



# UPDATES

Pennsylvania Envirothon

Fall 2015

## **Penncrest High School Takes 2nd Place Honors at the 2015 North American Envirothon**

Pennsylvania's five-member team of high school students from Penncrest High School, Delaware County took place honors at the 2015 North American Envirothon, a week-long natural resource competition sponsored by the Missouri Envirothon, National Conservation Foundation, and Smithfield Foods. The winners were announced on Saturday, August 2nd, during the closing ceremonies at Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri.

The team, pictured right, is made up of Abigail Pearse, Lucy Hall, Vy-Linh Gale, Justin Rosenberg, and Daniel Rosenberger. The team is coached by Mark Samilenko and Chrissa Kuntz. In addition to 2nd place, the team was recognized for earning the top score at the Soils and Land Use testing station.

This year's winning team is from Pembroke High School in Kansas City, Missouri. The third place team is from the Academy of Science & Technology in Conroe, Texas. The 52 teams representing forty-four U.S. states, eight Canadian provinces and one Canadian territory tested their knowledge on various environmental issues and resource conservation. The top three teams at this year's Envirothon received cash awards courtesy of Smithfield Foods. More than 4,000 high schools competed in Envirothon events throughout the 2015 season.

For more information and photos, visit the [NCF-Envirothon](#) website.

Thank you, NCF-Envirothon and the Missouri Envirothon for a wonderful event!

## **2016 Pennsylvania Envirothon State Competition Hosts**

### **Susquehanna University and Camp Mount Luther**

The 2016 Pennsylvania Envirothon competition will be held at Susquehanna University and Camp Mount Luther.

Susquehanna University (SU) is a nationally known liberal arts college. The university is located in Selinsgrove, PA, a town of about 5,000 situated on the banks of the Susquehanna River, 50 miles north of Harrisburg. SU will serve as the location for event registration, oral component competition, and team lodging. Check out [Susquehanna University](#) for more information.

The Pennsylvania Envirothon is excited to partner with Camp Mount Luther, a new site for the field station testing. Camp Mount Luther serves the church and the community as a location for outdoor

ministry and education. Whether a summer camp program, an educational school learning experience, an adult retreat or conference, Mount Luther serves as a year-round setting for growth and learning about environmental concerns and conservation. The Camp is located in central Pennsylvania in Union County near Mifflinburg, which is a 40-minute drive from Susquehanna University. Click here for more information on [Camp Mount Luther](#).

## **2016 Current Environmental Issue**

### **INVASIVE SPECIES: A CHALLENGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY, AND SOCIETY**

Invasive species pose a serious threat to the stability of many North American ecosystems. Invasive species have been known to disrupt food webs, damage or destroy habitat, and contribute to the decline of at risk indigenous species.

In addition to their environmental impact, invasive species can have a significant impact on local economies; in the United States alone it is estimated that invading alien species cause major environmental damage and loss adding up to almost \$120 billion per year (Pimentel, Zuniga, Morrison – 2005).

The 19th and 20th centuries have seen an exponential increase in the number of invasive species being intentionally and unintentionally introduced to North America and around the world through a variety of methods. The vast majority of invasive species that have established themselves in North America did so through unnatural or “human-assisted” means. This includes being introduced by early settlers for agricultural purposes. Many others have been inadvertently transported to North America through trade and travel, as stowaways on ships or in packaging materials, and through horticulture. With the expected increases in exports and trade in the future, we can likely expect greater challenges and introductions of new species not yet known to occur in North America.

Students will learn about invasive species prevention, introduction, impact, and management in each of the five subject areas.

## **2016 Envirothon Resources**

The Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 2016 Envirothon resources will be available by mid-November. Teachers and students can review and download most of the information needed to prepare for the 2016 Envirothon competitions. Visit the [Pennsylvania Envirothon](#) website and click on “Station Training.”

Or...

The 2016 Teacher Resource Packets and new study resources have been delivered to your county’s Envirothon Coordinator. If you do not receive them, please contact your county Conservation District office or the Pennsylvania Envirothon office.

