff@alacounty.net	Betty Ruff
Alabama	Alabama Alternative 2	al-alt2@envirothon.org	Salina Sutton	Salina Sutton
Alabama	Alabama Representative	al-rep@envirothon.org	al-rep@alconservationdistricts.org	Courtney Corbett
Alaska	Alaska Alternative 1	ak-alt1@envirothon.org	Brian Lambert	Brian Lambert
Alaska	Alaska Alternative 2	ak-alt2@envirothon.org	Jill Henry	Jill Henry
Alaska	Alaska Representative	ak-rep@envirothon.org	charlene@alaskaconservation.org	Charlene Bentrick
Arizona	Arizona Alternative	az-alt@envirothon.org	Arizona Envirothon@gmail.com	Vanita Dismukes
Arizona	Arizona Representative	az-rep@envirothon.org	az-rep@envirothon.org	Rodney Hill
Arkansas	Arkansas Alternative	ar-alt@envirothon.org	Deborah@arconservation.org	Deborah Montford
Arkansas	Arkansas Representative	ar-rep@envirothon.org	ar-rep@envirothon.org	Sgt. Conner
British Columbia	British Columbia Alternative 1	bc-alt1@envirothon.org	Jana Rennie	Jana Rennie
British Columbia	British Columbia Alternative 2	bc-alt2@envirothon.org	Leanne Cattie	Leanne Cattie
British Columbia	British Columbia Representative	bc-rep@envirothon.org	robert@bc.ca	Robert Clark
British Columbia	British Columbia Representative	bc-rep@envirothon.org	Ally@bc.ca	Amy Braberg
California	California Alternative	ca-alt@envirothon.org	ca-alt@envirothon.org	Justin Pajuelo
California	California Representative	ca-rep@envirothon.org	ca-rep@envirothon.org	Justin Pajuelo
Colorado	Colorado Alternative	co-alt@envirothon.org	co-alt@envirothon.org	Tyler Henry
Colorado	Colorado Representative	co-rep@envirothon.org	co-rep@envirothon.org	Nash McCull
Connecticut	Connecticut Alternative	ct-alt@envirothon.org	ct-alt@envirothon.org	Mindy Gosselin
Connecticut	Connecticut Representative	ct-rep@envirothon.org	ct-rep@envirothon.org	Christopher Sullivan
Delaware	Delaware Alternative	de-alt@envirothon.org	Ashley@delawareconservation.org	Ashley Peckles
Delaware	Delaware Representative	de-rep@envirothon.org	Karin Hume	Karin Hume
Florida	Florida Alternative	fl-alt@envirothon.org	fl-alt@envirothon.org	Dawn Miller-Walker
Florida	Florida Representative	fl-rep@envirothon.org	fl-rep@envirothon.org	Dawn Miller-Walker

To update or correct any information listed on the webpage or the email list, please email administration@envirothon.org.

2021 NCF-Envirothon Membership Dues

The 2021 NCF-Envirothon Membership Dues for participating states/provinces is \$350. Please fill out the [online invoice](#) to make a payment via Check, PayPal or Direct Deposit. *(Canadian Provinces: please note if paying by cheque, a U.S. Bank Draft is required!)*

For a paper invoice, a copy can be [downloaded](#) by visiting the online invoice. For record keeping purposes, we ask that you still fill out and submit the online form even if you need a paper invoice for your records.

2022 NCF-Envirothon Membership Dues Notice

At the Fall Meeting of the National Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees on October 22, 2020, the Board voted to increase **NCF-Envirothon Membership Dues to \$450** for all states, provinces, and partner nations (international partners) beginning with the **2022 competition year** (September 1, 2021-August 31, 2022). Additionally, an update to the NCF-Envirothon Program Policies (see below) establishes that, beginning with the 2022 competition year, Membership Dues will be due by December 31st of each year.

Current Membership Dues for the 2021 competition season (September 1, 2020-August 31, 2021) are \$350 (see above notice). Please be sure to adjust your annual budgets for next year.

NCF-Envirothon Program Policy Update

At the Fall Meeting of the National Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees on October 22, 2020, the Board approved several updates and revisions to the official [NCF-Envirothon Program Policies](#). The changes include a reorganization of existing Policies and grammatical corrections, as well as new Policies that outline the expectations of the NCF-Envirothon program and competition.

