



# UPDATES

Pennsylvania Envirothon

Winter 2018

## 2018 Pennsylvania Envirothon

The 2018 Pennsylvania Envirothon competition will be held at Susquehanna University and Camp Mount Luther on May 22 and 23.



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 Tuesday's event registration, oral component competition, and team lodging. Check out [Susquehanna University](#) for more information.

Camp Mount Luther will host Wednesday's field station testing. Camp Mount Luther serves the church and the community as a location for outdoor ministry and education. Whether it is 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](#).



## Volunteers Needed for 2018 State Competition!

The Envirothon Board of Directors invites all conservation districts, partners, sponsors, agencies, financial contributors, organizations, and friends to volunteer to help with its 35<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Envirothon State event being held May 22 and 23, 2018.

More than 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, timers, station judges, lunch deliverers, along with other tasks.

To receive information on how you can volunteer for the 2018 Pennsylvania Envirothon, visit the Pennsylvania Envirothon website's [Registration](#) page or contact your county conservation district or the Pennsylvania Envirothon Executive Director, [Lorelle Steach](#) or (814) 310-3271.

## Oral Presentation Component—State Envirothon

The oral component presentation is mandatory for all teams participating in the state competition. The oral component score is combined with the testing station scores to decide the winning team.

The 2018 oral component scenario will be posted on the Pennsylvania Envirothon website on **Monday, May 14**, the week prior to the event. This will provide an opportunity to prepare for the oral presentation to those winning teams. 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 allow nonparticipating teams a chance to see how the scenario is written, what is expected, and "participate" on their own, helping them prepare for future State Envirothon events and for their own personal growth.

Upon completing their county competition, winning teams will receive a registration packet that includes the *Oral Component Rules and Guidelines* and a schedule of presentation times. If your team cannot make its assigned time, please contact the Pennsylvania Envirothon Executive Director, [Lorelle Steach](#) or phone (814) 310-3271.

## **THANK YOU—Shell Oil Company!**

Pennsylvania Envirothon received a generous grant from Shell Oil Company in the amount of \$50,000.

The grant from Shell Oil enables the Pennsylvania Envirothon to make available 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, increase the conservation district mini-grants, and send Pennsylvania's representative team to the NCF-Envirothon international event.

## **THANK YOU EITC CONTRIBUTORS – Weis and UGI!**

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

Weis Markets, a leader in sustainability and social responsibility, generously contributed \$2,500. 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.

UGI generously contributed \$7,000. For UGI, environmental responsibility is a core part of its business – “from greening its facilities and operations to exploring new greener technologies.” UGI is “committed to helping its customers conserve resources by providing energy saving tips and forging partnerships for accomplishing environmentally-friendly projects.”

The EITC contributions assist in providing conservation districts and teachers with educational resources and hands-on teaching tools that address environmental education standards. The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program gives tax credits to eligible businesses contributing to an Educational Improvement Organization such as the Pennsylvania Envirothon.

## **THANK YOU – EQT Foundation!**

Pennsylvania Envirothon received a generous grant from the EQT Foundation in the amount of \$15,362.

The grant from EQT will enable the Pennsylvania Envirothon to purchase resources, teaching tools, equipment, and hands-on applications that relate to the Envirothon wildlife station for the 67 county Envirothon programs. In addition, Envirothon Assistance Grants will be provided to Allegheny, Greene, and Washington counties, the counties in which EQT has active operations.

## **Robert and Tammy Shannon Environmental Resource Management Scholarship - Penn State University**

Robert and Tammy Shannon are big fans of Envirothon. They also teach and advise many former Envirothon students, who major in Penn State's Environmental Resource Management (ERM) program. Their experience with Envirothon students is that they are “pretty darn good students,” which is why they thought creating a scholarship was a natural fit to attracting really good high school students to the ERM major. If you are enrolled in the ERM program at Penn State University and once participated in the Envirothon program, you will want to apply for the Robert and Tammy Shannon Environmental Resource Management scholarship.

