



# California Envirothon

A PARTNERSHIP OF THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

# Mission

- ▶ The California Envirothon will **provide youth with natural resources experiences to promote a sense of personal stewardship of the natural environment** and to empower them to take responsibility for the wise use of those resources for future generations.



# Part of an International Community



- ▶ The Envirothon® is an environmental and natural resource conservation problem-solving, teambuilding and leadership experience and competition for high school students (grades 9-12 or ages 14-19) across the United States, Canada, and China.
- ▶ It incorporates STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math*) principles, experiential learning and hands-on outdoor field experiences.
- ▶ In particular, the Envirothon fosters student learning in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife and current environmental issues.
- ▶ The National Conservation Foundation sponsors the annual International Envirothon. The CAE winning team advances to this competition.

# Who supports California Envirothon?

- ▶ The 7 member steering committee includes many representatives from the RCDs and is responsible for promoting the annual one day competition.
- ▶ A Resources Advisory Panel (RAP) members are a cadre of NRCS technical resources professionals, providing technical support, guidance, webinars in the major content areas, test writing, and volunteering on the day of the competition.
- ▶ Professionals from CARCD, NRCS, USFS, USEPA, local RCDs, LAUSD, Smithfield Foods, UCANR (University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources), and a host of volunteers contribute to the 1-day event.

# Annual Event



- ▶ Students work in teams in the field to answer science-based questions, and includes an oral presentation on a scenario featuring the current environmental theme (current issue is waste to resources).
- ▶ Working as a team, students learn skills such as critical thinking, and problem solving, to arrive at solutions to specific real-world environmental problems.
- ▶ The Envirothon promotes analytical thinking, stewardship, and consideration of all elements of a problem to arrive at a workable solution.
- ▶ This year's event on April 2, 2022 will be a virtual event.

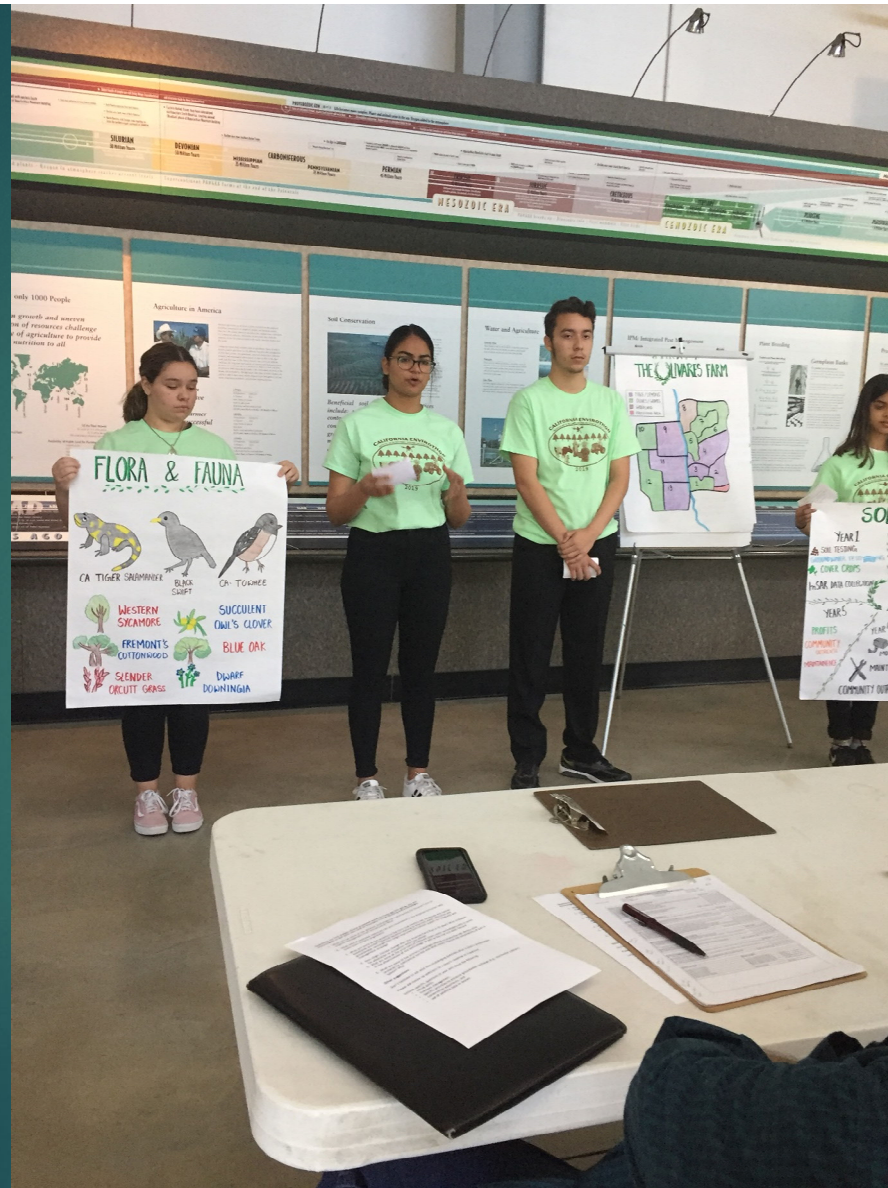
# What we need from you?

