MISSION
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.

VISION
To support delivery of locally-led conservation and to create future conservation leaders.

The National Conservation Foundation (NCF) provides conservation districts and other conservation organizations funding for research, educational programs and public outreach. In fulfilling its mission, NCF has two programs that work to develop the next generation of conservation leaders: the NCF-Envirothon competition, a high school environmental and natural resources program and competition, and the Next Generation Leadership Institute, a new program to cultivate the next generation of locally-led conservation leaders.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The National Conservation Foundation is raising conservation leaders of tomorrow. Thank you for your support of NCF over the years. Considering providing a monetary gift to NCF to support its programs? Please visit www.NationalConservationFoundation.org.

Did you know you can support NCF by using AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile has the same products, prices and services as Amazon, but with an extra bonus—you can earn money for NCF! Here's how:

2. Make sure that “National Conservation Foundation” is designated as the charity of your choice.
3. Purchase products with the “Eligible for Amazon Smile donation” designation.
4. Then shop ‘til your heart’s content!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>LETTER FROM THE CHAIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>WHO WE ARE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>2020 FINANCIAL REPORT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>NCF-ENVIROTHON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>#FUTUREFOCUSED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Conservation Leaders,

2020 was a year of change for the National Conservation Foundation (NCF). With the onset of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, we had to quickly adapt our programming to make sure our participants know what we all know to be true: local leadership in conservation is essential.

Adapting our programming was no small feat, as you’ll read throughout this annual report, but as an organization, we’ve been growing rapidly over the past few years, implementing our new strategic plan, adapting our governance structure, and advancing our programs and communications.

In October, we launched a new logo, reflecting our progress as an organization and helping to carry NCF into the future, and we’ve since developed a new program logo for the Next Generation Leadership Institute (NGLI) as well.

These logos reflect our focus on conservation and improving the capacity and skillset of our nation’s current and emerging conservation leaders. They embody the renewed vitality and reinvigorated commitment we have to deliver conservation solutions on America’s landscapes.

NCF also recently debuted its new website, www.nationalconservationfoundation.org, to house our resources, provide secure networking access for our NGLI and Envirothon participants, centralize our brand, and more.

All of these accomplishments are possible thanks to the support of conservation leaders like you who generously donate to NCF throughout the year and during our annual end-of-year campaign. In 2020, our #FutureFocused campaign raised over $20,000 to bolster our programming and to help guarantee its continuation in the next year.

I invite you to visit the NCF website to learn how you can contribute and help equip our future conservation leaders to the best of our ability. Together, we’re ensuring a brighter future for conservation leaders like you.

It’s a privilege to serve as the new chair of the National Conservation Foundation. Having served on the Board of Trustees under Steve Robinson’s chairmanship, I know that we have been set up to succeed, and I look forward to helping advance NCF’s goals as we continue to look to the future.

Sincerely,

Brent Van Dyke
NCF Chair
Dear Conservation Leaders,

I hope this message finds you doing well!

Perhaps the report you are holding looks and feels a little different from what you have received from the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) in the past. That is because it is different! Like you, NCF and our partners faced many challenges during 2020 to fully implement the plans we had made last year. But at the same time, the NCF Board of Trustees remained focused on its mission 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.

One of the accomplishments of the NCF this past year was adoption and implementation of a new strategic plan. The NCF board spent many hours, teleconferences and Zoom meetings during the last year making progress and plans for the future despite the challenges of the pandemic. And, through their work, they are placing the NCF on a trajectory to make even greater impact in the future.

As mentioned in Chair Brent Van Dyke’s column, NCF has been working on rebranding through development of a new logo and a new website. Together, both of these new marketing tools create energy and enthusiasm for the future of NCF’s programs and will provide an increasing awareness by the broader public of the good work the foundation, our partners, donors, volunteers and participants have come to recognize.

While 2020 saw the postponement of the annual NCF-Envirothon competition and a much different Next Generation Leadership Institute
(NGLI) virtual experience than had been originally planned, the programs of the NCF are alive and well, and there is tremendous interest in the programs resuming more normal operations as soon as that can be safely accomplished. More information is contained in this annual report on programmatic accomplishments, status updates and plans for the future for both NCF-Envirothon and the NGLI.

