

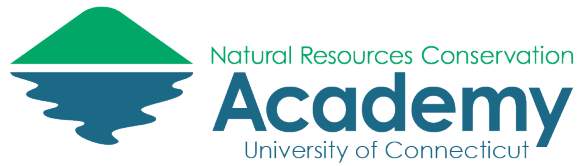
UConn Conservation Training Partnerships 2021 Participant Handbook

This handbook will provide you with information about the NRCA's Conservation Training Partnerships program. Please refer to the NRCA website (nrca.uconn.edu/students-adults) or contact the program coordinator (nicole.freidenfelds@uconn.edu) if you have any questions.

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A. Conservation Training Partnerships Experience

The Conservation Training Partnerships (CTP) program partners teens and adult community volunteers and supports their conservation efforts by providing training during a 2-day field workshop and guidance as they conduct a local conservation project of their choosing. A team of at least one teen and at least one adult is paired prior to the workshop. During the workshop, each team learns how they can apply innovative, user-friendly mapping and web technology to address local conservation issues through hands-on fieldwork. After the workshop, the team carries out a conservation project that addresses a local conservation issue in their hometown using their new toolset. The projects are developed by the team at the workshop and CTP instructors provide support to help the team along the way. Teams showcase their work at an event in March of the following year.

CTP is a new program formed under the partnership of faculty from UConn's Department of Natural Resources & the Environment, Center for Land Use Education & Research (CLEAR), and Neag School of Education. CTP is an outgrowth of the NRCA Conservation Ambassador Program (CAP), now in its 8th year of training high school students in natural resources science and pairing them with local conservation organizations to conduct community projects. In a nutshell, CTP is designed to be a "mini-CAP," extending our reach to more students and local partners and jump-starting additional local conservation projects.

CTP is funded by a National Science Foundation Advancing Informal STEM Learning grant (AISL-1612650). As such, there is educational research associated with CTP, conducted by our partners at the UConn Neag School of Education. Participants may be asked to provide feedback through pre- and post-surveys or through interviews during their project.

B. Hybrid Workshop Sessions & Dates

The COVID-19 pandemic caused us to change our typical program format. The first day of each workshop session will be on site in person (and all or mostly outside!). Day 2 will be online.

SESSION 1

Thursday, July 8 – Lion's Memorial Park – 9:30am-3:30pm

50 Park Rd, Mansfield

Friday, July 9 – Online via Webex – 9:45am*-3:00pm

SESSION 2

Saturday, July 31 – Keney Park Pond House – 9:30am-3:30pm

323 Edgewood St, Hartford

Sunday, August 1 – Online via Webex – 9:45am* -3:00pm

C. Transportation & Parking

Participants should make their own travel arrangements to and from the workshop location. If you need assistance arranging transportation, please contact the program coordinator as soon as possible, as we will not be able to help with last minute requests. Specific parking instructions will be emailed to you closer to the date of the workshop.



***adults should join online at 9am for Minor Protection training**

D. Check-In Information

Please check-in online via Webex during the **Pre-Workshop Orientation the week of June 28th**. Specific dates and times vary – you can select the one most convenient for you on your enrollment forms. You'll receive an **email link** to access your chosen Pre-Workshop Orientation and the Day 2 Workshop.

Day 1 check-in and a “Meet & Greet” breakfast will begin at 9:30 am. **We invite parents to stay for the “Meet & Greet” breakfast from 9:30-10:00 am so that they can get to know their child’s community partner/teammate(s).** It is very important that you arrive early, as we will begin promptly. **Directions will be emailed to you closer to the date of the workshop.** Signs will be posted near the workshop site directing you to the check-in location. If you need to make special arrangements about your arrival or departure, please call the NRCA office at 860-486-6933 as soon as possible. If you need to reach the CTP Coordinator on the day of the workshop, please text 860-468-5359.

E. Things You’ll Need

Day 1 will be packed with fun, hands-on activities (all or mostly) outside – rain or shine! You should expect to walk in and around nearby field and forest habitats, as well as nearby water bodies. Keep in mind the potential for variable weather. We suggest you bring the following:

Clothing

- Sneakers/hiking shoes that are comfortable for walking and can get dirty
- Comfortable clothes (e.g. t-shirt, long sleeved shirt, pants or shorts)
- Hat, sunglasses and extra socks
- Rain coat

Other Supplies

Note: it is okay if you do not have these items – we can provide what you need

- Water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Backpack
- Writing utensil

Apps Installed on Your Mobile Device

- AllTrails App (*download for free: [Apple iOS devices](#) or [Android devices](#)*)
- EpiCollect5 App (*download for free: [Apple iOS devices](#) or [Android devices](#)*)
- Seek App (*download for free: [Apple iOS devices](#) or [Android devices](#)*)

Day 2 will be online, yet also packed with fun activities, some of which will be outside near your own home. We suggest you come prepared with the following:

Technology

Note: it is okay if you do not have these items – we can provide what you need

- Laptop/Computer
- Smartphone/mobile device (e.g. iPhone, iPad, Android phone/tablet)
- Internet Access
- Web-Cam



User Accounts

- Google account ([free](#); check out our handy [Get to Know Google Drive](#) tutorial)
- AllTrails account ([free](#) - login using your Google account)
- EpiCollect5 account ([free](#) - login using your Google account)

It will also be helpful to have the **free Webex software downloaded and installed in advance on your laptop or computer**, rather than connecting through a web browser. You can [download it here](#) and [try out a test meeting](#) on your device beforehand.

