

Middleburg Elementary 5th Graders Learn About Environment & Have Fun

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) was invited to Middleburg Elementary School (MES) to coordinate an environmental education competition for their 5th graders. The event, called the “Fifth Grade Envirothon,” was held on May 11, 2018, at the school grounds. Students were assigned into teams of three to five. Approximately one hundred (100) participated.

Weeks before the event, the students and teachers were given materials to read, discuss and study regarding aquatics, forestry, wildlife, soils & agricultural conservation practices, and vernal pools.

Jason Winey, SCCD Watershed Specialist, coordinated the event by collecting materials, samples and educational handouts, and securing people to help out with the actual event. Several of his fellow SCCD colleagues and individuals from the PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources’ (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry and Penn State Extension helped out with the event. Study materials and testing station props were supplied by Susquehanna University, PA Game Commission, DCNR, NRCS and SCCD.



Prizes from various organizations will be awarded to team members who scored the highest in each station during an end of school year picnic.

SCCD has given presentations to young people in schools, at school sponsored events and at other events throughout its history. For more information regarding this event and other potential environmental educational opportunities for youngsters, call the Snyder County Conservation District at 570-837-3000 or email us at sccd@ptd.net.

Check what else we do by visiting our website at www.snyderconservation.org.

Note: A special thanks goes to those who helped out during the 5th Grade Envirothon:

- *John Portzline, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Assistant District Forester, Bald Eagle Forest, Laurelton*
- *Kathy Weller, 4-H Coordinator, Penn State Extension, Snyder County*

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Top: Students look at tree leaf samples at the Forestry station. Middle: Students try to identify pictures of conservation practices at the Soils Station with Chip Spatz (sitting, far left), SCCD Nutrient Management Technician, looking on. Bottom: After the contest, Tanna Stenger, MES 5th Grade Teacher and her son Maverick, a sophomore education student from Lycoming College in Williamsport, go over pictures from the station regarding vernal ponds, which are seasonal wetlands where many amphibians and invertebrates live.