

How to become involved with the Envirothon

The Pennsylvania Envirothon program and its many partners welcome new sponsors and partners to become involved with the state Envirothon competition. We welcome volunteers who wish to assist at the state event; we may even request assistance with county events. We welcome sponsors who wish to fund a specific component, for example one of the three meals that we provide to feed over 300 hungry teenagers and more than 200 volunteers, awards for the oral component, the teacher's training session or a specific testing station.

If you would like additional information, please contact the Pennsylvania Envirothon office.

The Pennsylvania Envirothon is recognized as a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service.



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Pennsylvania Envirothon

2008
Annual Report

ACCEPT THE NATURAL CHALLENGE!

"Pennsylvania is the Founder of North America's largest high school environmental education competition, the Envirothon."

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Our Mission

The Pennsylvania Envirothon educates high school students in natural resources and environmental sciences. The program emphasizes the importance of environmental sensitivity while stressing a need to achieve a social, ecologic, and economic balance. 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.

2008 Pennsylvania Envirothon

Board of Directors

Chair Andy Patterson – District Manager, Huntingdon Conservation District
Vice-Chair Leigh Beamesderfer – Forester/Naturalist,
Lebanon Conservation District
Secretary Robert Sweitzer – District Manager, Centre Conservation District
Treasurer Mary Ann Bower – District Manager, Clinton Conservation District
Donna Hays – Education Coordinator, Franklin Conservation District
Vince McCollum – Watershed Specialist, Cumberland Conservation District
Jan Hampton – District Manager, Cameron Conservation District
Corey Richmond – Watershed Specialist, Sullivan Conservation District
Rich Gulyas – Education Coordinator, Bradford Conservation District
Don Baker – Director/PACD Representative, Mifflin Conservation District
Richard Stumpf – Director/PACD Representative,
Indiana Conservation District
William Kahler – Conservation Program Specialist/SCC Representative,
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Sidney Freyermuth – Watershed Program Specialist/SCC Representative,
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Associate Directors

Angie Foltz – Natural Resources Program Coordinator,
Lebanon Conservation District
Mike Klimkos – Program Coordinator, Dirt & Gravel Road Maintenance
Program, State Conservation Commission
Craig Bingman – District Manager, Snyder Conservation District
Erica Clark – Ag Conservation Technician, Mifflin Conservation District
Greg Reineke – Education Coordinator, Fulton Conservation District
Susan Kolb – Administrator, Luzerne Conservation District

Staff

Lorelle Steach – Program Coordinator

2008 Sponsors

Financial Sponsors

Pennsylvania Growing Greener Program
Air Products and Chemicals
Nestle Water North America
PPL Corporation
Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI)
The Hershey Company
The AES Corporation
Bayer HealthCare Consumer Care
First Quality Enterprises
Conestoga Wood Specialties
Pennsylvania Conservation Districts
Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Canon Envirothon
U.S.D.A Natural Resources Conservation Service
Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association
PennAg Industries Association
Haines and Kibblehouse, Inc.
International Erosion Control Association / Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Tent/Station Sponsors

Cargill and The Conservation Fund
Dwight Lewis Lumber
The Hershey Company
Lewis Lumber Products

Program Sponsors

Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts
State Conservation Commission
Pennsylvania's 66 Conservation Districts

2008 Partners

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry and Bureau of State Parks
Pennsylvania Department of Education
Office of Environment and Ecology
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Pennsylvania Game Commission
U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Envirothon Experience

For over 25 years, high school teachers have been recognizing the value of the Envirothon experience. The Envirothon is the only competition in the nation that challenges students to think critically about the natural world and their role in it.



It's also the only competition that helps students develop the critical thinking skills they will need for a lifetime of finding balanced solutions to complex issues, such as how to encourage economic development and still preserve open space.

With such pressing long-term issues as water quality and quantity, sustainable energy, watershed management, and agriculture, to name a few, the Envirothon shows tomorrow's leaders the positive and negative effects that individual actions have on the environment. Understanding the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources, realizing environmental interactions and interdependencies, and becoming conscious of how each of us contributes to the overall quality of life is all part of the Envirothon experience.

The Envirothon is comprised of five areas on which students focus their study. As a team, written questions are answered in the subject areas of: soil/land use, forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife, and current environmental issues (2008 – recreation impacts on the natural environment). A discovery station (non-testing) provides an opportunity for students to learn about other disciplines.

Team answers are evaluated by practicing environmental professionals – foresters, aquatic and wildlife biologists, soil scientists, and conservationists – who themselves deal with similar complex issues every day.

The team that scores the greatest number of points wins their respective county competition and moves onto the state Envirothon. The winning team of the state competition moves onto the Canon Envirothon, North America's largest high school environmental competition.

Pennsylvania Envirothon

In 2008, more than 300 high-school students representing 65 counties participated in the twenty-fifth Pennsylvania State Envirothon. The event was held at the Pennsylvania State University on May 19 and 20.

The Pennsylvania Envirothon is the outcome of 67 county competitions that take place during the months of April and May and involves more than 15,000 teenagers throughout the Commonwealth.

Awards were presented to the top 10 high scoring teams. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the State Conservation Commission awarded over \$9,000 in college scholarships to each team member of the three teams scoring highest overall.

