

ENVIROTHON PROMOTES

Conservation: provides knowledge and training in ecology and natural resource management principles and practices, and emphasizes the conservation of Pennsylvania's natural resources.

Environmental Stewardship: teaches the importance of environmental sensitivity while stressing a need to achieve a social, ecologic, and economic balance.

Sustainability: shows future generations how to be better equipped to address the complex natural resource concerns facing today's world, as well as the challenges of tomorrow.

A Lighter Environmental Footprint: encourages students to reduce their demand on nature and our natural resources.

Green Technology: leads students toward developing clean and sustainable communities through the study of such topics as energy, green building, and source reduction.

Teamwork: offers hands-on learning experiences that develop teamwork skills. Students learn to depend on each other and consider different viewpoints in making knowledgeable decisions on diverse environmental subjects.

Critical and Analytical Thinking: teaches students to analyze data they collect through observation and written expression and fashion it into a practical solution to a real-life concern. The teams communicate their findings in an oral presentation.

Community Awareness: encourages students to become active in their local community's watershed groups, municipal boards, and environmental education and learning centers. Students have an opportunity to use their skills and knowledge to influence local government decisions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact your County Conservation District:

Bucks County Conservation District
1456 Ferry Road, Suite 704
Doylestown, PA 18901
www.buckseed.org



Or:

Pennsylvania Envirothon, Inc.
702 West Pitt Street, Suite 3
Bedford, PA 15522
Tel: 814-623-7900, ext. 111
Fax: 814-623-0481
www.envirothonpa.org

The Pennsylvania Envirothon, Inc. is recognized as a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to environmental education of youth in Pennsylvania.

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Pennsylvania Envirothon

Accept a Natural Challenge!

HOW IT WORKS

Students: Put together a team of five students in grades 9 through 12 and recruit an adult team advisor—teacher, parent, or volunteer. You don't have to be in the same grade. You may represent ecology clubs, scout troops, 4-H groups, home-study students, traditional high school classes, or any combination of interests.

Advisors: Meet with your teams and recruit additional students. Contact your County Conservation District for a teacher's resource guide and learning materials on the Envirothon's major topics—soil and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and environmental issues—or visit the Pennsylvania Envirothon Web site www.envirothonpa.org. The majority of resources, guidelines, and learning objectives refer to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Environment & Ecology and Science & Technology. The materials provide ample opportunities for outdoor studies and hands-on learning.

The Team: All you have to do is start studying for the competition! If you have any questions, call your County Conservation District or the Pennsylvania State Envirothon office.

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

In Pennsylvania, the Envirothon is sponsored by County Conservation Districts, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, and the State Conservation Commission.

A number of partners support the Envirothon by providing information, guidance, and personnel. These agencies include: the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Game Commission, Department of Agriculture, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Department of Education, and Department of Environmental Protection, and the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. We are also fortunate to get support from private and corporate sponsorships.



Why Participate in the Envirothon?

Because it is ...

Educational! You will learn about a broad range of environmental topics and compete using your knowledge in five key areas.

Exciting! The competitive format generates excitement and helps to develop your skills in teamwork, oral presentation, and problem-solving. Your participation will give you tools to become a future leader in helping citizens make informed decisions about how to live in balance with the natural world that surrounds us.

Fun! Much of the learning takes place through outdoor, hands-on activities from stream hikes to nature centers. Throughout the competitions, you will meet students from other schools.

Five Key Areas of Learning



Soils and Land Use

Professional soil scientists help students learn about soil structure, interpret maps, and evaluate land forms and soil characteristics that affect agricultural and development issues.



Aquatic Ecology

Students work alongside aquatic biologists to assess the quality of delicate aquatic ecosystems. They also learn to identify aquatic organisms, manage watersheds, and determine non-point source pollution.



Forestry

With the guidance of professional foresters, students learn basic forestry principles and practices – from tree identification to forest structure and dynamics.



Wildlife

A favorite for many Envirothon participants, students learn firsthand from wildlife experts about animal populations, their dynamics, and the importance of habitat conservation.



Environmental Issues

Challenged by field professionals, students work as a team to explore the important facets of current environmental issues. This topic changes annually.



Public Speaking

The oral presentation challenges teams to work together and communicate their solution to a complex environmental issue in front of a panel of judges.

PARTICIPATE IN THE ENVIROTHON TODAY ...

You will be exposed to scientists and experts in the fields of environmental science and ecology who will coach and guide your learning experience. Your team will first compete in a county Envirothon, with winners advancing to the state contest where over \$10,000 in scholarships and prizes are awarded. State winners compete at the North American level!

...BECOME A STEWARD OF THE EARTH FOREVER!

Each generation leaves its own distinct mark on planet Earth. By participating in the Envirothon, you will discover how choices in your daily life bring about consequences for all of the elements in the natural world. Your new knowledge will help you learn how to create a sustainable planet for future generations. By understanding the delicate balance that needs to be maintained and by making smart choices, you will be inspired to motivate and lead others in conservation, preservation, and overall environmental awareness and stewardship.



THE COMPETITION...TURNING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION

At the Envirothon, students compete using their knowledge in the five topic areas highlighted above. A current environmental issue is chosen each year as the “hot topic” for the focus of the oral presentation component. In the oral component, a scenario is created where students must evaluate the impacts and threats posed on aquatics, forests, soils and land use, and wildlife. This component challenges the team’s ability to analyze a complex, real-life environmental problem, to predict its likely effects, and to develop possible solutions. The team presents its findings to a panel of judges, and must also be prepared to answer any questions from the panel.

Through the program, students develop an understanding of effective teamwork, resource management, and ecology. At the same time, they gain valuable exposure to a range of disciplines and potential career paths.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ENVIROTHON

Hundreds of teachers and professionals throughout Pennsylvania guide high school students through an environmental education program that combines classroom learning with outdoor activities. This exposure to nature and seeing how humans impact the natural world provide invaluable lessons for understanding ecosystems and our environment.

Accept the Natural Challenge!

HELP PENNSYLVANIA



GO GREEN

