



PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON

extend a natural challenge!

What Is The Envirothon All About?

It's about challenging our youth!

The future of the earth depends on the youth of today. Soon they will be making decisions about what detergent to buy, what kind of car to drive, and whether to use paper or plastic bags at the grocery store. All of these decisions affect the environment. The Envirothon offers a multitude of opportunities for you to challenge your students' interest and enthusiasm towards the environment. Watch your students become empowered by their own motivation as the Envirothon engages them in an exciting, multi-faceted study of the environment.

It's about teamwork and positive attitudes!

Positive attitudes and behaviors are reinforced in cooperative experiences like the Envirothon. The Envirothon is a hands-on learning experience that stresses teamwork for success. Winning isn't the top priority; it's having fun and learning to work together to solve problems. Students will learn to depend on each other and consider different viewpoints in making knowledgeable decisions on diverse environmental subjects. Students see how professionals deal with real life problems: which wetlands should we save; how much pollution is acceptable; where should a sewage treatment plant be located?

It's about making teaching fun!

Today's students are tomorrow's homeowners, consumers and decision makers. Teachers are faced with the critical job of preparing students to make the most of their lives while making the best choices about our natural resources and environment. The Envirothon teaches comprehensive environmental sensitivity and ecosystem awareness. Teaching guidelines, based on the state's required Environment and Ecology standards, as well as other academic standards, are prepared by environmental professionals and distributed to teachers. In addition, teachers are provided with links to environmental agencies, resources, and free materials for classroom instruction. It is a great environmental encounter for all!

Just the Facts!

- The goal of the Envirothon is to teach students more about what is happening in the environment and how our actions can affect that environment.
- The Envirothon doesn't just involve facts and figures. It also explores how you can get involved in your own community and make a difference.
- Students enrolled in grades 9-12 in a public, private, vocational technical, or a home-school program are eligible to participate in the Envirothon.
- All you need to do is to put together a team of five interested students and guide and prepare them with the necessary material then call your conservation district. The Envirothon program will provide all resource materials in the subject areas of: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils & Land Use, Wildlife, and Current Environmental Issues.
- Examples of Current Issues explored in the Envirothon have included Biodiversity, Farmland Preservation, Non-point Source Pollution, Wetlands, Hazardous Waste Disposal and Invasive Species.
- Your team will begin by competing against other area schools in a county Envirothon. If your team wins, they will go on to the state event and compete against students from across the state. The ultimate stop is a trip to the Canon Envirothon which is hosted by a different state or Canadian province every year.
- The Envirothon is a product of Pennsylvania's Conservation Districts. They are assisted by professionals from the PA Fish & Boat Commission, the PA Game Commission, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Department of Environmental Protection, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the PA Department of Education.

***It's about your world...and your future!
Take a natural challenge with the Envirothon!***

What You Should Know!

The Pennsylvania Envirothon educates high school students in natural resource and environmental sciences. The program emphasizes the importance of environmental sensitivity while stressing a need to achieve a social, ecologic and economic balance in life. The learning objectives emphasize awareness, knowledge, attitudes and application. The Pennsylvania Envirothon provides future generations with the ability to be better equipped to address the complex natural resource concerns facing today's world as well as the challenges of tomorrow.

Young minds thrive on challenges. The Envirothon is designed to cultivate a desire to learn more about our natural environment through competitive events. For over 20 years, high schools in Pennsylvania have been recognizing the value of the Envirothon experience. Students involved in the Envirothon often pursue further education in environmental fields. Many Envirothon participants pursuing college degrees in various natural resource studies have indicated that their education choice was partly due, or strengthened by, their Envirothon experience. Many Envirothon advisors credit the Envirothon with increasing student interest and involvement in environmental sciences. To many people involved, the Envirothon is more than just a competition.

The goal of the Envirothon is not only to teach environmental facts and realities, but also to instill an understanding of the ecological and community factors that are involved in environmental decisions and actions. With society facing a number of pressing environmental management issues in areas such as water quality, ecosystems, solid waste and land use, it's important to show tomorrow's leaders the positive and negative effects that individual actions have on the natural environment.

Understanding the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources, realizing environmental interactions and interdependencies, and knowing where to turn for facts concerning environmental matters are all part of the Envirothon experience.

The Envirothon includes three levels of competition: county, state, and international. County events take place on a school day in the spring. One winning team from each county participates at the state event. The state Envirothon is a two-day event which takes place the third week of May. The state champion will represent Pennsylvania at the international Canon Envirothon, a five day event scheduled within the last week of July and the first two weeks of August. The Canon Envirothon, the world's largest environmental competition, is hosted by a different state or province each year.

There is no participation fee for the Envirothon. Local events are sponsored by conservation districts and hosted by a local park or natural area. The state registration fee is usually paid by the conservation district. If your team proceeds to the Canon Envirothon, all team/advisor expenses (registration, travel, food, lodging) are paid through special funding granted by the PA Fish & Boat Commission and the PA Game Commission.

The PA Envirothon is sponsored by the PA Association of Conservation Districts, the PA State Conservation Commission, and Pennsylvania's sixty-six conservation districts. Funding is provided by Air Products and Chemicals Inc., Pennsylvania Power & Light Company, PA Outdoor Writers Association, PA Department of Environmental Protection and Pennsylvania's Growing Greener Program.

To find out how *you* can get involved, contact the Pennsylvania Envirothon program at:

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Or contact your local conservation district.

*The Envirothon is offered and operated on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.
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