Leadership and perseverance are two of the qualities that the NCF Board of Trustees and program participants embraced in 2020, and they are qualities that will continue to define the foundation well into the future.

It has been inspiring for me personally to see the dedication of youth participants still eager to engage in a virtual NCF-Envirothon competition, and the passion of the many volunteer sponsors, supporters and committee members that are carrying the program through the pandemic and who make the program so great. It is also inspirational to see the NGLI cohort continue to engage even though 2020 only allowed one face-to-face interaction. They have remained solidly committed to the program and have made very valuable leadership contributions to NCF and to NACD through their service.

Through the NCF’s annual report, I hope you find a connection with the work that the foundation is doing to support youth education and leadership development that benefits conservation at the international, national, state, territory and provincial levels. But most importantly, I hope you find a connection between your local community and the NCF’s work to develop the next generation of conservation leaders that will have an impact at all levels.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Peters
Executive Director
LEADERSHIP

2020 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
NACD Past President Gene Schmidt ..................................... Indiana
Immediate Past Chair Rudy Rice .......................................... Illinois
Executive Director Jeremy Peters ......................................... Washington, D.C.

2020 NCF Board of Trustees

Barbara Perlman-Whyman
NACD Presidents Association Representative .................... Nevada

Shana Joy
NASCA Representative ........................................................ Washington

Irene Moore
NCDEA Representative ....................................................... Ohio

Karen Smart
NACD Auxiliary Representative ........................................... Utah

Millie Langley
NCF-Envirothon Representative .......................................... North Carolina

Earl Garber
NACD Past President .......................................................... Louisiana

Rick Jeans
Past NACD Executive Board Member ................................... Oklahoma

Bob Warner
NACD Board Member ........................................................ Colorado

Nedra Turney
At-Large Representative ...................................................... Arkansas

Patti Lardie
At-Large Representative ...................................................... Wisconsin
2021 NCF Executive Committee

Chair Brent Van Dyke ............................................................... New Mexico
Vice Chair Tim Reich ............................................................... South Dakota
Treasurer John Redding ........................................................... Georgia
Secretary Patti Lardie ............................................................. Wisconsin

NACDImmediate Past President Tim Palmer ................................ Iowa
Immediate Past Chair Steve Robinson ......................................... Ohio
At-Large Member Rudy Rice ...................................................... Illinois

Executive Director Jeremy Peters ................................................ Washington, D.C.

2021 NCF Board of Trustees

Barbara Perlman-Whyman
NACD Presidents Association Representative ........................ Nevada

Shana Joy
NASCA Representative .......................................................... Washington

Irene Moore
NCDEA Representative ......................................................... Ohio

Karen Smart
NACD Auxiliary Representative .............................................. Utah

Millie Langley
NCF-Envirothon Representative ............................................... North Carolina

Earl Garber
NACD Past President ............................................................ Louisiana

Rick Jeans
Past NACD Executive Board Member ...................................... Oklahoma

Bob Warner
NACD Board Member .......................................................... Colorado

Patti Lardie
At-Large Representative ....................................................... Wisconsin

Bevin Law
At-Large Representative ........................................................ Kansas

Gene Schmidt
At-Large Representative ....................................................... Indiana

Mike Mosel
At-Large Representative ....................................................... Nebraska
TEAM

Jeremy Peters
Washington, D.C.
NCF Executive Director
202-547-6223
jeremy-peters@nacdnet.org

Jennifer Brooks
North Carolina
NCF-Envirothon Program Manager
1-800-825-5547
jbrooks@envirothon.org
jennifer-brooks@nacdnet.org

Stephanie Tolar
North Carolina
NCF-Envirothon Education Specialist
1-800-825-5547
stolar@envirothon.org
stephanie-tolar@nacdnet.org

Ray Ledgerwood
Washington
NGLI Facilitator
208-301-4728
rayledgerwood@msn.com
### FY 2020 REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DUES</td>
<td>$18,450</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPONSORSHIPS</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTICIPATION FEES</td>
<td>$16,221</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT GRANTS</td>
<td>$278,091</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER SOURCES</td>
<td>$112,147</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$429,909</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FY 2020 EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM SERVICES</td>
<td>$301,879</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL</td>
<td>$19,501</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUNDRAISING</td>
<td>$381</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$321,761</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
ABOUT US

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.