Please review for important program information. Please email questions to administration@envirothon.org.

NCF-Envirothon Nondiscriminatory Statement Revision

The NCF-Envirothon Nondiscriminatory Statement has been revised to read:

In accordance with applicable civil rights laws, the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon (NCFE), its offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering NCFE programs are prohibited from and shall not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual

orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by the NCFE.

We encourage everyone to please take the opportunity to review your State/Provincial Envirothon program's Nondiscriminatory Statement or consider adopting one if you haven't already.

Diversity Enhancement and Underserved Audience Grant

It is almost time for diversity grant applications! These mini grants offered by NCF and the US Forest Service can help expand the reach of your Envirothon programs to more diverse and underserved audiences.



2021 Request for Proposals:

- ❑ Opens in December 2020
- ❑ Grant applications accepted until January 18, 2021
- ❑ Awards to be announced by March 5, 2021
- ❑ Projects can begin as early as April or May 2021



Grants of up to \$4,000 are available for first-time US applicants, and up to \$2,000 are available for returning grantees and Canadian Provinces.

2021 Diversity Grants can still be used to support your outreach to diverse communities even over a distance. While most expenses for technological equipment are not allowed per the grant guidelines, equipment that is used specifically for the purposes of outreach to diverse and underserved communities may qualify. For example, you could not use diversity grant funds to purchase a new computer or to pay for an online testing platform, but you could use funds to purchase a video camera to record training sessions that will be made available to students and specifically marketed to new and underserved audiences. This type of outreach could also be combined with other project ideas, such as cultural inclusion and community partnership projects.

Some categories of potential projects to help get you started:

- ❑ Participation Projects (cover travel and registration costs for participation in state/provincial Envirothon competitions)
- ❑ Outreach and Engagement/Distance Education Projects (for projects that initiate a training and marketing program for participants and advisors on Envirothon and natural resources for youth)
 - *COVID-19: With the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, in-person outreach events may not be possible and grants supporting travel costs may not be needed if virtual competitions are held.*

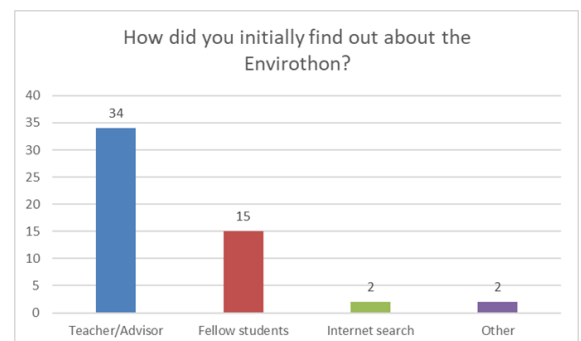
- ❑ Community Partnership Projects (for projects developed by State/Provincial Envirothon programs in conjunction with local Organizations)
- ❑ Cultural Inclusion Projects (for example, bringing Native American/First Nations culture into State/Provincial Envirothon competitions/programs/materials - in the form of ceremonies, histories, oral traditions, management strategies, etc.)
- ❑ Environmental Literacy and Experiential Learning Projects (for projects seeking to increase environmental literacy of youth, involving them in a hands-on approach to outdoor natural resources education)
- ❑ Accessibility Projects (adaptation of training/testing materials for hearing, visually or mobility impaired students)

Please remember that these categories are just inspiration for potential Diversity Grant projects - you are by no means limited to them! We would love to hear any new and innovative ideas that you have! If you have any questions about the application process, allowable expenses, or other details, please feel free to contact the NCF-Envirothon staff.

Barriers to Participation Survey

In late July, the NCF-Envirothon released a Barriers to Participation Survey to seek input on how the Envirothon can grow as an organization and reach a wider audience of students and educators. A total of 253 responses were collected during a 2-week period.

Most common barriers indicated: time, lack of resources, and competition with other programs/activities. Most common needs reported: outreach and more training resources



A report on the [Barriers to Participation Survey results](#) is available for viewing. State and Provincial Envirothon programs with survey responses from their location will receive individual results for review specific to their program.