Consideration for this scholarship shall be given to full-time undergraduate students who are majoring, or planning to major, in the Environmental Resource Management program in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering in the College of Agricultural Sciences. Students must demonstrate financial need for funds to meet their necessary college expenses. From the identified pool of eligible recipients, and to the extent possible, preference shall be given to eligible students in the following order: First preference shall be given to students who are past participants in the Pennsylvania Envirothon “or successor program” and who are enrolled in the Environmental Science option or the Water Science option. Second preference shall be given to students who are enrolled in the Environmental Science option or the Water Science option who have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a scale of 4.0) and are at least a fourth semester sophomore. If no students meet the state preferences in a given year or if there are sufficient funds to award additional scholarships beyond the eligible recipients who meet the stated preferences, available funds will be awarded to any student based on the General Eligibility Criteria, regardless of preference.

## THANK YOU - Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors!

The Envirothon is about teamwork! Students work together and learn from each other and their coach throughout the school year. Before the students begin preparing, let's recognize "teamwork at a different level."

Envirothon teamwork applies not only to the competing students, but also to those organizing the competition and running the program. Just as the students are only as good as they are prepared, the competition is only as good as its preparers.

Many times I have heard the "Envirothon works like a well-oiled machine." This statement is so very true because of GREAT teamwork. Teamwork hinges on giving attention to the smallest of details and to what contributes to the working of any well-oiled machine – YOU, and others like you, are the part that keeps the Envirothon program running.

Your support contributes to the mission of the Envirothon which is to develop knowledgeable, skilled, and dedicated citizens who have an understanding of natural resources and are willing and prepared to work towards achieving and maintaining a balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

To the 25 individuals who are committed to attending monthly meetings, working on committees throughout the year, and serving as the leadership to the Pennsylvania Envirothon, thank you! Some of you have served for 30+ years and some have only been serving for a few months. For many of you, it is an "add on" to the numerous other things that you do, including your work, your family, and other volunteer opportunities. Without your commitment and dedication, the Envirothon would not be the success that it is.

Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors pictured below (from bottom to top): Lorelle Steach, Executive Director; William Kahler, Lycoming County; Maryruth Wagner, Columbia County; Vince McCollum, Cumberland County; Greg Reineke, Fulton County; Hayley Book, PUC; Teddi Stark, DCNR & WPC; Michael Aucoin, SCC; Jason Winey, Snyder County; Irvil Kear, Schuylkill County; Erica Smith, Mifflin County; Jackie Ritko, Cambria County; Mary Ann Bower, Clinton County; Cathy Yeakel, Bradford County; Kim Young, York County; Corey Richmond, Sullivan County; Renee Swineford, Snyder County; Dianna Townsend, Tioga County; Robert Sweitzer, Centre County; Christy Thomas, Clearfield County; Celina Seftas, Huntingdon County; Karen Books, DEP; and Trudy Alexander, Clarion County. Missing from the photo are Greg Bonsall, Union County and Andy Patterson, Huntingdon County.



# VOLUNTEER

## Now Recruiting Volunteers!



Pennsylvania Envirothon  
*Accept the Natural Challenge*

Would you like to:

- Support Pennsylvania's Youth:
- Share your expertise with hundreds of students committed to conserving our natural resources:
- Inspire and motivate others about conservation, preservation, and overall environmental awareness and stewardship:
- Experience the Natural Challenge of the Envirothon?

The Pennsylvania Envirothon invites you to volunteer at the 2018 Pennsylvania Envirothon State Competition.

**Tuesday, May 22 – Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove**

**Wednesday, May 23 – Camp Mount Luther, Mifflinburg**

Conservation district staff and directors, natural resource and environmental agency and organization partners, sponsor representatives, and others interested in volunteering, please contact

Pennsylvania Envirothon  
814-310-3271  
lsteach@envirothonpa.org

Please visit [www.envirothonpa.org/registration](http://www.envirothonpa.org/registration) for more details.

### Opportunities

Presentation Judges

Timers

Team Buddies

Travel Officials

Food Service



[www.envirothonpa.org](http://www.envirothonpa.org)