



For Immediate Release

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2021 NCF-Envirothon Nebraska Announces Winning Teams

Students from Esopus, New York, Named Champions

LINCOLN, Nebraska – On July 28, students from Esopus, New York, took the top prize of \$15,000 at the 2021 National Conservation Foundation (NCF)-Envirothon, an international environmental and natural resources education competition for high schoolers.

“I’d like to congratulate New York and all of the teams for their hard work and dedication,” said NCF Chair Brent Van Dyke. “Their knowledge about environmental and natural resources issues, as well as their commitment to these areas, have shown me that the future of conservation is in good hands.”

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and health concerns, the annual NCF-Envirothon competition was held virtually, a first for the Envirothon program, and 41 teams across the U.S., Canada and China participated. The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) hosted the competition July 25-28, and students demonstrated their knowledge of soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry and wildlife management. The teams also prepared oral presentations on this year’s current issue, “Water Resources Management: Local Control, Local Solutions.”

“We enjoyed showcasing our state’s one-of-kind natural resources management system that relies on locally elected boards making decisions on their unique issues,” said Jim Eschliman, NARD president. “I continue to be impressed with students and their ability to problem-solve some of our biggest environmental challenges.”

The winning NCF-Envirothon teams are awarded scholarships and prizes, with the top three scoring teams receiving \$30,000 in scholarships thanks to the support of Smithfield Foods, Inc. The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Foundation awarded a total of \$13,000 for fourth through seventh places and a donation from the Conservation Districts of Iowa provided awards for eighth through tenth place.

The top 10 teams include:

Place	Team	City, State/Province
1	New York	Esopus, New York
2	North Carolina	Denton, North Carolina
3	South Carolina	Spartanburg, South Carolina
4	Massachusetts	Groton, Massachusetts
5	Florida	Miami, Florida
6	New Mexico	Truth or Consequences, New Mexico
7	Pennsylvania	Brodheads ville, Pennsylvania
8	Ontario	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
9	Maryland	Rockville, Maryland
10	Manitoba	Swan River, Manitoba, Canada

A complete list of awards can be found at www.envirothon.org.

“This year marked the 32nd annual Envirothon competition and was the most innovative to date,” said NCF-Envirothon Program Manager Jennifer Brooks. “The Envirothon program continues to challenge, inspire and empower high school students to pursue environmental, conservation and natural resources-related fields.”

Next year’s NCF-Envirothon will be hosted by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, July 24-30, 2022. The 2022 current environmental issue will be “Waste to Resources.”

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The mission of the National Conservation Foundation (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. Learn more at www.nacdnet.org/national-conservation-foundation.

The NCF-Envirothon is a hands-on environmental and natural resources problem-solving competition that builds leadership skills for high school students, grades 9-12 (ages 14-19), in the United States, Canada and China. The program educates future stewards, promotes E-STEM (environment, science, technology, engineering and math) education, creates community awareness and fosters appreciation and respect for the natural world. NCF-Envirothon is a program of the National Conservation Foundation (NCF), a 501(c)3 organization, and supported

by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). As sister organizations, the NCF and NACD share a common mission of locally led conservation with the NCF focused on developing the next generation of conservation leaders. Learn more at www.envirothon.org.