2021 State/Provincial Envirothon Competitions and Virtual Envirothon Contingency Plans Survey

On October 7th, the NCF-Envirothon staff sent out a survey asking what your plans are for your 2021 Envirothon competitions. We received a total of 28 responses. Most indicated that their local steering committees have met or plan to meet soon to begin discussing Virtual Envirothon Contingency Plans. Some states and provinces indicated that they have already made the decision that their 2021 competition will be conducted virtually.

The following State/Provincial Envirothon programs have officially decided to hold virtual/distance competitions in 2021:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| ▪ Alberta | ▪ Minnesota |
| ▪ Arkansas | ▪ Missouri |
| ▪ California | ▪ Ontario |
| ▪ Connecticut | ▪ Pennsylvania |
| ▪ Indiana | ▪ Virginia |
| ▪ Manitoba | ▪ Washington |
| ▪ Massachusetts | ▪ Wisconsin |

During the discussion, a number of other states/provinces indicated they were leaning towards virtual or distance competitions, but no official decision has been announced yet. Additionally, a number of states/provinces will be hosting virtual or distance education engagement for students and/or advisors in the coming months.

The NCF-Envirothon is committed to supporting our partner state and provincial Envirothon programs during this time. We ask that all programs:

Please be sure to review the:

- [2020 Virtual Envirothon Event Report](#)
- [Envirothon Contingency Plans - Questions for Consideration](#)
- [Sample NC Envirothon Plan for 2021](#)

Be on the lookout for:

- Additional contingency plans from other states and provinces
- Additional surveys

Help us help you by:

- Answering surveys ASAP
- Reading NCF-Envirothon related emails ASAP

Feel free to:

- Contact other State/Provincial Representatives
- Contact your regional Operating Committee members
- Contact NCF-Envirothon staff

Distance Education

In the time of a global pandemic, Distance Education is becoming the new norm. Students may be in school, or they may be learning from home. Students may be able to gather

together, or they may not. Envirothon teams and trainings will likely look very different this year than in years past.

At the beginning of September, NCF-Envirothon staff sent out the *2020 Virtual Envirothon Events Report*. This document details online platforms, testing protocols, and logistical information from the 17 states and provinces who hosted online engagements this spring. If your steering committee is looking for suggestions of potential testing platforms or needs some inspiration for how to structure your virtual competition, this is a great place to start. There is also a section of this document containing considerations for rule compliance, ideas for virtual proctoring protocols, and more.

We also sent out a document containing *questions for consideration* as you develop your contingency plans for this coming Envirothon season. This is intended to be used as a springboard for your discussions with your state and provincial steering committees as you look toward your 2021 competitions.

(Please see above section for links to these documents)

A few states and provinces have also inquired about writing test questions for the virtual format. We have several resources posted on the NCF-Envirothon website, including the [Test Writing Guidelines and Sample Tests](#) for each of the core areas. These documents were developed for the annual international competition, and thus may include some components that may not be directly applicable to your specific state/provincial program, but most of the information can be more generally applied to different testing scenarios.

While these documents are not geared to a virtual or distance competition format, you will find information on how to structure in-depth questions that encourage critical thinking, and questions that can help bring field scenarios into the online testing environment. These documents can be found in the "Test Writing" Section under "The Competition" header of the NCF-Envirothon website.

If you have questions about these documents or other contingency planning topics, please feel free to contact Stephanie Tolar, NCF-Envirothon Education Specialist at stolar@envirothon.org

NCF-Envirothon iNaturalist Project

To help continue the hands-on, experiential learning that is foundational to the Envirothon program, NCF-Envirothon staff have developed an iNaturalist project for use by your state and provincial students, advisors, and resource specialists. iNaturalist is one of the largest citizen science projects in the world. One of the benefits of using iNaturalist is that it enables community collaboration, allowing your students and advisors to work together with resource specialists and each other. It offers a unique platform for ecological exploration and

