

High School Students Test Their Knowledge in Local Envirothon

Forty-three (43) teams involving nearly 215 students from various schools in five central Pennsylvania counties arrived at the Shikellamy State Park Marina for the annual Susquehanna Valley High School Envirothon held on April 25, 2023. (The Marina is located near Sunbury, PA on Packers Island.)

Topics that the students were tested in were wildlife, forestry, aquatics, soils, and a specific current issues topic that changes yearly. The current issue topic for this year is “Adapting to a Changing Climate.”

Several cooperating agencies helped out with the event. They were: PA Game Commission (*Wildlife station*), PA (Department of Conservation & Natural Resources) DCNR-Bureau of Forestry (*Forestry station*), PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) (*Current Events station*), and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (*Soils station*).

Staff members from the five conservation districts oversaw planning, coordination and logistics of the Envirothon, as well as the Aquatics station.



Each conservation district awarded medals to the highest scoring team from its county. This year, the Snyder County winners were from Susquehanna Valley Homeschoolers. The team (above photo) consisted of Isaiah Creeger, Wyatt Weaver, Ezra Carr, Kera Bentz, and Hannah Carr. They placed eleventh overall out of 43 teams that competed. The team advisor (not in photo) was Karen Carr.

A team from Central Columbia High School in Columbia County won the overall title this year.



During the event, students stopped at a station where they are not tested for their knowledge but listen to an educational presentation. This year, Van Wagner, Lewisburg Area High School talked about being an arborist.

Each student who participated in the local Envirothon received a T-shirt. Sponsoring businesses and organization gave financial donations for the event. (Contact one of the five supporting conservation districts for a complete list of donors.)

Winning teams from each participating county advance to the 2023 PA Envirothon. This year's PA Envirothon will be a combination of:

- A. An online oral component (taking place on May 17 through May 29) in which all teams make a presentation and answer questions, and
- B. An in-person component onsite at Camp Mount Luther west of Mifflinburg on May 23 where teams will compete in five stations (aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and "waste to resources).



The winning PA team will then qualify for the (National Conservation Foundation) NCF-Envirothon competition scheduled to be held on July 23 to 29, 2023, at Mount Allison University in Tantramar, New Brunswick, Canada. Winning teams from similar Envirothons across US states and Canadian provinces and territories.

If you would like more information about or would like to volunteer to help with these local, state, or international educational events, contact your local conservation district office or check these websites listed below:

Columbia County Conservation District: 570-317-9456
Montour County Conservation District: 570-271-1140
Northumberland County Conservation District: 570-495-4665
Snyder County Conservation District: 570-837-3000
Union County Conservation District: 570-524-3860

PA Envirothon: <http://www.envirothonpa.org>
North American Envirothon: <http://www.envirothon.org>

PA Envirothon Mission & Vision Statements (taken from PA Envirothon website): "The mission of the Pennsylvania Envirothon is to provide students with the knowledge and tools necessary to address the natural resource challenges facing today's world as well as the challenges of tomorrow.

"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."

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