



Snyder County Conservation District

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Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA, Hosts 2012 Canon Envirothon

Forty-four state teams from the USA and ten Canadian provincial and territorial teams, participated at the 25th annual [Canon Envirothon](#) in central Pennsylvania.

This year's Envirothon was held at the campus of [Susquehanna University](#) in Selinsgrove, PA, on July 22 through 26, 2012. The Envirothon is the "one of North America's largest high school environmental educational competitions."

This is the 25th year that the multi-state/international contest has been held. The [original contest](#), originally named the Envirolympics, was created by Pennsylvania's conservation districts in the mid-1980s and later expanded beyond its borders. As the contest's originators, [Pennsylvania](#) received the privilege to host this year's contest celebrating 25 years of interstate/international competition. Many of the volunteers for this event came from various conservation districts in PA, including the [Snyder County Conservation District](#).



The Envirothon, either at this high level or at the local or state/provincial/territorial level, tests each team's knowledge on various environmental topics and current issues. This year's current issue topic was nonpoint source pollution and low impact technology.



In order to participate in the [Canon Envirothon](#), teams made up five high school students participate and win in local and state/provincial/territorial Envirothons. In the USA, many are sponsored by conservation districts. Only the top team in each participating state/province/territory advances to the Canon Envirothon.

On the first day, the Envirothon opening ceremony was held where each school is introduced and students, their advisor and contest volunteers listen to guest speakers and entertainers at [Susquehanna University's](#) Weber Chapel Auditorium. Snyder County Commissioner Joe Kantz was the opening ceremony master of ceremonies while [Van](#)

[Wagner](#), Lewisburg Area High School environmental education teacher, musician and historian.



Left Photo: Joe Kantz, Snyder County Commissioner, as Opening Ceremony Master of Ceremonies.



Right Photo: Van Wager, Environmental Education Teacher, Musician and Historian, sings one of his songs at the Opening Ceremony.

Day 2: Students were taken to [Raymond B. Winter State Park](#) northwest of Mifflinburg, where Halfway Dam and Lake are located. This is where all participants received information about central Pennsylvania soils, forests, aquatics, wildlife and nonpoint source pollution issues. (This is to give contestants from other part of North America knowledge so they are not at a disadvantage against those from Pennsylvania and nearby states and provinces.) Afterwards, students could choose between several outdoor activities to experience and learn about such as fly fishing and tying, geocaching and hiking.



Left: R. B. Winter State Park in the fall. Photo from PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources website.



Photos above: Testing activities at PPL Montour Preserve. Photos from Canon Envirothon website.



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Testing Day (Day 3): After breakfast, contestants were bused to [PPL Montour Preserve](#) near Danville and Washingtonville, a natural area preserved and maintained for enjoyment and educational uses next to PPL's coal burning electrical generating plant. This was the actual contest site kept secret from all students and advisors until the moment they arrived at the Preserve. After challenging their knowledge and skills, the students were taken to [Knoebles Amusement Park](#) near Elysburg and Danville.

Day 4: Students were gathered at [Susquehanna University](#)'s Charles B. Degenstein Campus Center to listen to guest speakers and information they would need to give oral presentation regarding an environmental topic the next day. After taking notes and collecting their materials, teams were sequestered from each other and their advisors in individual dormitory rooms on campus so they can work on their group presentations.

Presentation Day (Day 5): All fifty-four teams gave presentations to judges in the morning on campus. The top five overall teams in scoring then gave their presentation in a final that afternoon.



Left Photo: A team giving an oral presentation during the Canon Envirothon. Photo from Canon Envirothon website.

A closing ceremony banquet was held at the [University](#)'s James W. Garrett Sports Complex. Snyder County Commissioner Joe Kantz again was the master of ceremonies. Awards were presented to each station (topic) winner and for the team presentation component. The overall winning team was from Pembroke High School of Kansas City, Missouri. (PA's team from MMI Preparatory School, Luzerne County, placed 15th.)



Left Photo: Awards Banquet and Closing Ceremony at the Canon Envirothon. Photo from Canon Envirothon website.

While the teams competed, team advisors and guests were taken to various locations on tours and activities of the area such as [Gettysburg National Military Park](#), [Yuengling Brewery](#), [Penns Cave & Wildlife Park](#), [Pioneer Coal Mine](#), [Shade Mountain Winery](#), [Penn's Creek Pottery](#), [T & D Cats of the World](#), an [acid mine drainage treatment system](#), and kayaking on the Susquehanna River.

Regarding the 2012 contest, you can check out the [Canon Envirothon](#) website or watch and listen to [this YouTube video](#) created by [Josh Seehorn](#).

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer to help with these local, state or international educational events, contact your local conservation district office. Below are websites links for the following:

PA Envirothon: <http://www.envirothonpa.org>

Canon Envirothon: <http://www.envirothon.org>

Special thanks goes out to various sponsors and businesses who gave donations, as well as cooperating state and federal agencies and conservation district staffs who helped out with this year's Canon Envirothon.

From the PA Envirothon Mission Statement: The Pennsylvania Envirothon educates high school students in natural resource and environmental sciences. The program emphasizes the importance of environmental sensitivity while stressing a need to achieve a social, ecologic and economic balance in life. The learning objectives emphasize awareness, knowledge, attitudes and application. The Pennsylvania Envirothon provides future generations with the ability to be better equipped to address the complex natural resource concerns facing today's world as well as the challenges of tomorrow.

Editor's Note: Much of this information came from the Canon Envirothon news release dated July, 27, 2012, on its website (www.envirothon.org) and its volunteers from the [Snyder County Conservation District](#).

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