- ▶ By participating in CAE, local RCDs can complement and fulfill its natural resources conservation educational goals and mission.
- ▶ Your RCD Envirothon Team will bring visibility to your RCD.
- ▶ Your RCD Envirothon Team will bring in teachers and advisors from youth organizations (e.g., 4-H, FFA, etc.), parent supporters, volunteers, and donors.
- ▶ There is no fee to develop a team, only for the annual competition registration.
- ▶ This is an opportunity for students to learn about careers in natural resources management and environmental science.

# Developing your Team

- ▶ Basic information including CAE's "How to Get Started" handbook and its "Operating Rules and Regulations" can be accessed on our website: <https://www.caenvirothon.com>.
- ▶ The first step for a RCD to pursue team sponsorship is to contact the high schools within their district to make an appointment with the science, agriculture, or Advanced Placement advisors. Also, contact the youth organizations such as 4-H, FFA, Scouts, and others to encourage them to participate.
- ▶ It is ideal to promote visibility of your RCD's participation in the Envirothon via public awareness outlets such as newsletters, local press releases, social media, or website announcements.
- ▶ Partner with one teacher who will commit to pull together one team of five students
- ▶ Email the Envirothon Steering Committee: Jovita@schenkerdesign.com)
- ▶ The Envirothon Steering Committee will directly contact the teacher/advisor and share avenues of coaching ideas and opportunities for resource workshops.





# California Envirothon Steering Committee Goals

- ▶ Expand current competition to include schools from areas throughout California (At one time in the early 2000s, the competition included over 30 schools throughout California and the event was a three-day event).
- ▶ Reach out to underserved students including Indigenous communities and socio-economically challenged students.
- ▶ CAE needs the RCDs throughout California in supporting local schools and youth organization involvement in the California Envirothon as RAP members, judges, or volunteers.

# Current Scenario- Waste to Resources

- ▶ Students will learn the concepts of different waste streams and the impacts of waste generation and disposal on natural resources and society.
- ▶ Students will also learn effective ways to manage waste regeneratively; as well as the social, economic, and political impacts of turning waste products and degraded lands into resources.

# 2021's Winning Team, Aquifers from Granada Hills Charter High School Presentation

A short clip of the fifteen minute presentation provided by the 2021 winning team, the Aquifers from Granada Hills Charter High School:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KPivhTahMbVf6hMF5DK3C5K9XmFmY-Vu/view>

The current issue for 2021 was "Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions."

# Final Thoughts



- ▶ Paramount to CAE's goals is to introduce students to natural resource professionals to aspire career choices including but not limited to:
  - ▶ Soil scientist
  - ▶ Wildlife biologist
  - ▶ Forestry manager
  - ▶ Watershed hydrologist
  - ▶ Public policy maker
- ▶ And a more informed citizen and voter about our natural resources. This is an opportunity to encourage critical thinking across curriculum and encourage teamwork, skills necessary for the 21<sup>st</sup> century while having fun.

# Contact Information

Please feel free to contact any of the members of the steering committee:

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