



# PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON

*extend a natural challenge!*

## What Is The Envirothon All About?

### *It's about challenging our youth!*

Students thrive on challenges. The Envirothon offers a multitude of opportunities for channeling student interest and enthusiasm through its cooperative team learning approach. 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 making teaching fun!*

The Envirothon is a hands-on learning experience involving student teamwork. The result is a group of individuals who have not only learned cooperative problem solving but have gained a wealth of personal knowledge on diverse environmental subjects. With the assistance of experts in such fields as aquatics, soils and land use, forestry, and wildlife, students will gain environmental sensitivity and expertise—what better way for an educational experience in the field!

### *It's about changing attitudes!*

Positive attitudes and behaviors are reinforced in cooperative experiences like the Envirothon. Environmental awareness and insight broaden student understanding of the world making a ripple effect which spreads through entire communities. It's as contagious as a smile! Everybody learns from the Envirothon and everyone can benefit!

### *It's about preserving our future!*

Today's students are tomorrow's homeowners, consumers and decision makers. Teachers are faced with the critical job of preparing students to make the best choices about our natural resources. The Envirothon offers a unique approach to help teachers accomplish this task. Using current information on environmental issues, teachers can prepare students to make educated decisions.

## Why Is The Envirothon For You?

- *A teacher-ready education unit*
- *Free materials for classroom instruction*
- *Links to environmental agencies and resources*
- *A great environmental encounter for all!*

The Envirothon is a natural resource and environmental science education program targeting high school students. The Envirothon teaches comprehensive environmental sensitivity and ecosystem awareness. Teaching guidelines including goals and learning objectives are prepared by environmental professionals and distributed to teachers. The teaching guidelines are based on the state's required Environment and Ecology Standards as well as other academic standards and are easily incorporated into the classroom. After a period of preparation, students demonstrate their knowledge through competitive team events.



***Guide your students into the future! Extend a natural challenge with the Envirothon!***

# What You Should Know!

The goal of the Envirothon Program is to help students become environmentally knowledgeable, skilled, dedicated citizens who are willing to work individually and collectively toward achieving and maintaining a dynamic equilibrium between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

Participation in the Envirothon is open to all students enrolled in grades 9-12 in public, private, vocational, technical or home-school programs.

The Envirothon covers five environmental issues — Aquatics, Forestry, Soils & Land Use, Wildlife — and one current issue, which changes annually.

Past current issues have included such topics as Hazardous Waste Disposal, Farmland Preservation, Pesticides, Water Quality, and Nonpoint Source Pollution.

A teacher's guide, updated annually, highlights the goals and learning objectives for each subject area. Also included is a complete listing of required teaching materials and instructions on how to obtain them. Most materials are provided, free of charge, by environmental agencies and your local conservation district.

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 (international) Envirothon, all team/advisor expenses (registration, travel, food, lodging) are paid through special funding granted by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The Envirothon is a program of Pennsylvania's Conservation Districts. They are assisted by agencies including the PA Fish & Boat Commission, the PA Game Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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

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

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Or contact your local conservation district.