



UPDATES

Pennsylvania Envirothon

Winter 2008/09

UPJ to Host 2009 Pennsylvania Envirothon

The University of Pittsburgh Johnstown (UPJ) is the official host site of the 2009 Pennsylvania Envirothon.

UPJ is a four-year, fully accredited, undergraduate college which was founded in 1927 as a regional campus of the University of Pittsburgh.

UPJ is located in a suburb of Johnstown, a metropolitan area of 240,000, in the Cambria County Laurel Highlands, 70 miles east of Pittsburgh.

Envirothon teams will travel to the UPJ campus on May 18 and 19 to participate

in the twenty-sixth Annual Pennsylvania Envirothon competition.



Just as they did in 2004, teams and volunteers will stay in residence halls that are in close proximity to the Student Union and the classroom buildings that

will be used for Monday's activities — registration, oral component, and the evening program.

The station testing will take place just a short walking distance from the residence halls.

For more information on the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown, please visit www.upj.pitt.edu.

For more information on the Pennsylvania Envirothon, please visit www.envirothonpa.org.

2009 Resources Available On-line at www.envirothonpa.org

The Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 2009 Envirothon resources are posted on its website.

Teachers and students can review and download most of the information needed to prepare for the 2009 Envirothon competitions.

Visit www.envirothonpa.org and click on the sidebar category "**Resources.**"

For your reference, the following is a list of the resources needed to prepare for the 2009 Envirothon.

2009 ENVIROTHON RESOURCE LIST

Aquatic Station

- ◆ Aquatic Ecology CD
- ◆ Pennsylvania Amphibians & Reptiles book
- ◆ Frog & Toad Call CD
- ◆ New for 2009 – *PLAY* issues Sci-fi in the Real World and The Road to Extinction

Current Issue Station

- ◆ Biodiversity in a Changing World Current Issue CD

Forestry Station

- ◆ Forestry CD
- ◆ New for 2009 – Threats to forest resources discussed in selected sections of *Pennsylvania's Wildlife and*

Wild Places: Our Outdoor Heritage in Peril. This information can be found on the 2009 Current Issue CD in the "Forestry" file.

Soil & Land Use Station

- ◆ Soil & Land Use CD
- ◆ New for 2009 –

Soil Carbon Sequestration Fundamentals: Ohio State University fact sheet and General Soil Map of Pennsylvania. This information can be found on the 2009 Current Issue CD in the "Soil & Land Use" file.

****DO NOT use the laminated "Soil Texture" chart. It is not correct!****

Wildlife Station

- ◆ Wildlife CD
- ◆ Pennsylvania Bird Song CD

****Some items will be added to the PA Envirothon website in January.****

Envirothon teachers, the 2009 Teacher Resource Packet and new study resources have been delivered to your county's Envirothon Coordinator. If you have not yet received them, please contact your county Conservation District office.

You are Invited! Volunteers Needed.



Over 100 volunteers are needed to assist with the Oral Component and the testing station competition.

Come and join us!!!

The Envirothon Board of Directors invites all conservation districts, partners, sponsors, agencies, financial contributors, organizations, and friends to volunteer with the twenty-sixth annual Pennsylvania State Envirothon event, being held May 18 and 19, 2009.

Over 100 volunteers are needed to assist with the Oral Component and the testing station competition. Volunteers serve as oral component presentation judges, prep room and presentation room monitors, station judges, score runners, lunch deliverers, registration escorts, photographers, and other miscellaneous duties.

If you are interested in volunteering for the 2009 Pennsylvania Envirothon, which will be held at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown, Cambria County, please contact program coordinator Lorelle Steach, Email: paenvirothon@pennswoods.net or Bill Kahler, Email: wkahler@state.pa.us.

Monday Evening Program to Highlight Oral Component Presentations

There have been many doubts, debates, and discussions about the value, fairness, and significance of the oral component. The Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors has received feedback from advisors, students, judges, and volunteers who discussed and evaluated responses at length. The Board's biggest two factors which led to the incorporation of the oral component at the state level was 1) it was required at the Canon level; and 2) it's a life skill that everyone needs. So in 2001, the Pennsylvania Envirothon included the first trial oral component with five teams participating. In 2002, the oral component was voluntary and scored separately from the testing event, with 49 teams participating. More teams continued to participate

each year, and in 2006, the oral component participation became mandatory, and it was included in the overall score.