From its inception in 1979, the Envirothon program has grown and evolved but always with a similar mission: to provide students with hands-on outdoor experiences to learn about natural resources. The Envirothon curriculum spans five core topics: Soils and Land Use, Forestry, Aquatic Ecology, Wildlife and a Current Environmental Issue that changes from year to year.

Emphasizing hands-on learning and real-world application of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) concepts, Envirothon students can be found getting their hands dirty in a soil pit, measuring basal area in a forest, determining water quality, and many other activities involving skills used by resource conservation professionals. Working as a team of five, students will put their skills and knowledge to the test at local, state/provincial and international competitions each year for scholarships and awards.

MISSION

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.
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 powerful impact of the Envirothon program on so many students’ lives and its great potential to develop new leaders in conservation. The NCF-Envirothon Operating Committee (NCFEOC) is comprised of appointed representatives from the five Envirothon regions in North America: the U.S. Southeast, the U.S. Northeast, the U.S. West, the U.S. Mid-West and Canada; as well as one representative from the National Conservation Foundation board. The NCFEOC also has up to three At-Large members, who can be from any region.

The NCFEOC provides recommendations to the NCF Executive Committee regarding the direction of the NCF-Envirothon. They work continually to update educational guidelines and curriculum frameworks to aid states and provinces in better serving their educators and students. In addition, they assist the host state/province in promoting, organizing and conducting the NCF-Envirothon annual competition and are responsible for the development of rules and policies for conducting the program.

2020 Operating Committee

Millie Langley
Chair, North Carolina

Wendee Dodds
Vice Chair, Ohio

Lorelle Steach
Past Chair, Pennsylvania

Kerin Hume
Delaware

Jeanne Dryburgh
Nebraska

Andrea McKeown
Missouri

Shonny Nordlund
Montana

Jeff Folger
Connecticut

Debbie Waycott
Nova Scotia

Jacqueline Monteith
Manitoba

Becky Geneau
New Brunswick
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

To say that 2020 has been a wild year is an understatement! But we must move on and use what we have learned from this pandemic that has rocked the world. Despite the challenges 2020 brought us, the National Conservation Foundation and the NCF-Envirothon Operating Committee are committed to strengthening the Envirothon program at all levels.

The NCF-Envirothon Operating Committee is very grateful for the continued support of our sponsors during 2020: Smithfield Foods, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Association of State Conservation Agencies. We would also like to thank the United States Forest Service for continued funding of the Diversity Enhancement and Underserved Audience Grants.

Thank you to all the Envirothon coaches, advisors and student teams who have worked hard this last year studying and preparing for competitions that may not have happened. The coaches and advisors are our unsung heroes of the Envirothon. Only with their hard work, enthusiasm and perseverance could they lead their students to carry out the goals of Envirothon and become good citizens and stewards of our Earth. Even if students weren’t able to test their knowledge and skills through competing in 2020, what they learned will stay with them for life!

I am also thankful for the NCF-Envirothon staff, Jennifer Brooks and Stephanie Tolar for their hard work throughout this past year. They have kept the work flowing, making updates and working with our future hosts to plan not only the 2021 event, but the next several years to come.

Our 2021 NCF-Envirothon is on! The Nebraska Host Committee is working extremely hard to bring us the best Virtual Envirothon ever! Yes, we will be hosting the Envirothon in a virtual format for the first time. Our hosts, the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, are making sure the competition will offer the same quality of training, testing and commitment as they would have if we were in-person. It will be the most innovative Envirothon competition yet!

Sincerely,

Millie D. Langley
NCF-Envirothon Operating Committee Chair
2020 was a year of adaptability and creativity for state and provincial Envirothon programs. The COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic hit the world in full force by the time most Envirothon competitions were scheduled in the spring. Annually, 53 U.S. states, Canadian provinces and partner nation China typically conduct local competitions in person. In 2020, only two states and one Canadian province were able to hold their in-person competitions before the pandemic struck in mid-March. With quarantine orders in effect and students learning from home, all in-person educational events – including Envirothon competitions – were cancelled, impacting thousands of participating students, educators, program partners, volunteers and supporters of the Envirothon program.

Quickly recognizing the need to provide students with a sense of normalcy and to encourage participation in the Envirothon, 17 states and provinces rose to the challenge and were able to host online Envirothon events in place of their typical in-person competitions. Some of these events were official virtual competitions (where one team was declared the “state or provincial winner" for 2020), while others were informal challenges, along with some social media engagement and training activities to keep students involved and motivated.

