

## **The 2024 Colorado Envirothon Competition Was a Success!**

### **2024 Colorado Envirothon**

March 4–5, 2024

The 2024 Colorado Envirothon state competition was a huge success! Thirteen high school teams from across the state gathered at Colorado State University (CSU) Spur Campus in Denver on March 4–5, 2024. Students tested their skills in five environmental topics, including wildlife, soils, aquatic ecology, forestry, and this year's topic of Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future.

The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD), with topic experts and volunteers from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), US Forest Service (USFS), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), and countless other volunteers from across the state pulled off a great competition this year under the leadership of Mark J. Platten with the Colorado State University Extension (CSUE).

The two-day competition highlighted an oral presentation in which teams were given two hours to prepare. The presentation was to incorporate all five discipline areas in finding a viable solution to a written scenario involving this year's topic of Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future, specific to Colorado's resource concerns. The presentations were judged by a panel of five topic experts representing all five discipline areas. The teams then completed written practical exams in all five disciplines: wildlife, soils, aquatic ecology, forestry, and this year's current topic.

Awards were given to teams with the highest scores in each of the five written practical exams and the top three overall scoring teams, combining both the written exams and oral presentation scores.

### **Students Engaged in Presentation Preparation**

The competition also featured a career fair highlighting careers in agriculture and natural resource management, where students could connect with professionals and learn more about organizations that work in these areas. Additionally, students were able to tour the CSU Spur Campus and explore, learn, and observe many different areas of natural resources as well as veterinary medicine.

Local conservation districts sponsored most registration and travel costs. CACD, in partnership with Mark Platten of CSU Extension, received an NCF Grant to cover remaining

costs. Sponsors included NRCS, Smithfield Foods Colorado, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

The NRCS and CACD also funded the winning team's trip to the international competition in New York in July 2024. CSU's Office of Engagement and Extension, Warner College of Natural Resources, and College of Agricultural Sciences provided \$33,250 in scholarships to the top three teams.

### **Congratulations to the Winning Teams**

Congratulations to the winning team from Woodland Park High School! They received \$15,000 in scholarships and will compete internationally from July 28 to August 3, 2024, in Geneva, New York, for another \$25,000 in scholarships.

### **Looking Ahead**

We are looking forward to the 2025 Colorado Envirothon Competition and growing the program more in the next year. For more information about the Envirothon Program in Colorado, visit our website:

<https://coloenvirothon.org>

### **Thank You to Our 2024 Sponsors!**

- Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
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- Colorado State University
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado State Conservation Board
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