

NEWS RELEASE

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“Pennsylvania Envirothon Week”
More than 300 students “Take the Natural Challenge”

We are pleased to announce the 2020 “Pennsylvania Envirothon Week” winners. Even with Envirothon events being canceled this year, participants were not deterred from testing their Envirothon skills. The contest may have taken place virtually and not outdoors, but the natural drive in these students was evident.

Prizes for the top scores were awarded for each day. The top 10 scorers each received a \$20 gift card. If there were more than 10 top scorers for any given day, winners were randomly selected from the pool of top scorers. From the week’s 179 participants who completed all five challenges, three overall winners took away Pennsylvania Envirothon apparel. The overall winners’ scores out of a possible total of 500 points were:

First Place – Maddie Tiemann, Neshaminy High School, Bucks County, score of 480;

Second Place – Nicholas DeFigio, Brownsville Area High School, Fayette County, score of 475;

Third Place – Ethan Olesko, Brownsville Area High School, Fayette County, score of 470.

More than 300 Envirothon participants representing 110 schools in 47 counties competed in Pennsylvania’s first-ever, weeklong, online Envirothon Challenge. During each day of the Challenge, individuals completed a 20-question quiz that focused on one of the five-station topics – Soils and Land Use, Current Issues, Wildlife, Aquatic Ecology, and Forestry.

“The virtual Envirothon was a nice tool to add to our new distant teaching, learning, and practice. We got many of the students excited as they waited for that exact time to go to their email and start the Challenge, but I was not expecting the level of involvement for the Challenge. I was happy to hear of their feedback after completing their Challenge,” expressed Tom Hojnowski, Envirothon coach at Canton High School, Bradford County.

The partners who made this event possible were Pennsylvania’s Departments of Environmental Protection, Conservation and Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Education; U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service; Fish & Boat Commission; and Game Commission. Event sponsors included:

Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, State Conservation Commission, Shell, PSECU, EQT Foundation, UGI Utilities, Weis, Chief Oil & Gas, PPL, and Pennsylvania Trappers Association.

“On behalf of the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors, I would like to thank all the students who took the Pennsylvania Envirothon Online Challenge and their coaches who supported them,” said Bill Kahler, Chair. “It was very gratifying for us to see the great number of students participating in this very "unusual" 2020 Envirothon competition. For the seniors, we hope the Pennsylvania Envirothon will have a lasting impact on your future goals. For the returning students we hope you stay excited and involved, and we hope to see you in 2021. Congratulations to all who participated.”

Visit our website for more information on the [Pennsylvania Envirothon](#).

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