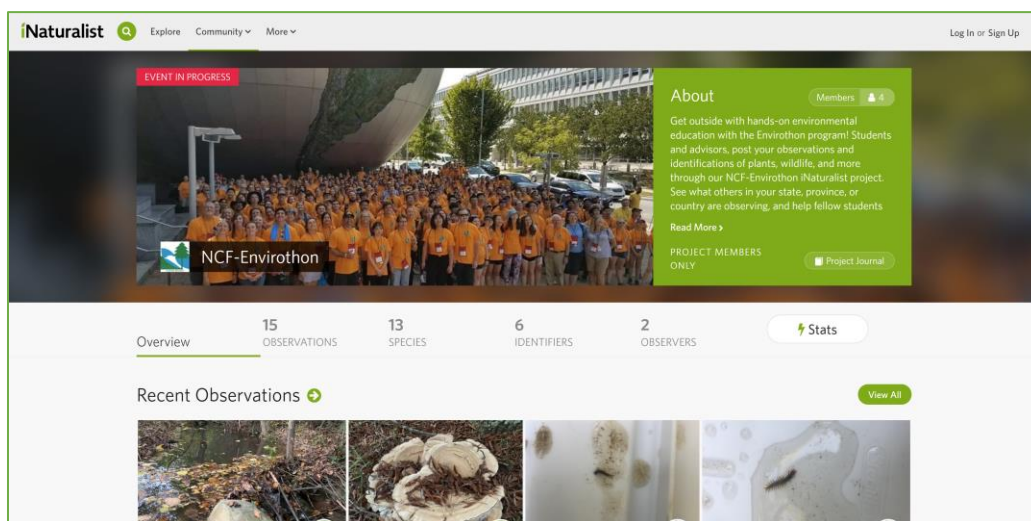


education and can be easily incorporated into the distance engagement opportunities that your state or province may be developing.

Whether students are able to gather with their teams or if they are exploring solo, NCF-Envirothon's iNaturalist project offers a way for students to brush up on identification skills, collaborate with teammates and others, and learn more about ecology while getting outside!

We encourage all state and provincial coordinators, as well as volunteers and resource professionals, to join the project. You'll need to set up an iNaturalist account, go to the [NCF-Envirothon project page](#), and click "**JOIN**". Any qualifying observations you make after joining our page will automatically be added to the project!

iNaturalist has both web-based and mobile applications, including both iPhone and Android apps. The below screenshot is taken from the web version. The mobile application tends to be easier to use for uploading and cataloging observations, while the webpage is better for looking at the overall data collected by the project.

