

Announcing the 2021 WCSU Environmental Stewardship Competition for Seventh Graders

A Science Fair, focused on Community Environmental Research and Solutions, sponsored by Finding Our Way, Western Connecticut State University.

Applications Due: April 23rd Entries Due: June 4th Winners Announced: June 11th at Virtual Awards Ceremony.

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 Science Fair 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. Many topics need more research, ideas for solutions, and lab work using the traditional science fair approach. 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 April 23rd. Keep a copy of the Application/Project-Planning Guide for yourself to stay on track as you work towards your final project.

Stewardship Competition Report Entry is Due June 4th, 2021

Your completed stewardship project should include the following:

- A report detailing the environmental conservation issue, 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 experiments, data tracking documents, photographs, communication tools, and other relevant documentation.
- An explanatory Poster (Take picture and attach to Report.)

Your entry is due **June 4th** 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 at an Awards Ceremony on June 11th on a virtual event. Prizes will be awarded.

First Prize \$100.00

Second Prize \$75.00

Third Prize \$25.00

Your project and poster will be showcased at the Awards Ceremony and you will be asked to talk to the judges and guests about your project.

Important Dates and Deadlines

WCSUESC Application and Planning Guide due April 23rd.

WCSUESC Project Poster and Report due June 4th.

Submit by email to:

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