Thank you to all the programs that helped to keep the Envirothon spirit going in 2020!
Envirothon in the U.S.
Beginning in Pennsylvania in 1979 as the “Environmental Olympics,” the Envirothon has grown and expanded across the United States. In 2020, 16 states held Envirothon events.

Envirothon in Canada
In 1992, Nova Scotia was the first Canadian province to join the Envirothon program. Ontario and Prince Edward Island engaged students in 2020 Envirothon events.

Envirothon in China
In 2020, the Envirothon China program celebrated its fifth year of competition. Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak, the final 2020 Envirothon China competition was delayed from April to August, where the top 20 teams from the preliminary competitions competed. China Envirothon awarded winners in two categories in 2020:

- Group A 1st place National Team: Shanghai High School International Division
- Group B 1st place National Team: Guangdong County Garden School
In-Person 2020 Competitions:

- **Prince Edward Island**
  1st Place: Bluefield High School, Hampshire (pictured right)

- **Arkansas**
  1st Place: Haas Hall Academy, Fayetteville

- **Louisiana**
  1st Place: Caddo Parish Magnet High School, Shreveport

Online 2020 Competitions:

- **Connecticut**
  1st Place: Northwestern Regional #7 Team 2, Winsted

- **Florida**
  1st Place: Advancing Glaciers Team, Volusia County

- **Idaho**
  1st Place: Gooding High School - A Team, Gooding

- **New Mexico**
  1st Place: Hot Springs High School - Scat Cats Team, Truth or Consequences

- **New York**
  1st Place: Mount Academy, Ulster County

- **Ohio**
  1st Place: Bellefontaine High School, Bellefontaine

- **Oregon**
  1st Place: Amity High School, Yamhill County

- **Rhode Island**
  1st Place: Wheeler School, Providence

- **Utah**
  1st Place: Ridgeline High School, Providence

Several other states and provinces worked to keep Envirothon spirits high with informal Envirothon-style challenges. Those states are Kansas, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Virginia.

Ontario, Texas and Wisconsin utilized the power of social media or additional methods to engage their students.
OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

COVID-19 (coronavirus) greatly impacted the NCF-Envirothon’s in-person outreach and engagement activities. The NCF-Envirothon attended only one in-person event in 2020: the National Association of Conservation Districts’ (NACD) Annual Meeting, held February 8-12. There, NCF-Envirothon staff and Operating Committee members engaged conference attendees at the NCF-Envirothon’s exhibitor booth at NACD’s Conservation Expo.

Rising to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the NCF-Envirothon continued to connect with students, advisors, volunteers and alumni through a variety of online outreach initiatives.

- **Social Media:** NCF-Envirothon’s presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn grew throughout 2020. Multiple posts per week featured nature-based education topics, pictures from past events and promotion for programming and activities.

- **Alumni Engagement:** Initial steps were taken in 2020 to identify and connect with the thousands of Envirothon alumni that span the globe. As the first step in our engagement project, a new Envirothon Alumni Network group was created on LinkedIn to serve as a place for previous Envirothon participants to share stories, chat about careers, post jobs, and stay up-to-date with current Envirothon news.

- **Distance Education for Students:** The NCF-Envirothon created an iNaturalist project as an educational tool for students, advisors and resource professionals. Highlighting the hands-on, outdoor focus of the program, the NCF-Envirothon iNaturalist project offers a unique platform for ecological exploration and education, even at a distance. iNaturalist is one of the largest citizen science projects in the world.

- **Education Webinars for Envirothon Program Partners:** In late 2020, a series of webinars were initiated to help our state and provincial program partners navigate “Envirothon at a Distance” while adapting to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
AUSTEN HILL, NEB.

Austen Hill is the Education Programs Supervisor for the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District in Nebraska. As a high school student, Hill participated for two years in the local Envirothon program through his high school.

Hill thanks his parents for giving him the opportunity to play and explore the woods behind his house when he was growing up, which sparked his interest in nature, stating, “I would wander out to the woods behind my house, make a tree fort, collect insects, and explore what I personally found interesting in nature.” In high school, Hill credits one of his teachers for encouraging students to participate in as many science-focused competitions as possible, which is how he was introduced to Envirothon.

