



UPDATES

Pennsylvania Envirothon

Winter 2015

2015 Pennsylvania Envirothon

The 2015 Pennsylvania Envirothon will be held on Tuesday, May 19 and Wednesday, May 20.

Tuesday events will take place on the [University of Pittsburgh Johnstown \(UPJ\)](#) campus, located in a suburb of Johnstown. These events include: registration, oral presentation component (preparation and presentation), dinner, and an evening program. The evening program will follow the oral component competition and dinner. Educators from Shaver's Creek Environmental Center will have a special showing of their "Birds of Prey" for all Envirothon participants. Envirothon teams staying on campus will be housed in the University's modern Living/Learning Conference Center and residence halls.

Wednesday's station testing and the closing ceremony will take place at the Windber Recreational Park, approximately seven miles east of the UPJ campus. After checkout and breakfast, teams will pack up and travel from UPJ to the Park for Wednesday's events.

UPJ is a regional campus of the University of Pittsburgh. It is a four-year, fully accredited degree-granting, residential undergraduate college.

[Johnstown](#) has a variety of historical and cultural sites to visit. While there, you may want to take time to visit the Johnstown Flood Museum, the Inclined Plan, or the Flight 93 Memorial.

The 2015 registration information will soon be posted to the Envirothon website - visit [Registration](#).

Volunteers Needed for 2015 State Competition!

The Envirothon Board of Directors invites all conservation districts, partners, sponsors, agencies, financial contributors, organizations, and friends to volunteer to help with the 32nd annual Pennsylvania Envirothon state event being held on May 19 and 20, 2015.

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 buddies, station judges, score runners, lunch deliverer, and with other tasks.

To receive information on how you can volunteer for the 2015 Pennsylvania Envirothon, please contact your county conservation district or Pennsylvania Envirothon Executive Director, Lorelle Steach, at lsteach@envirothonpa.org or phone (814) 623-7900 ext. 111.

We hope to see all of you at the 2015 Pennsylvania Envirothon state competition.

2015 Study Resources Available

Updated and new study resources are available for Envirothon teams. Teachers and students can view and download most of the information needed to prepare for the 2015 competitions.

You can visit the Envirothon [Station Training](#) web site page to view the most up-to-date Envirothon reference

materials. Also, Envirothon Teacher Resource Booklets and updated study resources have been provided to your county's Envirothon Coordinator. Please contact the Envirothon Coordinator at your county conservation district office.

Oral Presentation Component—State Envirothon

The oral component presentation is mandatory for all teams participating in the state competition, and the score will be combined with the testing part of the event to decide the winning team. The oral component will be one-sixth of the overall score. In the case of a tie, the Current Issue test score will determine the placement for the final scores in the Envirothon.

The 2015 oral component scenario will be posted on the Pennsylvania Envirothon website on Wednesday, May 13th, the week prior to the event. This will provide those winning teams an opportunity to prepare for the oral presentation. Teams will be able to utilize existing resources, research new information, and obtain input and guidance from advisors to enhance their presentation. Additionally, posting the scenario to the web site will also allow those nonparticipating teams a chance to see how the scenario is written, what is expected, and will provide an opportunity to “participate” on their own, helping them to prepare for future State Envirothon events and for their own personal growth.

A registration packet will be made available to all winning teams upon the completion of their county competition. In this packet students will receive a complete listing of *Oral Component Rules and Guidelines*, which can also be found on the Pennsylvania Envirothon website. In addition to the rules, a schedule of presentation times will be included in the registration packet. For the 2015 event, teams have been randomly assigned a time to present. If once you receive the schedule of presentation assignments and you find that your team cannot make its assigned time, please contact the Pennsylvania Envirothon Executive Director, Lorelle Steach, at lsteach@envirothonpa.org or phone (814) 623-7900 ext. 111.

Mark your calendars. On Wednesday, May 13 check the Pennsylvania Envirothon website to get a copy of the 2015 Oral Presentation Component scenario problem.

THANK YOU—Shell Oil Company!

Pennsylvania Envirothon received a generous grant from Shell Oil Company in the amount of \$32,900.

The grant from Shell Oil will enable the Pennsylvania Envirothon to offer Envirothon teacher trainings, which will allow natural resource professionals to provide resources, teaching tools and equipment, and hands-on applications that relate to the Envirothon stations. In addition, funding will be used to assist conservation districts, offset the state competition registration fee, and send Pennsylvania's representative team to the North American Envirothon.

THANK YOU—Weis Markets!

Pennsylvania Envirothon recently received a generous contribution from Weis Markets through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

Weis Markets, a leader in sustainability and social responsibility, generously contributed \$10,000 to the Pennsylvania Envirothon. The EITC contributions will assist the program in providing a quality educational program that will enable conservation districts and teachers address environmental education standards by providing them with educational resources and hands-on teaching tools. The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) gives tax credits to eligible businesses contributing to an Educational Improvement Organization such as Pennsylvania Envirothon.

“We are a company that is committed to operating sustainably. Every day our associates work hard to reduce our environmental impact,” said Patti Olenick, Weis Markets’ Sustainability Manager. “That is why we are pleased to support the Pennsylvania Envirothon, which helps educate thousands of students about conservation at the local level in the communities we serve.”

“With the Envirothon reaching out to more than 500 school districts and almost 15,000 schools, donations made through the EITC program are important in helping us teach high school students about the proper management of natural resources with hands-on teaching techniques and through competitive events. Envirothon participants gain an understanding of the short and long term impacts on the natural environment and how each may influence or directly impact their future, in turn encouraging them to become involved in their local communities. We would like to thank Weis Markets for its commitment to our program,” said Lorelle Steach, PA Envirothon Executive Director.

Weis Markets mission closely matches that of the Pennsylvania Envirothon in that both strive to move toward a future of sustainability in order to minimize the impact on our natural resources for today as well as for tomorrow.