



Snyder-Juniata County Kids' Enviro-Camp Held in Richfield



From June 17 - 19, 2024, 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 forty (40) children attended the camp each evening.

Each day's events were held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., featuring special guests. Children entering 1st through 4th grade were split into four groups named after official Pennsylvania state flora and fauna: Fireflies, Ruffed Grouse, Mountain Laurel and Hellbenders.

Highlights included:

- Viewing a live bear trapped by the PA Game Commission,
- Understanding what is involved in stream assessments,
- How to cast a fly-fishing and regular fishing rod,
- What are hellbenders and their habitat needs,
- Painting their own t-shirts to take home and making their own water cycle bracelets. Also,
- Learn about forestry & wood products, raising trout, and boating safety, and
- How people can prevent streams from being polluted.

Wednesday was Family Community Night, in which children and their parents and guardians viewed photos of the week's events, participated in three presentations, and enjoyed ice cream floats.

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

Additional information about this and other educational programs can be found by contacting:

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Top Left Photo: Wyatt Knepp, PA Game Commission Biologist, collects information from a one year-old female black bear trapped in a culvert pipe trap. Top Right Photo: Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper & Executive Director John Zaktansky shows off a life size model of an eastern hellbender, North America's largest and PA's official amphibian, who are sensitive to stream pollutants and habitat changes. Bottom Photo: Nicholas Smith, JCCD Resource Conservation Technician, explains what biologists look for while assessing a stream or body of water health (i.e.: aquatic insects, streambank vegetation, sedimentation.).





Top Left: Children decorating their t-shirts with paint stamps while SCCD Nutrient Management Technician Chip Spatz looks on. Top Right: Youngsters gathered around an interactive EnviroScape® learning about how streams and rivers can become polluted with Stacey Hanrahan (wearing hat), Susquehanna River Basin Commission Communications & Outreach Specialist. Bottom Left: PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) Service Forester Luke Book explains how trees help us and the environment. Bottom Right: Children and parents learn about trout from Lost Creek Trout Club Manager Tony Kerchusky and how it raises and release them into streams.





Top Left: A boy tries practices casting a fishing rod. Top Right: Nicholas Smith (standing, far right) and Jason Winey, District Manager (kneeling, second from right), show live macro-invertebrates found in the West Branch Mahantango Creek that borders the park. Bottom Photos: A boy looks through a magnifying glass in search of small invertebrates (bottom left photo), while a girl holds a crayfish (bottom right photo).





Above: Snack time with Tim Hornberger, SCCD Resource Conservation Technician (standing at back) watching.

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

- Penns Creek Trout Unlimited Chapter
- Lost Creek Trout Club
- PA Game Commission - Austin Adams, Game Warden and Wyatt Knepp, Biologist
- PA DCNR-Bureau of Forestry - Luke Book, Service Forester, and John Portzline, State Office
- Susquehanna River Basin Commission - Stacey Hanrahan, Communications & Outreach Specialist
- Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper - John Zaktansky, Executive Director

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