



UPDATES

Pennsylvania Envirothon

Winter 2012

University of Pittsburgh Johnstown to host 2012 Pennsylvania Envirothon

The 2012 Pennsylvania Envirothon will be held on Tuesday, May 22nd and Wednesday, May 23rd at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown (UPJ), Cambria County.

The oral component will take place on Tuesday and the station testing on Wednesday. All events will be held on the UPJ campus.

UPJ is located in a suburb of Johnstown, 70 miles east of Pittsburgh. UPJ is a four-year fully accredited, degree-granting, coeducational, residential

undergraduate college, which was founded in 1927 as a regional campus of the University of Pittsburgh, one of the nation's oldest institutions of higher education.

Envirothon teams staying on campus will be housed in the University's modern Living/Learning Conference Center and newly renovated Residence Halls.

Teams that have completed their oral presentations may want to make arrangements to visit the historical Johnstown Flood Museum or Inclined

Plane. You may also join in on a pick-up game of basketball or soccer on the outdoor courts, or hike on the campus's nature trails.

Tuesday evening following dinner and the completion of the oral component, there will be an organized activity focusing on geocaching followed by an ice cream social.

For more information about the UPJ campus, visit www.upj.pitt.edu. For more information on Johnstown attractions, visit www.johnstownpa.com.

2012 Envirothon Resources Available

The Pennsylvania Envirothon's Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 2012 Envirothon resources are available. Teachers and students can review and download most of the information needed to prepare for the 2012 Envirothon competitions.

Visit: www.envirothonpa.org and click on the sidebar category "**Station Training.**"

Or...

The 2012 Teacher Resource Packets and new study resources have been delivered to your county's Envirothon

Coordinator. If you have not received them, please contact your county conservation district office or the Pennsylvania Envirothon office.



Volunteers needed for 2012 State Envirothon!

The Envirothon Board of Directors invites all conservation districts, partners, sponsors, agencies, financial contributors, organizations, and friends to volunteer to help with the twenty-ninth annual Pennsylvania State Envirothon event being held on May 22 and 23, 2012. The two-day event will be held at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown, Cambria County.

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 various other tasks.

To receive information on how you can volunteer for the 2012 Pennsylvania Envirothon, please contact your county

conservation district or the program coordinator, Lorelle Steach, by e-mail: paenvirothon@pennswoods.net or the volunteer coordinator, Bill Kahler, by e-mail: wkahler@pa.gov.

We hope to see all of you at the 2012 Pennsylvania State Envirothon competition.

Where are they now? An Envirothon Alumni Story

By Doug Fynan

Alligators, armadillos and fire ants! These were some of the animals I encountered in Mississippi during my first trip to the Canon Envirothon in 2001. The flora and fauna there were just a little bit different from what I was used to seeing in northwestern Pennsylvania where I grew up.

When I first joined the Envirothon team during my sophomore year of high school, I was excited to have the opportunity to learn with my friends from Boy Scouts about the forests and waterways where we were spending most of our spare time camping, hunting and fishing. My Envirothon experience quickly evolved from learning simple facts about wildlife, forestry, soils and aquatics to mastering concepts of environmental science and natural resource management. The current issue that year was urban non-point source pollution so I had to think about how human activity affects ecosystems and possible solutions to problems while considering all environmental, political, economic and societal impacts. What is most valuable about Envirothon is that it teaches how to solve complex contemporary problems by applying scientific knowledge and considering all possible solutions to the problems.

After graduating from high school, I knew I wanted to pursue a career related to resource management. Envirothon taught me that many resource issues revolve around human use and impact on the environment so I chose the energy sector, in particular nuclear engineering, where I could have a positive influence on society by finding cleaner and more efficient ways to produce energy. Throughout my career, I have studied many interesting areas including reactor safety, nuclear waste management and new reactor technologies. Envirothon gave me the skill set needed to analyze these complex issues.

For all of the current Envirothon students, please take advantage of the opportunities Envirothon provides to learn something new and cool about your environment. Age a deer skull or measure the DBH of your favorite tree. When you pursue your careers, whether it is in a traditional environmental science field such as forestry and wildlife biology or other areas like engineering, business or law, take your environmental knowledge and passion with you. Remember that Envirothon tests are not taken behind a desk or a computer, they are taken out in the woods, in the soil pit and in the streams. Don't be afraid to get your boots muddy when tackling the hard issues!

Doug Fynan is a 2003 graduate of North East High School, Erie County, PA and is currently pursuing a PhD in Nuclear Engineering at the University of Michigan. He competed on Team "Green Flash" in 2001-2003 including the Canon Envirothon events held in Mississippi-2001 and Maryland-2003.

Opportunities to Explore the Outdoors

ECO Camp—Exploring Careers Outdoors — Eco Camp, Exploring Careers Outdoors, is a week-long residential camp for high school students focusing on outdoor careers in recreation, conservation and natural resources. Professional staff from DCNR including state parks, geology, and forestry, act as counselors and educators, exposing students to a variety of careers and outdoor recreation activities while interacting with students on a daily basis. The camp is held the second week of July and is open to high school students in grades 10–12. Students attend free of charge and are selected by a committee based on their applications, essays, and recommendations. For more information, contact: ECO Camp Coordinator, Bureau of State Parks - PH: 717-783-4356, e-mail: RA-ECO_Camp@pa.gov, or visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/ecocamp/index.htm.



Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp — Applications are now being accepted for the 18th annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. At the camp, students are exposed to the challenges and the rewards that protecting these fragile ecosystems can produce. Between the in-depth instruction that they receive from experts in various environmental fields and the hands-on project that they complete on the stream, the students will understand the importance of their continued involvement in coldwater conservation. The camp is open to students between the ages of 14 and 17. The 32 students will be selected through an application process where they must state why they want to attend camp and they must provide a reference from a science teacher or guidance counselor. Applications must be post marked not later than March 31, 2012. For more information visit the camp's website at www.riverscamp.com.

Celebrating 25 Years of Envirothon—Invitation

And . . . twenty-five years later, the Envirothon returns home to Pennsylvania, where it started. Pennsylvania is excited to host the 2012 Canon Envirothon, July 22-27, at Susquehanna University, where more than 260 teenagers from the United States and Canada will explore Penn's Woods. "We are proud to host this event in Pennsylvania in 2012 to celebrate such a great milestone," said Clay Burns, Canon Envirothon Executive Director. "Countless hours of grassroots work by volunteers, conservation district boards and staff, teachers, and resource professionals have made possible the spectacular growth of this one-of-a-kind program now almost a quarter of a century."

The 2012 Canon Envirothon Host Committee extends an invitation to join us in celebrating the twenty-five years of natural resource education for our youth and to *Accept a Natural Challenge* with us!

The 2012 Canon Envirothon Host Committee is working to recruit more than 200 volunteers to serve in numerous positions, which include: team and guest greeters, oral component judges, and team buddies. In addition, we are seeking more than \$350,000 which is needed to cover transportation, room and board costs, classroom rental, and educational tools and programs.

If you would like to become a volunteer to help with the 2012 Canon Envirothon or would like to join our host of sponsors just as The Hershey Company, Foundation of Pennsylvania Watersheds, Talisman Energy USA, PACD, SCC, PA DEP, Pennsylvania's County Conservation Districts, and Canon Envirothon have, please contact Lorelle Steach, Co-chair, (814) 623-7900 ext. 111; Leigh Beamesderfer, Co-chair, (717) 272-3908 ext. 112; or email Canon2012@lccd.org.



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Become a Friend of the Pennsylvania Envirothon

Pennsylvania Youth
Accept the Natural Challenge

Become a "Friend of the Envirothon"
Your support can make a difference

You can show you care about our natural resources and conservation education by helping the Pennsylvania Envirothon educate high school students about protecting, managing, and using our natural resources wisely.

Please show your concern by pledging your support for the Pennsylvania Envirothon by becoming a "Friend of the Envirothon." By becoming a partner, you will receive our UPDATES newsletter to keep you up-to-date on the Envirothon program. Diamond and Gold sponsors will be recognized in all print media, on our t-shirts, and on a sponsor board. Silver and Bronze sponsors will be recognized in all print media.

You can also visit our website at www.envirothonpa.org. All contributions are 501 (c) (3) tax deductible and should be made payable to Pennsylvania Envirothon, Inc. N.P.

Please select your pledge amount and complete and mail this form along with payment to: Pennsylvania Envirothon, Inc. N.P. 702 West Pitt Street, Suite 3, Bedford, PA 15522.

Name: _____

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2012 Oral Component Information for the State Competition



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Do your part to conserve
our natural resources.
View the UPDATES
newsletter on-line by
visiting our web site:
www.envirothonpa.org.



The oral component presentation is mandatory for all teams, and the score will be combined with the testing part of the event to decide the overall 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 oral component scenario will be posted on the Pennsylvania Envirothon website (www.envirothonpa.org) on Wednesday, May 16th, 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. In addition, posting it on the web will also allow those nonparticipating teams a chance to see how the scenario is written, what is expected, and provide an opportunity to “participate” on their own, in preparation for future State Envirothon events or for their own personal growth.

A complete listing of *Oral Component Rules and Guidelines* can be found on the Pennsylvania Envirothon website at www.envirothonpa.org. This information will also be included in the registration packet provided to all teams closer to the event. Please mark May 16th on your calendar as a reminder to check the Pennsylvania Envirothon website to obtain a copy of the scenario.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

April / May, 2012

County Envirothon events are held in all 67 counties.

May 16, 2012

2012 PA State Envirothon Oral Component Scenario will be posted to the PA Envirothon website.

May 22 & 23, 2012

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

July 22–27, 2012

Twenty-fifth annual Canon Envirothon will be held at the Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.

2013

Twenty-sixth annual Canon Envirothon will be held in Montana. The Current issue topic chosen by Montana will focus on Grazing and Rangeland.



Mark your Calendars!

Pennsylvania Envirothon Mission

Mission Statement

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, ecological, and economic balance. The learning objectives emphasize awareness, knowledge, and attitudes through outdoor hands-on applications while addressing the complex natural resource concerns facing today's world as well as the challenges of tomorrow.



For more information:

Pennsylvania Envirothon
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