

Mid-West School District 2nd & 5th Graders Learn About Environment & Have Fun

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) was invited to Middleburg and West Snyder Elementary Schools to coordinate and teach approximately 130 2nd graders several aspects of nature and organize an environmental education competition for approximately 130 5th graders in May 2024. SCCD staff, as well as staff from cooperating agencies, visited Middleburg Elementary School on May 9 and West Snyder Elementary School in Beaver Springs on May 10.



Second Grade Presentations:

At both schools, the students learned about soil, trees, song & game birds, and birds of prey. Each second grader took home a mini greenhouse with vegetable and gourd seeds planted into soil, a bag of bones from an owl pellet, a bird call, and other activity books inside a drawstring backpack.

Fifth Grader Envirothons:

A “Fifth Grade Envirothon” was held at each elementary school. Students were assigned into teams of three to five. Weeks before the event, students and teachers were given materials to read, discuss and study regarding soils & agricultural conservation practices, aquatics, forestry, and wildlife. Middleburg 5th graders also had information about vernal pools.

After each school’s Envirothon, they were given the correct answers to many questions. Each group’s answers were scored and the top teams at each school were given prizes.

Lauren Cheran, SCCD Program Administrator, coordinated both sets of activities. Many of her fellow SCCD colleagues, and staff members from Penn State Extension and PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources’ (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry helped with the activities.

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, contact the Snyder County Conservation District at 570-837-3000, or at sccd@snydercd.org. You can also visit our website at www.snyderconservation.org, specifically our Education & Youth webpage.

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Note #1: A special thanks goes to those who helped during these events:

- *Jake Bausinger, Service Forester, Kris Runner, Forest Technician, and Pat Caroff, Forest Intern, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Bald Eagle Forest, Laurelton*
- *Kathy Weller, 4-H Coordinator, Penn State Extension, Snyder County*

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Note #2: On June 17 to 19, 2024, a Kids' Enviro Camp will be jointly held by the Snyder and Juniata County Conservation Districts for those entering grades 1 through 4. Hands-on and interactive activities will be held throughout the week. There will also be snacks, games, and crafts,

Pre-registration is required as space is limited. Visit our website or Facebook page to register. A separate waiver form must be completed for each child in attendance. You may electronically submit the waiver at the time of registration or mail it to Snyder County Conservation District, 10541 Route 522, Middleburg, PA 17842. Financial and other support has been provided by the Department of Environmental Protection's 2023 Environmental Education Grants Program.

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