F. Discrimination Clause

We do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex (gender, sexual orientation or harassment), age, national origin, ethnicity, physical or mental disabilities, learning disability, marital status, religion, status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam Era, or any other group protected by civil rights laws. Participants seeking an accommodation should contact the NRCA office at 860-486-6933.

G. UConn's Minor Protection Policy

The University of Connecticut is proud to serve the broader community through a wide range of educational and enriching opportunities and is committed to promoting a welcoming and secure experience for the youth who participate in activities at UConn. Per UConn's Minor Protection Policy, all adults participating in NRCA programs that involve youth must become Authorized Adults before working with NRCA high school students. This includes our staff as well as NRCA community partners/adult participants (except for parents). Information on becoming an Authorized Adult is in your enrollment materials.

H. Program Expectations

NRCA's Conservation Training Partnerships program has capacity only for a small group of participants. Accordingly, our primary expectation is that all participants come with a positive attitude and fully engage in the entire program. Please keep in mind the following program expectations:

1. Complete the NRCA's Conservation Training Partnerships program in its entirety, which includes attending each day of the workshop and carrying out a conservation project with your assigned teammate(s) to the best of your ability.
2. Treat all program staff and fellow participants with respect, including following directions, being on time, and paying attention during activities.

I. Conservation Projects & Post-Workshop Support

After you have completed the workshop and have returned home, the fun is just beginning! You and your partner will carry out a conservation project of your choosing in your hometown. These local projects are a "win" in all directions – for the students, for the local conservation advocates, for the community, and for the environment! During the project, you will not be alone; the program coordinator and other CTP instructors will be able to assist throughout the process via in-person visits and web or email check-ins. You will learn more about the ways to connect with CTP staff during your project at the CTP workshop.



Meet the 2021 CTP Team!



Cary Chadwick
Geospatial Training Program Coordinator. "I have two kids of my own, but my favorite baby memory is cradling a bear cub in my arms."

Program Coordinator & Instructor

Nicole Freidenfelds

Former ecologist & high school science teacher who had a beloved pet tarantula named Princess for 15 years.



Geospatial Instructors

Dave Dickson

Geospatial Training Program Coordinator. "I have begged Hillary Clinton and Nancy Pelosi for money."



Instruction & Research

John Volin

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs & Professor of Natural Resources. Original "founder" of the NRCA and Provost at the University of Maine. Go Black Bears!



Todd Campbell

Department Head of Curriculum & Instruction and semi-hippy VW Bus-loving wannabe sunflower farmer and science educator with 5 kids and wife of 32 years 🤞



Chet Arnold

Extension Educator & Director of the Center for Land-use Education and Research. Author of a cookbook and book of poetry for children.



David Moss

Faculty of Teacher Education. He plays drums and trumpet in a pop band and is looking forward to playing gigs out in public again - the sooner the better!



Laura Cisneros

Assistant Extension Professor. "My biggest 'pee my pants moment' was when I almost stepped on a 10-12 ft anaconda while studying spider monkeys in the Amazon rainforest."



Jonathan Simmons

PhD student in the department of Curriculum & Instruction and a two-time competitive karaoke champion.



Grad Students

Rebecca Colby

PhD student in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology who enjoys wrestling fish.



Elana Berlin

MS student in NRE. "I foster three rats and own one mouse."



Maddy Meadows-McDonnell

PhD student in Natural Resources & the Environment. "I love to swim, I've been on a swim team since I was 5!"



Ankit Singh

PhD student in Natural Resources & the Environment. "I won a non-stop talking competition in high school!"



K. Guidelines Regarding COVID-19

Following the workshop, teams can elect to meet in person to carry out their local conservation projects, with or without the CTP Program Coordinator present. In order to meet in person, CTP participants must agree to adhere to COVID-19 safety guidelines set forth by the State of Connecticut and/or the University of Connecticut. While much is unknown about the evolving nature of these guidelines over the next 6-12 months, we will work diligently to find a project that has impact for both our participants and their communities that can be completed while taking all appropriate precautions to protect the health and safety of those directly involved and the public at large.

L. Coordinator Contact Information

Nicole Freidenfelds

Natural Resources Conservation Academy
Dept. of Natural Resources & the Environment
1376 Storrs Road Unit 4087
Storrs, CT 06269-4087

Email: nicole.freidenfelds@uconn.edu

Phone: 860-486-6933 (office)

Mobile: 860-468-5359 (text only)

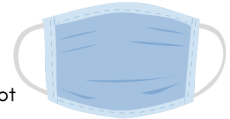



CONSERVATION PROJECTS & COVID-19

Guidance on carrying out conservation projects during a pandemic

WEAR A MASK OR FACE COVERING

Masks or face coverings are required for anyone who is not vaccinated. We can provide a face covering if you need one.





MAINTAIN A SAFE SOCIAL DISTANCE

Meet outside and if you're not vaccinated, stay 6' from other people when possible.

WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer gel/wipes when hand washing is not possible.





CLEAN & DISINFECT SHARED OBJECTS

Clean and disinfect shared objects after each use.

STAY HOME IF YOU DON'T FEEL WELL

Do not meet in person for two weeks if you have:

- cough
- shortness of breath
- difficulty breathing
- fever
- chills
- muscle pain
- sore throat
- loss of taste/smell



Or if you had close contact with anyone diagnosed with or under investigation for COVID-19.

Natural Resource Conservation Academy Website

<https://www.nrca.uconn.edu/>



Join us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram: @UConnNRCA

