

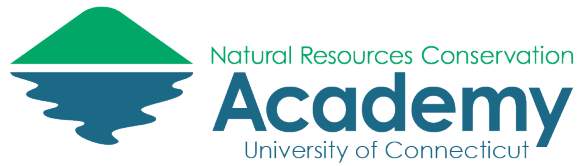
NRCA'S CONSERVATION TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS 2020 PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

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 or nrca@uconn.edu) if you have any questions about the program.

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A. NRCA's 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. Virtual Workshop Sessions & Dates

The COVID-19 pandemic caused us to change our typical program format. Join the 2020 CTP virtual workshops via Zoom from the comfort of your own home!

SESSION 1:

via Zoom

July 11-12, 2020 (Saturday & Sunday)

SESSION 2:

via Zoom

July 16-17, 2020 (Thursday & Friday)

C. Check-In Information

Check-in via Zoom during the Pre-Workshop Orientation the week of July 6th. Specific dates and times vary – select the one most convenient for you on your enrollment forms.

Note: you are welcome to virtually arrive 30 minutes early for a tutorial on using Zoom and Google Drive. You'll receive an email link to access your chosen Pre-Workshop Orientation.



D. Schedule

Pre-Workshop Orientation

- *Optional:* arrive 30 minutes early for tech tutorial
- Program and research study background information
- Communication best practices

Day 1

10:00am - 10:10am	Quick Tech Check
10:10am - 10:25am	Program Overview & Objectives
10:25am - 10:55am	Introductions & Icebreakers
10:55am - 11:15am	Conservation in Your Backyard
11:15am - 11:30am	Introduction to Field Data Collection
11:30am - 11:50am	Biodiversity Data Collection Activity
11:50am - 12:00pm	Data Discussion
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Break
1:00pm - 1:30pm	Conservation Project Ideas
1:30pm - 2:10pm	Team Project Brainstorming
2:10pm - 2:15pm	Break
2:15pm - 2:30pm	Tech Showcase
2:30pm - 2:50pm	AllTrails Demo

- Whole Group Activity
- Team/Small Group Activity (Breakout Room)
- Individual Activity
- Logistics/Breaks

Day 2

10:00am - 10:15am	Intro to Day's Activities & Review AllTrails Activity
10:15am - 10:30am	Project Templates
10:30am - 11:00am	Team Project Discussions
11:00am - 11:20am	Create an Epicollect Form
11:20am - 11:35am	Tree ID Activity
11:35am - 11:45am	Tree ID Data Discussion
11:45am - 12:45pm	Break
12:45pm - 1:15pm	Project Development - Template Groups
1:15pm - 1:45pm	Project Development - Individual Teams
1: 45pm - 2:30pm	Team Project Presentations
2:30pm - 2:45pm	Post-Workshop Survey
2: 45pm - 3:00pm	Resource Rundown & Concluding Remarks

Note: this agenda is tentative and subject to change

E. Things You'll Need

Technology:

Note: it is okay if you do not have these items; if you need to borrow these items, please indicate so in your enrollment forms

- ☐ Laptop/Computer
- ☐ Smartphone/mobile device (e.g. iPhone, Cellular-ready 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)

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

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. To become an Authorized Adult, adult participants will have to complete two steps:

- ☐ UConn's Minor Protection Training by participating in a 45-minute interactive video. You will receive a link in an email from noreply@sabacloud.com with a subject header of "Online Course Registration for Minors Protection Program Training." Click the link in the email to access the training.
- ☐ Submit forms for a background check to UConn's HR department. You will receive an email with background check forms from UConn's HR department (UConnStorrs4HNRCA@screening.services) with a subject header of "UConn Storrs - Background Check Requirement." The email will contain instructions for completing the background check process.

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).
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

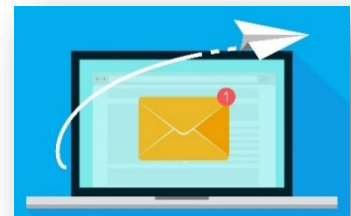
After you have completed the workshop and have returned home, the fun is just beginning; you and your partner will carry out a conservation project of your choosing in your hometown! From our experience, when energized, tech-savvy high school students team up with dedicated, knowledgeable local conservation leaders, good things happen. These local projects are a "win" in all directions – for the students, for the local conservation advocates, for the community, and for the environment!

As a team, you and your partner will apply new knowledge and tools gained during the workshop to address a local environmental issue. The project topic, duration and intensity may be tailored to your individual interests and circumstances.

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

Monthly Email/Text Check-Ins: Informal, relaxed monthly check-ins to share project progress, questions, and issues, and receive support from the CTP coordinator.

- CTP coordinator will send your team ***a monthly check-in the first Monday of each month*** during the time you all are working on the project
- At the workshop, please let the CTP coordinator know if you want the check-ins sent via email or text
- CTP coordinator info: nicole.freidenfelds@uconn.edu (email), 860-486-46933 (office phone) and 860-468-5359 (text only)



NRCA Forum: Post questions, communicate with CTP instructors and participants about topics covered in workshop, and get more resources!

