

California Envirothon Resources Advisory Panel

February 16, 2021

Introduction

The California Envirothon (CAE) has established a Resources Advisory Panel (RAP) consisting of natural resources professionals and educators to provide technical and educational guidance and recommendations to the CAE Steering Committee (SC). The RAP will function as an adjunct to the SC. The RAP will be representative of the CAE's five fields of study: soils and land use, aquatics/water resources, wildlife, forestry, and the current environmental issue testing scenario.

Purpose

The responsibilities of the CAE RAP is to help plan and organize the annual CAE competition. The RAP, with its individual and collective expertise and skills, will assist, advise, and coordinate with the SC the following activities:

- research and identify study material and resources appropriate for high school level students for each of the five fields of study. The links will be posted on the CAE website for students to access (e.g., scientific reports, natural resources guidebooks, related publications or websites, etc.)
- develop field study station tests and the current issue testing scenario
- coordinate with partner Resource Conservation Districts and the CAE SC to plan and organize natural resources workshops, webinars, and/or lectures for student teams preparing for the competition
- recommend resource professionals and educators to proctor the field station tests and judge the orals presentations
- share their networks of resource professionals and educators to help contribute to the RAP and the annual competition
- suggest and/or follow up on prospective sponsors for funding assistance
- agree to a timeline for posting resources materials on the website, completing station tests and the testing scenario, and scheduling webinars and workshops
- other activities as mutually agreed upon

The RAP will form five teams each having a person designated as the lead. The teams shall be: soils, forestry, aquatics/water resources, wildlife, and the testing scenario. Each team is responsible for the tasks described above. The testing scenario team will consult with the other study teams for review and input as the current testing scenario is developed. The study teams shall consider aspects of the current scenario as it prepares station tests and study links.

As the school year begins in the fall, the RAP shall begin preparations and logistics for the annual competition sometime in the late fall (e.g., November) and meet once a month.

Each individual team shall plan and determine the scheduling of their separate

meetings to organize plans for preparing station tests, webinars, testing scenario, etc. The objective is to have study links up on the CAE website for the students to prepare throughout the school year and study for the competition in the spring. A schedule of workshops and webinars will be determined by the RAP but should allow sufficient time in advance of the scheduled competition for student participation.

The RAP members are requested to participate in the annual event. By participating, students will have the opportunity to engage with them as they contemplate their future careers and begin building their network of professionals in the natural resources field.

Each member of the RAP will agree to a code of ethics to avoid knowingly disseminating information to teams in any district which could give them a competitive advantage over other teams.

Membership

The RAP will comprise resource professionals and educators from among the five fields (as described above). The SC will seek expertise from among the Resource Conservation Districts, federal, state, and local agency partners (e.g., the Natural Resources Conservation Service, CALFIRE, municipal government, etc.), academia, and the private sector.

Members of the CAE SC are invited to join and participate.

The current theme changes each year as the National Conservation Foundation-Envirothon determines the current environmental issue. The CAE RAP may need to seek other needed specific expertise or perspective related to the annual theme to effectively prepare a curricula and educational resources to address the new set of objectives and natural resource topics. Additional members may be invited to join, if temporarily, to provide assistance. It is, however, important to maintain a core group of educators and resources professionals for the RAP.

The Chair of the CAE SC will convene RAP meetings and designate two co-leads representing educators and natural resources professionals. Meetings will occur by teleconference, Zoom, and other communications by email.