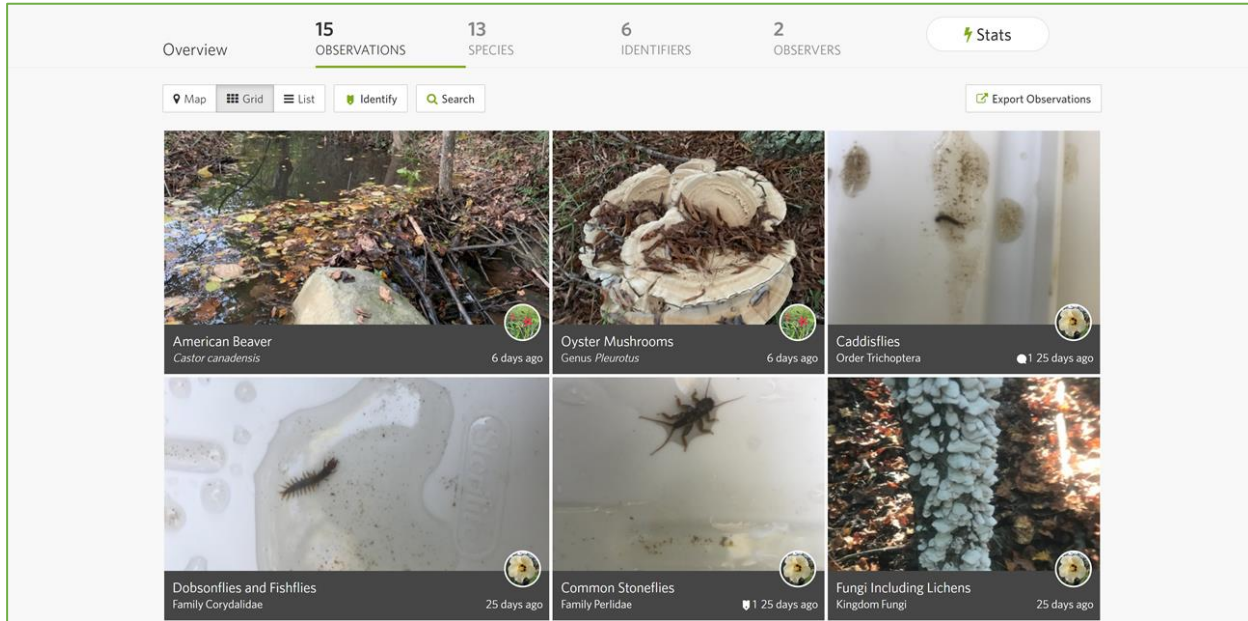


Student access played an important role in choosing the iNaturalist platform. Even if a student does not have a computer or stable internet connection at home, most students at least have access to a smartphone in their family. The mobile application for iNaturalist will allow a larger number of students to engage with this project. There is also an option to obscure your location if you are making observation in your backyard instead of a public park.

Some basics of iNaturalist:

- ❑ When you make observations, they will automatically show up on the NCF-Envirothon project page.
- ❑ You can comment on other user's identifications to offer help and/or confirm their ID so that the observation can become research grade and contribute to citizen science.

- You can view observations by different breakdowns, including taxon and much more.
- You can also filter observations by your particular state and province to monitor your student engagement!



Engage your teams with iNaturalist!

- Encourage teams to collaborate and work together, even at a distance
- Get students outside and exploring their local ecosystems
- Host weekly challenges with a new theme each week
- Use iNaturalist for a hands-on extension of your training webinars
- Highlight your state/provincial learning objectives by incorporating iNaturalist into your suggested activities
- Keep track of your state's/province's engagement by using the location filter for observations
- Showcase interesting and unique observations on social media

An instructional guide to the [NCF-Envirothon iNaturalist](#) project with tips on how to get started can be viewed and shared. There are also several helpful [How-To Videos](#) on the iNaturalist website with additional details and guidance.

NCF will also be releasing some engagement activities in the coming months, so stay tuned!

Envirothon Alumni Network

The [Envirothon Alumni Network on LinkedIn](#) was created to connect Envirothon alumni and to continue to engage them in the Envirothon program as volunteers, trainers, mentors, donors, and guest speakers. Group membership is open to advisors, trainers, and representatives who are actively engaged in the Envirothon program.

We want to continue to grow, and we need your help! Please share this opportunity with your advisors, volunteers, and students on social media and with your networks! Please note that you need to be signed into LinkedIn for the group page to display properly.

2021 NCF-Envirothon Annual International Competition

The 2021 NCF-Envirothon annual competition is on track to be held in-person from July 25-31, 2021 in Lincoln, Nebraska at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. However, the National Conservation Foundation, NCF-Envirothon, and the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (host of the 2021 event) will continue to monitor local, state, federal, and international guidelines related to COVID-19 (coronavirus). Our top priority is to provide a safe and healthy environment for all participants, volunteers, and guests, and we will continue to share information as it becomes available.

NCF-Envirothon staff are working closely with the Nebraska Host Committee to identify logistical considerations for both an in-person and virtual competition. The group will be considering all options and working towards drafting contingency plans in case an in-person event is not recommended for health and safety concerns.

We will be asking for your assistance in helping us make necessary planning decisions in the coming months. Additional short surveys to gauge the real-time and projected COVID-19 conditions in your state/province will be sent out on a monthly basis. Your feedback, thoughts, and opinions on what the 2021 NCF-Envirothon Nebraska competition should look like will be taken into consideration. In the meantime, if you have comments or questions, please email administration@envirothon.org.

2021 Annual Meeting – Winter Operating Committee Meeting

The 2021 NCF-Envirothon Operating Committee annual Winter Meeting will be held virtually in conjunction with the 2021 NACD Annual Meeting – over 2 days on February 2-3, 2021. Those interested in joining the meeting or the full NACD Annual Meeting can find more details and registration information at <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting/> and [NACD's 2021 Annual Meeting hub](#).