

Snyder-Juniata County Kids' Enviro Camp Held in Richfield



From June 12 - 15, 2023, a Kids' Enviro Camp was at Richfield's Basom Park, co-hosted by the Snyder County (SCCD) and Juniata County (JCCD) Conservation Districts. An average of fifty-three (53) children attended the camp each evening.

Each day's events were held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. featuring special guests. Children entering 1st through 4th grade were split in four groups named after official Pennsylvania state soil (Hazleton channery sandy loam) state flora (eastern hemlock) and fauna (brook trout & white-tailed deer). Each night's theme was as follows:

- Monday – Watersheds, Rain Clouds & Aquatics
- Tuesday -- Wildlife
- Wednesday -- Soils & Forestry

Highlights of hands-on and interactive activities include planting lettuce, learning how plants protect soil from eroding, importance of trees, hot to stop wildfires, animal track painting, importance of wild seeds, understanding how clouds work, fly rod techniques, looking at aquatic life, and take an animal scat and pelt walk.

Thursday was Family Community Night, in which children and their parents and guardians viewed photos of the week's events, built their own rain gutter garden, enjoyed popcorn and flavored ice, and painted six rain barrels able to catch roof water that will be distributed at public places within Juniata and Snyder Counties.

The following pages contain a few photos from the week. Additional photos can be found on the SCCD's and JCCD's Facebook pages. A list of volunteers is on the last page.

An educational grant from PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) helped fund this project. Additional information about this and other educational programs can be found by contacting:

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Top Left Photo: Youngsters “make it rain” with spray bottles on two model stream tables. The left model showcases streamside best management practices (BMP) such as riparian buffers which protect the streambank and water quality. The right model has no streambank protection BMPs. Top Right Photo: A young person prepares to “put out” a wildfire. Bottom Photos: Children look at various tree seeds and cones.





Top Photos: Participants get to view and feel animal pelts while Josh Glade, Civilian Expert (top left photo, holding pelt), and Austin Adams, PA Game Commission Game Warden (top right photo, holding pelt), teach them about their behavior, diet, and habitat preferences. Bottom Photos: Two children coloring pre-cast animal paw print impressions.





Top Left Photo: Young people learn about mallard ducks while petting an adult drake (male) mallard duck mount. Top Right Photo: Chip Spatz, SCCD Nutrient Management Technician, explain the importance of plants protecting topsoil while onlooking children view a rainfall runoff demonstration. Bottom Left Photo: Children and parents paint a rain barrel that will eventually catch roof water at a public location in Juniata or Snyder County. Bottom Right Photo: Parents and child decorate a rain gutter garden.



The Snyder and Juniata County Conservation Districts would like to thank the following partners and volunteers who helped make this year's EnviroCamp a success.

- Penns Creek Trout Unlimited Chapter
- Josh Glace
- PA Game Commission - Austin Adams, Game Warden and Jacob Showers, Dispatcher & Deputy Game Warden Candidate
- PA DCNR-Bureau of Forestry, Bald Eagle State Forest - Jake Bausinger, Service Forester, and Cody Winner, Forest Technician
- Juniata County Library - Jocinda Rhinier, Youth Services Coordinator
- Courtney Ewing - Penn State Extension Intern
- Brandon Snyder and Chaz Auker - Juniata High School National Honor Society Students
- Kate Swineford and Emma Bell - Mid-West High School Students
- Jake Stiefel - SCCD Board of Director

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