- Great resource where you can ask questions to CTP instructors and get a response within a day!
- Share project progress, community events, and anything related to the workshop topics.
- CTP instructors will share web tools, technology, community events, and grant opportunities too.
- **Join the NRCA Forum** by navigating to *NRCA Forum* under the *Participant Resources* tab on the CTP website (<http://nrca.uconn.edu/students-adults>) or go to <https://spectrum.chat/uconn-nrcacademy>. Once on the NRCA Forum page, click “Join community.”



Program Website: The CTP website is full of technology and conservation project resources, including workshop manuals, project templates and webinars. We encourage you to check the website frequently:

<http://nrca.uconn.edu/students-adults>

Contacts

Program Coordinator & Instruction:

Nicole Freidenfelds: nicole.freidenfelds@uconn.edu

Geospatial Instructors:

Cary Chadwick: cary.chadwick@uconn.edu

Dave Dickson: david.dickson@uconn.edu

CTP Instruction & Research:

John Volin: john.volin@uconn.edu

Chester Arnold: chester.arnold@uconn.edu

Todd Campbell: todd.campbell@uconn.edu

David Moss: david.moss@uconn.edu

Jonathan Simmons: jonathan.simmons@uconn.edu

Laura Cisneros: laura.cisneros@uconn.edu



Participants will have the opportunity to showcase their work at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources or Connecticut Land Conservation Conference in March 2021. Select participant teams may be interviewed during multiple periods of the project by UConn Neag School of Education researchers to study the importance of intergenerational learning in informal STEM programs.

J. Program Timeline

Program Component	Description	Timeframe
Two-day Workshop	CTP workshops introduce teen & adult participants to conservation concepts and online mapping tools that can be used to address environmental issues. By the end of the workshop, each teen & adult team will develop a conservation project that will address a local environmental issue.	July 2020
Conservation Project	CTP teams may begin their conservation project at any point after the workshop. The starting and finishing dates of the project are flexible and will be dependent on the specific environmental topic addressed (<i>e.g.</i> , some projects may need to be done in a certain season) and your schedules.	Between July 2020 – Feb 2021 for 3-4 weeks, 6-8 weeks, or longer or shorter!
Monthly Email/Text Check-Ins	<p>While you are working on your conservation project, CTP instructors will be able to assist you through multiple means (see <i>Post-Workshop Support</i> below).</p> <p>One form of support will be through monthly email or text check-ins initiated by the CTP coordinator. During these check-ins, you and your teammate(s) can share your progress, questions, and issues regarding your project. Check-ins will happen the first Monday of each month. The coordinator will ask your team if you prefer check-ins via email or text at the workshop.</p> <p><i>We ask that <u>all</u> participants contribute to these check-ins during the months you are working on the project.</i> This will be a key way that the CTP coordinator can support your team as you complete the project.</p>	First Monday of each month during project duration
Showcase Project at Conference (<i>optional</i>)	All CTP teams will have the opportunity to showcase their work at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources or Connecticut Land Conservation Conference in March 2020. This is an excellent opportunity to share your work with environmental professionals and conservation volunteers that work throughout the region. This opportunity is optional and support to attend a conference will be provided by CTP.	March 2021

K. Meet the CTP Team

Meet the UConn CTP Team!

Program Coordinator & Instructor

Nicole Freidenfelds

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



Geospatial Instructors

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."



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 soon to be 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 31 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 Mentors

Rebecca Colby

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



Grace Vaziri

PhD student in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and former professional San Francisco dog walker.



Ankit Singh

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



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!"



Undergrad Interns

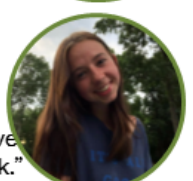
Meg Sanders

Environmental Science major. "My favorite farm animals are cows!"



Sydney Collins

Environmental Science major. "I have a beautiful beta fish, Prince Fredwick."



L. 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.



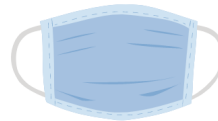
CONSERVATION PROJECTS & COVID-19

Guidance on carrying out conservation
projects during a pandemic



WEAR A MASK OR FACE COVERING

Masks or face coverings are
required at all times.
We can provide a face
covering if you need one.




MAINTAIN A SAFE SOCIAL DISTANCE

Meet outside and stay at
least six feet apart 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.

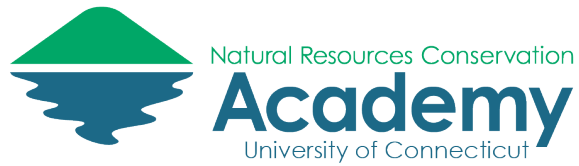
STAY HOME IF YOU DON'T FEEL WELL

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.



M. Program Coordinator Contact Information

Nicole Freidenfelds

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

Email: nicole.freidenfelds@uconn.edu or nrca@uconn.edu

Phone: 860-486-6933 (office)

Mobile: 860-468-5359 (text only)

Natural Resource Conservation Academy Website:
www.nrca.uconn.edu

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