Those top three teams included:



First Place
Delaware County, Penncrest High School



Second Place
York County, Northern York High School



Third Place
Erie County, North East High School

2008 Financial Report

EXPENSES

Program Administration

Coordinator Salary/Travel/Benefits*	50,831.00
Director Travel	2,500.00
Rent and Utilities	2,450.00
Supplies	750.00
Computer Upgrade/Maintenance	500.00

Event

Awards	2,000.00
Lodging and Meals	22,500.00
Station/Program Administration	8,450.00
Oral Component	3,500.00

Canon Envirothon

Team Registration and Travel**	5,600.00
State Dues	200.00
PA CEC Registration and Travel	3,000.00

Professional Services

Audit / Organizational Fees	650.00
Insurance	1,000.00
Administrative Fees	500.00

Outreach

Newsletter*, Postage*, Coordinator Trainings	<u>3,000.00</u>
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Total Program Expenses **\$107,431.00**

INCOME

Air Products & Chemicals	5,000.00
Nestle Water North America	5,000.00
PPL Corporation	5,000.00
Pennsylvania Conservation Districts	3,500.00
Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry	2,500.00
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission**	2,000.00
U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service	1,000.00
Friends of the Envirothon	550.00
Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association	850.00
Registration Income	18,175.00
Tee shirt sales	4,320.00
Grant Income*	52,750.00
Envirothon Operations	<u>6,786.00</u>

Total Program Income **\$107,431.00**

In-Kind Volunteer Contributions **\$75,000.00**

Special Project Funding – Scholarships **\$10,000.00**

PA Department of Agriculture/State Conservation Commission

Accomplishments

Act 48 Credit Hours to Educators – We continue to provide educational sessions for teachers on specific topics such as aquatic ecology issues during the advisor forum at the state competition.

Total State Participation – Each of Pennsylvania's counties holds a high-school competition. The Envirothon program in Pennsylvania, alone, reaches over 15,000 high school students in over 700 public/private schools and organizations with its resources and information. Many counties organize programs similar to the Envirothon for younger students.

Helping students make wise choices – High school students make dozens of choices that – for better or worse – affect the natural resources on which we depend. Today, the impact of those choices might seem fairly minor. But before too long, the choices these students make will become more complex; the ramifications more far-reaching as they begin to choose their career paths. Envirothon students are becoming doctors, conservationists, communication specialists, wildlife biologists, and leaders in our communities. Many former Envirothon students proclaim the Envirothon as the tool that helped them to make wise choices and balanced decisions as they enter life as young adults.

Officially named Host for the 2012 Canon Envirothon – The Canon Envirothon Committee officially awarded Pennsylvania the right to serve as host for the 2012 Canon Envirothon, also the 25th anniversary of the North American competition which first began in Pennsylvania. If you would like to be a part of this historical event, contact the Pennsylvania Envirothon office.

Financial Report

The Pennsylvania Envirothon is administered with funding provided through a public/private partnership. Program administration and one staff position is funded through grants received from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (indicated with an *), referred to as public support. Private/corporate contributions are used to cover event costs. Special project funds are restricted to the college scholarship project. Funding received from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is designated towards sending a team to represent Pennsylvania at the Canon Envirothon event (indicated with **).

The Oral Component consists of a 12 minute oral presentation and a eight minute question/answer period to a panel of six judges. One week prior to the competition, the teams were given a written scenario, based on the current issue, for which they prepared a convincing proposal. The presentation consisted of how the team's proposed idea would positively and/or negatively impact the land, water, air, wildlife, forests, and people of the area.

This year's oral component focused on the current issue theme, *Recreation impacts on the natural environment*. The teams were asked to develop a management plan that addressed critical recreational activities which negatively impact the Appalachian Trail. In addition, the teams were asked to identify solutions which would minimize those impacts as well as to define strategies of how to implement those solutions.

Awards were presented to the top 10 teams in the oral component. The top three teams included: Westmoreland County, Westmoreland Enrichment Class, first place; Delaware County, Penncrest High School, second place; and Erie County, North East High School, third place.

Envirothon Founder Recognized

At its 25th annual state competition, the Pennsylvania Envirothon recognized Carolyn Hollenshead with the distinguished honor of being a key individual who created the Envir-olympics, now known as the Pennsylvania Envirothon, a program that has grown nationwide into North America's largest natural resource and environmental science competition for high school students.

Chairman Andy Patterson honored Carolyn on May 20th for her dedication and enthusiasm for originating the program. The Envirothon is a grassroots success story. Created as a local competition in 1979, the goal of the Envirothon was to "cultivate a desire to learn more about our natural environment through competitive events". Competing in the Envirothon starts many students down the road to becoming involved, action-oriented adults. They develop a greater appreciation for man's dependence on the environment.



All in a Day's Work



Canon Envirothon

A five-member team of Pennsylvania high school students from Penncrest High School took third place honors at the 2008 Canon Envirothon. This was announced on Saturday, August 2nd, during the closing ceremony of the weeklong North American environmental education competition held at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ, and sponsored by Canon U.S.A., Inc.



PENNSYLVANIA'S CANON ENVIROTHON TEAM

Penncrest High School Team members (l to r): Chrissa Kuntz (Coach), Katie Ferguson, Alex Senko, Jennifer Walker, Elizabeth Freeburg, Katie Davis, and Mark Samilenko (Coach).

More than 265 teenagers from 45 U.S. states and nine Canadian provinces studied environmental issues and resource conservation, while competing for a share of more than \$125,000 in scholarships and Canon products.

The first place Delaware team received a total of \$25,000 in Canon scholarships along with Canon equipment for their advisor and sponsoring agency to use in science education. Missouri (\$20,000) and Pennsylvania (\$15,000) placed second and third respectively. The fourth place team from New York received \$10,000. The fifth place team from Ohio received \$7,500.



For more 2008 competition information, visit the Canon Envirothon website - www.envirothon.org.