Hill believes that with a competition like Envirothon, students can focus their attention on environmental issues and identification in their specific region, making the knowledge more relevant than being tested on overarching scientific principles like what is common in high school education.

“I have always enjoyed getting outside and exploring the environment around me,” Hill said. “Envirothon gave me an introduction into ways I can take that natural curiosity and intrigue and utilize it for a career in one of the numerous environmental fields.”

What do students gain from participating in Envirothon? According to Hill, Envirothon “gives students examples of some of the questions and issues professionals are trying to address and solve, usually with a tie to the local region. I think a lot of kids in high school think like I did when you mention environmental careers – you think Park Ranger. There are so many different jobs from diverse fields, and the demand is only growing.”
"Competing in the 2020 Ohio Virtual Envirothon gave me a chance to get to see my teammates and compete again when most things were shut down. Envirothon gives me the opportunity to test my knowledge of Aquatics, Forestry, Soils and Wildlife. My favorite test subjects are Forestry and Wildlife. Even though we didn’t get to compete in person, I am grateful that we had the opportunity to do it virtually. Envirothon has helped me be more confident and has helped my ability to work with other people on my team."

Sydney Hamilton
10th grade
Lynchburg-Clay Gold Envirothon Team
Lynchburg-Clay High School
Lynchburg, Ohio

"The thing that I enjoyed about Envirothon this year was the fact that we got to work together as a team throughout creating the video and completing the test. Plus, even though most places didn’t continue Envirothon this year because of COVID-19, I was happy that the Oregon Envirothon still continued and gave me the chance to interact with my classmates. Since I have never done something like this before, it was a fun experience to try out."

Andria S
2020 Oregon Envirothon Participant
Oregon
The National Conservation Foundation (NCF), working in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), offers the Diversity Enhancement and Underserved Audience Grant program to help state and provincial Envirothon programs expand the diversity of student participation. Mini-grants are awarded for projects that work to reach out to minority and underserved urban and/or rural students that lack access to natural resource-based outdoor educational opportunities.

In 2020, the USFS awarded the NCF $21,000 to be utilized by participating U.S. Envirothon programs. For Canadian Diversity Grant projects, the NCF provided $2,000 in funding for one Canadian provincial project.

The 2020 Diversity Grants were allocated to:

**DELAWARE ENVIROTHON** - $4,000
Delaware Envirothon Outreach and Education: Outreach and Education initiative to Title 1 schools in Delaware who have never participated in the Envirothon program.

**MARYLAND ENVIROTHON** - $2,000
Baltimore City Schools Outreach: Recruitment project targeting 38 high schools in Baltimore City.
NORTH CAROLINA ENVIROTHON - $4,000
Durham SWCD Envirothon Diversity Outreach and Educational Tools: Education initiative to engage students and teachers in a highly diverse and urbanized district using Envirothon curriculum.

NORTH DAKOTA ENVIROTHON - $4,000
Bridging Borders: Outreach initiative to Native American high schools in partnership with Native American colleges throughout North Dakota.

SOUTH CAROLINA ENVIROTHON - $4,000
Growing SC Envirothon Support to Rural South Carolina Counties: Training and recruitment project to increase Envirothon diversity and participation in underserved rural counties in South Carolina.

TEXAS ENVIROTHON - $1,000
Texas Envirothon: Training initiative to develop "resource trunks" in the areas of wildlife, forestry, soils and land use and aquatic ecology that will be available for use by Texas Envirothon team advisors in rural and urban schools that are financially unable to purchase or access Envirothon training tools.

VIRGINIA ENVIROTHON - $2,000
Blue Ridge SWCD Envirothon/Enhancement and Strengthen Program: Project with the Blue Ridge SWCD to engage rural and urban schools in Envirothon.

MANITOBA ENVIROTHON - $2,000
Northern Regional Envirothon (NRE)-Breaking Down Barriers of Indigenous Participation: Initiative to improve and expand outreach to the Indigenous communities across the province.
The NCF-Envirothon program is supported by leading corporations and organizations. These caring corporate citizens, nonprofit organizations and government agencies have partnered with us to educate the next generation of conservation leaders. A special thank you to our loyal sponsors and donors for their support.

