



MASSACHUSETTS ENVIROTHON

Seasonal Envirothon Engagement – Wildlife (Sense of Place)

Go outside, wherever you live, and make observations of the ‘wildness’ around you with a special eye to the connection of wildlife, water, soils and forests. Select the same area (yard, vacant lot, field, woods, neighborhood) every time you go outside so you can gain a better understanding of the natural world you inhabit. Engage all of your senses, connect to your surroundings, learn who and what are your natural neighbors, ask questions, be curious, spend 15 minutes 3x/week on the same Engagement. Once the fifth Engagement is completed start again at number one since there will be many natural changes throughout the seasons.

Collaborate with your teammates as you each go out to investigate your own respective area at the same time and day, make observations and then reconvene, electronically, to compare and contrast your observations, and share reflections on the experience. Feel free to share your observations or questions with Pam Landry, MassWildlife Education Coordinator at pam.landry@mass.gov. Please put Envirothon Engagement in the subject line. For Massachusetts wildlife fact sheets visit <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-fisheries-and-wildlife>. If interested, post your observations of plants, wildlife, and more through the NCF-Envirothon iNaturalist project <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/ncf-envirothon?tab=about>

II. Envirothon Engagement – Maps (Sense of Place)

Observers name:

Location:

Date:

Start time:

Ending time:

Weather:

Use a large piece of paper and draw a map from a bird’s eye view of your outdoor space, including detail from afar and near. Is the ground flat, sloping, hilly? What is the vegetation? What are the most notable features of the area? Are there any water features?

What questions resulted from your observation? Is there something you would like to learn more about?

