

Announcing the 2020 WCSU Environmental Stewardship Competition for Seventh Graders

A student competition focused on Environmental Stewardship, sponsored by WCSU Finding Our Way STEM Outreach Office.

Entries Due: 30 April 2020 Reports Due: __27 May 2020__ Winners Announced: _12 June 2020

What is Environmental Stewardship?

Stewardship is the shared responsibility of caring for our environment. Environmental Stewardship is a meaningful way for **you** to positively impact your community and your future. This competition encourages you to expand your understanding of environmental conservation and stewardship, to explore sustainable solutions and practices, and participate in activities that protect our communities and earth's resources so we may live in harmony with the planet. While Environmental Stewardship lends itself to in-the-field action, it covers a range of topics affecting our planet. Environmental stewards solve real problems and make a positive difference.

Why an Environmental Stewardship Science Fair Competition?

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration is committed to engaging young people's minds in earth sciences and stewardship. Praxair, Inc with offices in Danbury, CT prioritizes community engagement to create a positive impact on quality of life and increase community resilience. Western Connecticut State University Biology Professor Dr. Theodora Pinou, works closely with Danbury Public Schools to develop environmental science curriculum through the use of project-based learning. She is the Director of the Western Connecticut Environmental Stewardship Competition for Seventh Graders.

Project Ideas

What will you investigate for the Western Connecticut State University Environmental Stewardship Competition (WCSUESC)? What environmental topics stir a passion for you? Chemical run-off into local streams that adversely affect wildlife and humans? The proliferation of plastics and their disposal? Protecting endangered plant and animal species? Clean water? Flooding in your neighborhood? Hyper-local climate change? These are just a few ideas. Environmental Stewardship has countless aspects. Think about an environmental or conservation issue and ways to solve or improve it. Use science to investigate and document your topic and actions; for instance, lab work, soil and water testing, or species documentation.

Process

Select your topic and use the WCSUESC Application/Project-Planning Guide to clarify your idea to map-out anticipated project steps and outcomes. Your science teacher, parent or guardian, or a high school student can help you clarify your direction. To register for the WCSUESC submit the WCSUESC Application/Project-Planning Guide to Western Connecticut State University by 25 April 2020__. Keep a copy of the Application/Project-Planning Guide for yourself to stay on track as you work towards your final project.

Stewardship Report is Due: **27 May 2020**

Your Stewardship Report should include the following:

- A Report detailing the environmental conservation issue you are addressing, the problem it presents and your solution(s). As appropriate the report should include research or in-the-field work you did to address the issue, results from actions taken, evidence of your effort and time such as photographs, letters of support, and any other relevant documentation.

You can only be considered if you submitted an application first (due 30 April 2020). Your report is due 27 May 2020 and will be judged by a committee of Biology Professors at Western Connecticut State University and by a Danbury Middle School Science Teacher.

Winners will be announced on 12 June 2020 by email and phone call. Prizes will be awarded.

First Prize: One \$100 prize

Second Prize: Two \$50 prizes

Third Prize: Four \$25 prizes

Important Dates and Deadlines

WCSUESC Application and Planning Guide due 30 April 2020.

WCSUESC Project Poster and Report due 27 May 2020.

Submit to:

Dr. Theodora Pinou

Professor of Biology

Biological and Environmental Sciences

Western Connecticut State University

181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810

203-837-8793

pinout@wcsu.edu

Application and Planning Guide

2020 WCSU Environmental Stewardship Competition (WCSUESC) for Seventh Graders

*A competition, focused on Community Environmental Research and Solutions,
sponsored by Western Connecticut State University, Finding Our Way STEM
Outreach Program*

Prizes awarded: First Prize \$100__, Second Prize_\$50__, Third Prize_\$25__

Application Due: __ 30 April 2020__ Report Due: __27 May 2020__

Winners Announced: __12 June 2020__

Student Contact Information

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Primary Phone Number: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

Science Teacher: _____

Application Date: _____

Application Description

Title of project: _____

Write a brief description of your environmental stewardship project and how you will implement it. Include, field work, volunteer work, civic action relevant to your project, expected outcomes, community collaborations, and/or any other methods you will use to accomplish your goal. See Tables 1 and 2 on the following pages to help you write your description. Use additional paper if needed to fully describe your entry.

Environmental Stewardship Issue that concerns you.	
Why is it important to you?	
How does the issue affect your community?	

2. Use the table below to explain the problem you are addressing, and how your stewardship project will help solve the problem.

Problem:	
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Root Cause:	
Solution with long term impact:	
How to make the solution sustainable:	

3. Do you plan to continue researching your topic into the future?
Individually or as a Group? Explain.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/ Guardian _____ Date _____

Stewardship WEBSITES:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOrVotzBNto>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-ZUB2FbrV0#action=share>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEsV8MNd-1c>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Og4gYUR_m94

http://baybackpack.com/field_studies/?theme=Pollution+and+Pressures

http://baybackpack.com/schoolyard_projects/topic/285

2020 WCSU Environmental Stewardship Competition (WCSUESC)

Entries due: 27 May 2020

When you have completed your Environmental Stewardship Project, Submit a report that includes a description of work, fieldwork, community collaborations, and/or any other methods used to accomplish your objective. Include rationale on the environmental impact your work and the possible future sustainability of your efforts. Include photos of your project, letters from mentors, advisors, teachers to document your efforts, or attach examples, if appropriate. Basically, you need to demonstrate that you did the work you claim to have done, and the number of hours you invested in the work. The report should be a minimum of two pages, not including photos. It should include a picture of you engaging in your stewardship work. Submit this application/project planner by email to:

Dr. Theodora Pinou

Professor of Biology

Biological and Environmental Sciences

Western Connecticut State University

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