Over the last seven years, the Board of Directors revised a subjective score sheet into a rubric; tweaked the presentation and the question and answer time to allow students a longer time to present their case; publicized the scenario one week prior to the event to allow advisor assistance and additional research on the topic; and provided training for the 50-70 judges. All the improvements finally allowed us to include the oral component score as part of the overall score – combining test scores with the oral component score.

The oral component is still far from perfect, and the

Board continues to hear suggestions and make improvements. This year at the state event, the oral component will be the focus of the Monday night program. The Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors is planning this program to provide the opportunity for all Envirothon participants and advisors to see some of the best presentations given. Students and advisors often want to know 'What exactly are the judges looking for?'; 'How can we improve our presentation?'; and 'We thought we did well; what were we missing?' Monday night's program will offer a little insight into some of these questions. It will allow teams to see many different styles and/or formats of presentations that are given each year. Public speaking is a life skill that is necessary in many

professions. The Board hopes the experiences through this program will enhance the educational value of the Envirothon and contribute to the improvement of the oral component program.

The Monday evening program is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. and will include three presentations that will be up to twelve minutes each. Three teams will be randomly selected from the top ten scores in the oral component and given the opportunity to do their presentation. After the presentations are completed, there will be time to ask the oral component committee and the Board of Directors questions about the program. We hope you will take advantage of this educational opportunity and join us Monday evening.

“Note from the Chairman”



Conservation Districts have been facing some very serious funding challenges these past few years as has the Pennsylvania Envirothon Program. During the past five years, Growing Greener grants have been the Envirothon’s main source of program operation’s income. Unfortunately, these grants may no longer be available after June 2009, leaving the State Envirothon Board of Directors with some tough decisions about the future of the program.

We have been working for several years now with numerous State Legislators to secure a dedicated source of funding for the Pennsylvania Envirothon; however, we have not yet been successful with that effort.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Conservation Districts for their donations which have been essential to our continued operation, particularly the retention of our State Envirothon Program Coordinator as well as the organization of the State Envirothon event.

In addition, we would like to thank all of the program’s public and private sponsors who have enabled us to provide a quality educational program to high school students across the Commonwealth.

We are hopeful that despite these challenging budgetary times, our sponsors can continue to support the Pennsylvania Envirothon Program that Pennsylvania Conservation Districts have made the best in the Nation.

Teachers and volunteers, we hope that you will consider becoming a sponsoring “Friend of the Envirothon.”

The Pennsylvania State Envirothon is excited to celebrate 26 years of challenging high school students with issues surrounding our valuable natural resources. And we look forward to celebrating many more.

Andy Patterson, Chairman

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GoodSearch.com Pays Off for Pennsylvania Envirothon

For those of you who are using GoodSearch.com as your internet search engine, in support of the Pennsylvania Envirothon, THANK YOU. If you are not, we hope you will consider doing so.

All you have to do is go to www.goodsearch.com and type in “Pennsylvania Envirothon (Bedford, PA)” in the “Who do you GoodSearch

for?” box. GoodSearch will provide \$0.01 for each search you do to the Pennsylvania Envirothon. And many online shopping merchants will give a certain percentage of your purchase.

It’s an easy way to help support the Pennsylvania Envirothon program in raising funds to sponsor our event at the state level.

Please consider helping us. Use GoodSearch.com rather than Google or Yahoo. Feel free to pass this along to your friends, coworkers, and family.





Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Do your part to conserve
our natural resources.

THE PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON NEWSLETTER UPDATES

IS NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED ELECTRONICALLY.

IT CAN ALSO BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.envirothonpa.org/News-Bulletins.shtml>.

**We are doing our part to save trees and energy and
to conserve our natural resources.**

Upcoming Events at a Glance

April / May

County Envirothon events are held in all 67 counties.

May 18 & 19

Twenty-sixth annual Pennsylvania State Envirothon will be held at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown.

August 2–8

Twenty-second annual Canon Envirothon will be held at the University of North Carolina, Asheville, NC.

2010

Twenty-third annual Canon Envirothon will be held at the University of California, Merced, CA, July 31–August 7.

2011

Twenty-fourth annual Canon Envirothon will be held at the Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada.

2012

Twenty-fifth annual Canon Envirothon will be held in Pennsylvania.



Mark your Calendars!

Pennsylvania Envirothon Mission

The Envirothon is an environmental education program made available to Pennsylvania Conservation Districts in partnership with related state and federal agencies and other organizations. The Envirothon program is designed to test high school students' knowledge of Pennsylvania's natural resources and environmental sciences. The program emphasizes the importance of environmental sensitivity while stressing a need to achieve a social, ecological, and economic balance. 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.



For more information:

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