In 2020, the following sponsors contributed in support of the NCF-Envirothon’s mission:

The National Conservation Foundation would also like to thank the following Envirothon programs for contributing additional financial support to the NCF-Envirothon in 2020: Delaware Envirothon, Missouri Envirothon, Ohio Envirothon, Pennsylvania Envirothon, South Dakota Envirothon, Utah Envirothon, Washington Envirothon and West Virginia Envirothon.
LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021

Like most events during 2020, the NCF-Envirothon annual international competition had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. The event, hosted by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) in Lincoln, Neb. and originally planned from July 26 to August 1, 2020, would have drawn over 400 students, advisors and volunteers from across the United States, Canada and China. The National Conservation Foundation (NCF) and NARD jointly announced the cancellation to protect the health and safety of students, advisors, volunteers, sponsors and education partners.

Moving forward, it was agreed upon by the NCF and NARD that Nebraska would host the 2021 NCF-Envirothon competition in July 2021. In response to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and health concerns, the 2021 NCF-Envirothon annual competition will have a completely virtual format. Nebraska will host this first-ever virtual Envirothon competition, and Nebraska’s ecology and natural resources will be highlighted in the study materials and during the event. “Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions” will still serve as the Current Environmental Issue Topic. The 2021 NCF-Envirothon will be an innovative competition, with the same quality of training and testing as has been offered in the past. The NCF-Envirothon remains committed to providing students with the knowledge and skills to change the world.

Connect with us @ncfenvirothon
The newest effort of the National Conservation Foundation, the Next Generation Leadership Institute (NGLI), is a group that saw the trials of 2020 as something only great leaders can envision: they saw challenges as opportunities. They demonstrated true leadership by staying true to their task by adapting and innovating.

The NGLI Program, launched in 2019, aims to equip conservation district leaders with the tools to become national leaders through personal, civic and organizational leadership development. The program was created in response to a high demand for leadership instruction for conservation district leaders facing the challenges of a changing world.

In February 2020, this program welcomed seven remarkable conservation district officials who were selected to participate in the inaugural program. They were chosen from a competitive pool because of their demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment to locally-led conservation and their eagerness to improve their skills to address the current and future challenges our nation’s natural resources face.

The cohort gathered for their first session at the 2020 NACD Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, where they
The inaugural program cohort (pictured left to right): Ryan Britt, Phil Campbell, Sam Steiner, Joe Caughlin, Cassius Spears, Barbara Bleiweis and Mark Masters.

began their journey of trainings. Since that first gathering, the program has maintained momentum by bringing the leadership lessons to the virtual format. Eight different webinars were completed during the past year and featured the expertise of 12 individuals from across the U.S. In the virtual setting, the lessons focused on a range of topics from national policy development and public speaking to generational learning.

The program also created a format where the participants could discuss their own leadership experiences and how they adapted. If the past year has taught us anything it is this: true leaders address challenges with reflection and open communication.

For the coming year, NGLI will maintain their momentum with regular virtual sessions. They will reconvene in-person sessions when possible, with a planned cohort graduation in February 2022.

In the meantime, the NGLI operating committee has begun planning the application process for the next cohort.

If you are a conservation district official who is interested in dramatically improving the future of locally-led conservation, this is your opportunity to rise to the occasion.

Be on the lookout this spring for an announcement on the next opportunity to apply to the NGLI program. Our goal is to have another group of individuals just as remarkable as the first cohort to continue the legacy of the program.
ANTICIPATED TIMELINE FOR NEXT APPLICATION PERIOD:

**July 2021**
Application period opens

**September 2021**
Application closes

**December 2021**
Announcement of 2022 Cohort

**February 2022**
First session at NACD's 2022 Annual Meeting

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more - you are a leader."

- John Quincy Adams
THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 NGLI SPONSORS:
2020 COHORT UPDATES

BARBARA BLEIWEIS
MECKLENBURG SWCD
CHARLOTTE, N.C.

What is one leadership skill you feel you've improved since NGLI started?

Understanding generational management and leadership styles of others, as well as how to work within those parameters to achieve common goals.

What would you tell someone considering applying for the NGLI program?

Do not wait. Go for it, and be prepared for one of the most uplifting experiences of your life.

RYAN BRITT
RANDOLPH COUNTY SWCD
CLIFTON HILL, MO.

What has been your favorite aspect of the program to date?

