



UPDATES

Pennsylvania Envirothon

Fall 2018

Carmichaels Area High School won 18th place at the 2018 NCF-Envirothon

A five-member team of high school students from Pennsylvania won 18th place at the 2018 NCF-Envirothon held at Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID. The NCF-Envirothon is an international environmental education competition for high schoolers conducted by the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) and supported by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

The top three overall scoring teams received cash prizes sponsored by Smithfield Foods, the world's largest pork producer and processor. The top fourth through tenth placing teams received cash prizes from Canon U.S.A., Inc. Other event sponsors included the National Association of Conservation Districts, the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Sustainable Forestry Initiative, along with many partners from Idaho and across the country.

At this year's event, 43 high schools from the U.S., five from Canada, and two from China participated in the NCF-Envirothon.

The Mount Academy team from New York won the 2018 NCF-Envirothon. For more information and photos, visit the [NCF-Envirothon](#) website.

The 2019 international NCF-Envirothon will be hosted at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C. July 28 – August 2. Students will be tested on the 2019 topic, "Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World."

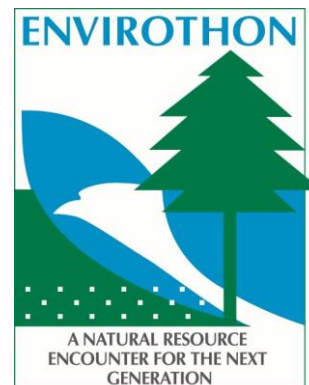


Pennsylvania's Team from Carmichaels Area High School, Greene County, discovers "sage brush."



Team Pennsylvania: Kevin Willis (coach), Christina Adams, Joey Kurincak, Stephen Zacoi, Jacob Hair, and Ryan Swartz.

Thank you, NCF-Envirothon and Idaho 2018, for a wonderful event!



2019 Pennsylvania Envirothon State Competition

The 2019 Pennsylvania Envirothon competition will be held at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown, Cambria County on May 21 and 22.

The oral component will take place on Tuesday and the station testing on Wednesday. All events will be held on the UPJ campus.



UPJ is located in the city of Johnstown, 70 miles east of Pittsburgh. UPJ is a four-year, fully accredited, degree-granting, coeducational, residential undergraduate college, which was founded in 1927 as a regional campus of the University of Pittsburgh, one of the nation's oldest institutions of higher education.

Teams that have completed their oral presentations may want to make arrangements to visit the historical Johnstown Flood Museum or Inclined Plane. They may also join in on a pick-up game of basketball or soccer on the outdoor courts, or hike the UPJ nature trails.

Visit the [UPJ](#) website and [Johnstown attractions](#) for additional information.

2019 Envirothon Resources

The Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 2019 Envirothon resources will be available by early October. Teachers and students can review and download most of the information needed to prepare for the 2019 Envirothon competitions. Visit the [Pennsylvania Envirothon](#) website and click on "Station Training."

2019 Current Environmental Issue

"Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World"

There are many articles that estimate the population of the Earth to be approximately 9 billion by the year 2050. One of the primary concerns for the agricultural industry is how will farmers be able to grow enough food to feed this growing population, while also protecting natural resources such as soil, water, air, wildlife, and forestry resources.

Students will learn the concepts of how agriculture and all natural resource areas are interrelated, as well as how the use of new technologies is a key to increase food production.

Key topics will include:

- Understanding the importance of moving toward sustainable farming systems to conserve natural resources, mitigate climate change, reduce erosion and protect water quality and quantity, and promote pollination;
- Understanding the farming practices that build soil organic matter such as composting, crop rotations, cover crops, conservation tillage, and management intensive grazing systems to improve soil health;
- Understanding integrated pest management and biological pest control techniques used to prevent insect pest, disease, and weed problems; and
- Understanding the role of new technology: agricultural biotechnology, precision agriculture, and using UAV (drones, GIS, etc.) to increase farm efficiency for food production.



Pennsylvania Envirothon Scholarship Awards

The Pennsylvania Envirothon has been awarding educational scholarships now for 15 years. Since 2005, we have awarded \$146,000 to more than 230 students from 12 different counties. The scholarship program is supported by donations made by Pennsylvania's County Conservation Districts. Thanks to their generous donations, scholarship awards for the Pennsylvania Envirothon state competition are now extended to the top five teams.



Each student on the top five teams at the 2019 State Envirothon Competition will receive the following scholarship awards: First place - \$1,250; Second place - \$750; Third place - \$500; Fourth place - \$300; and Fifth place - \$150.

It is a goal of the Pennsylvania Envirothon to continue to recognize teams at the state competition. Thank you, conservation districts, for supporting the Pennsylvania Envirothon Scholarship program!

Pennsylvania Envirothon Endowment

A Pennsylvania Envirothon Endowment Fund has been established. Its purpose is to offer support for the program and the long-term goal is to support the program entirely by its endowment fund.

The Envirothon Endowment Fund is in an initial growth phase to raise capital. Endowments protect the principal gift placed in the fund with only the interest made available to spend. Once the goal of becoming self-sustaining has been reached, the objective is to continue to grow the fund while providing support for the program as identified by the Endowment Fund Committee. For more information, please visit the Pennsylvania Envirothon website "[Join and Give](#)" page.

Pennsylvania Envirothon Extends THANKS to its Corporate Sponsors!

Envirothon is a program that draws the attention of many sponsors and Pennsylvania Envirothon has been very fortunate to have scored support from so many corporations that are based, or have operations, in our great state.

Shell Oil sponsorship enables us to increase the Envirothon mini-grants, offer conservation district assistance grants, extend the scholarship awards, cover a portion of the registration costs, purchase educational resources, and award an all-expenses paid trip to the international competition.

EQT Foundation sponsorship helped us provide wildlife field guides and skull replicas that are ideal for providing students a visual representation of animals and their habitat.

UGI Utilities EITC funding helped us provide soil profile posters and educational resources for county Envirothon programs across the state.

PPL's Sustaining Grant will sponsor this year's county Envirothon coordinator trainings, which will be held in October and November.

PSECU's Gives Back popular vote-based community donation campaign chose Envirothon as its 2018 recipient. These funds will be used towards purchasing educational resources for county Envirothon programs.

Weis sparked many smiling faces by sponsoring the ice-cream snack at this year's state competition as well as snacks for Tuesday's volunteers.

The Hershey Company was a proud sponsor of the oral presentation component.

Chief Oil & Gas helped sponsor lunch at this year's state competition.

Pennsylvania Trappers Association sponsorship helped us provide skull replicas that are ideal for providing students a visual representation of animals.