## **Pennsylvania Envirothon Mini-Grants**

The grant funding provided by DEP and Shell Oil has enabled the Pennsylvania Envirothon to continue a Mini-Grant program that will award up to \$700 to county conservation districts. The funding provided through this program must be used to directly benefit a conservation district's high school Envirothon program.

The mini-grant funding can be used towards projects such as: outreach efforts (presentations to other groups, state education meetings, state environmental education association meetings, etc.); advisor training workshops (i.e., mileage to county/state sessions); purchase of additional Envirothon resource material/teaching tools (Biltmore sticks, *Identiflyers*, etc.); development of an exhibit or brochures to promote Envirothon; awards (i.e., trophies, T-shirts); team travel to the competition (county and/or state); registration for competition (county and/or state); costs to cover substitute teachers for Envirothon advisors; certifications (child abuse, criminal history, FBI finger printing). Other suggested projects will be considered upon Pennsylvania Envirothon Board approval.

## **Pennsylvania Envirothon Rules and Regulations**

Rules are made so that all teams are treated fairly and consistently. Each year the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors reviews its rules and regulations to ensure they are clearly understood by all participants. Because of some misinterpretation, we want to bring to your attention the clarifications that have been made to the Pennsylvania Envirothon Rules and Regulations, which were revised on September 16, 2015, and adopted on October 27, 2015.

The clarifications, found under Team Requirements, include:

- Rule number 4. specifies that a team of exactly five (5) members and one to two advisor/chaperones (non-student adult, 20 years or older) in order to compete in the state level event must be registered. (To further clarify exactly five (5) members specifically means that NO substitutes (alternates) are permitted to attend the state level competition. Substitutes (alternates) cannot register for the state level competition; therefore, they cannot participate in any part of the event as indicated in Competition Regulation 8.) The Pennsylvania Envirothon encourages ALL teams to arrange for male and female advisors/chaperones if the team is made up of mixed genders. This is a requirement of the host university.
- Rule number 5. specifies the start of the competition is when a team completes the official onsite registration. Each team must start the competition with five (5) team members. Rule number 6.a. specifies absolutely no substitutions can be made after the start of the competition. The Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors strictly adheres to these rules to the best of its ability.

Any team involved with any infraction of the rules or inconsistencies shall be subject to disqualification or a justified penalty determined by the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors.

Again, rules are made so that all participants are treated fairly and consistently as well as for the safety of all participants.

### **Volunteers Needed for the 2016 State Envirothon!**

The Envirothon is seeking volunteers to help with the 33rd annual Pennsylvania Envirothon state competition being held on May 24 and 25, 2016. We invite all conservation districts, partners, sponsors, agencies, organizations, and friends to volunteer.

Over 100 volunteers are needed to assist with the oral presentation component and the station testing competition. Volunteers serve as oral component presentation judges, team escorts, station judges, score runners, lunch deliverers, social media coordinators, and other tasks.

\*\*According to Pennsylvania's state law, ALL volunteers are required to obtain child abuse and criminal history certifications. Copies of your cleared certifications must be provided to the Pennsylvania Envirothon along with your volunteer registration forms. Volunteer certifications will be kept on file and will be good for a period of five (5) years. Information on how to obtain your Child Abuse certification may be found on the PA Child Welfare Information Solution (Compass) website and your Criminal History certification may be found on the PA State Police Criminal History website.

To receive information on how you can volunteer for the 2016 Pennsylvania Envirothon, please contact your county conservation district or Lorelle Steach, Pennsylvania Envirothon Executive Director.

We hope to see you at the 2016 Pennsylvania Envirothon.

### **2016 NCF-Envirothon North American Event**

Forests Ontario and the NCF-Envirothon will welcome teams from across Canada and the United States as they embark upon Trent University located in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada to compete in the 28th North American Envirothon. The competition will take place during the week of July 24 – 29, 2016. Approximately fifty-five teams will compete in the weeklong event for cash awards sponsored by Smithfield Foods and the National Conservation Foundation (NCF).