My relationships with the other cohort members and learning from their vastly different backgrounds or cultures.

What would you tell someone considering applying for the NGLI program?

It's very much worth your time. It would be hard to find a better leadership experience.
How often do you recall NGLI lessons as you navigate your district work?

I apply the skills learned within the leadership course on a daily basis as I perform tasks.

What would you tell someone considering applying for the NGLI program?

This program will reaffirm life lessons and broaden your scope of the impact of conservation on a national scale.

What has been your favorite aspect of the program to date?

I feel that I really benefitted from the Myers-Briggs personality indicator training. It can be so helpful to understand the thought processes involved in others in your organizations in addition to knowing your own preferences.

What has been a benefit of the virtual format of NGLI?

One advantage is we have access to many speakers and programming that might not be available in a real-time setting due to transportation or other resource issues.
MARK MASTERS
LOWER CHATTahooCHEE RIVER SWCD
DAWSON, GA.

What is one leadership skill you feel you’ve improved since NGLI started?

I've learned that it's helpful to remember that the way you view yourself is not always how you’re viewed by others. Good leaders have an ability to see and appreciate both.

What would you tell someone considering applying for the NGLI program?

Do it. Worth every minute. Worth every penny. Worth every "fill in the blank."

CASSIUS SPEARS
SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND CD
ASHAWAY, R.I.

What is one leadership skill you feel you’ve improved since NGLI first started?

The ability to articulate points in conversation and in writing in less words than before.

What would you tell someone considering applying for the NGLI program?

They should participate because of the resources available, connections, bridges, information, resources and extra doors it opens.
What has been your favorite aspect of the program to date?

Networking and building new friendships.

What has been a benefit of the virtual format of NGLI?

We've been able to meet more often and continue the program despite the pandemic.

"The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails."

- William Arthur Ward
The National Conservation Foundation’s 2020 #FutureFocused campaign was one for the books. This annual initiative plays an integral role in funding the NCF and its education and leadership programs. The revenue resulting from #FutureFocused ensures the NCF-Envirothon and the Next Generation Leadership Institute will continue to thrive in 2021 and beyond.

The strategy behind NCF’s #FutureFocused campaign was to conduct a series of interviews providing unique perspectives on the current status and future of conservation efforts. The interviews were transcribed, published to NCF’s blog, and a combination of emails, social media posts and digital display ads were deployed to drive traffic to the blogs. Each interview ended with a link to contribute to NCF’s #FutureFocused campaign. The 2020 campaign proudly raised over $20,000!

A very special thank you to those who volunteered their time to share their perspectives on NCF programs as part of the #FutureFocused campaign: Millie Langley; Phil Campbell; Sam Steiner; Patti Lardie; Emily Moberg, PhD; John Redding; Alyssa D. Hamill; Steve Robinson and Frankie Lineberger!

For more information about NCF’s #FutureFocused initiative, please visit NationalConservationFoundation.org.

- $20,000 Generated to Support NCF Programs and Initiatives
- Nine x Q&A Interviews with Conservation Enthusiasts
- Targeted Emails, Blog posts, Display Ads, Social Media Posts

To learn more, visit NationalConservationFoundation.org
THANK YOU TO OUR CAMPAIGN DONORS

John H. Redding
Karla Maldonado
Candice Abinanti
Ariel Rivers
Suni Heikes-Knapton
Jeremy Peters
Brent Van Dyke
Gary Blair
Tim D. Reich
Irene Moore
Patricia Lardie
Union SWCD
Walton County SWCD
Larry Davis
Upper Pecos SWCD
Phil Campbell

Jake Tibbitts
Joseph Breaux
Ian Cunningham
Roylene Comes At Night
J Smith
James Hill
Byrnes Benoit
Kim LaFleur
Jeanne Dryburgh
Robert Harbison
Burlin Findley
Karl Jensen
Alex Schmidt
Carrie Milligan
Linda Corse
Dennis Carney

Mary Andrews
Wyandot SWCD
Kristy Davis
Donna Foster
Bob L. Warner
Lorelle Steach
Linda Brownson
Chip Jones
Richard L. Duesterhaus
Gina DeMarco
Millie Langley
Denise Savageau
Rick Jeans
Michael Brown
Earl J. Garber

2020 NCF ANNUAL REPORT