

# Coach's Manual



*Brand New  
Location  
@  
John Rudy  
County Park*

**5th & 6th  
Grade Event**

**or**

**Middle School  
(6th, 7th & 8th)  
Grade Event**

**An Environmental Education Partnership**

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# York County 5th - 8th Grade Envirothon 2009

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## Welcome to the Envirothon

The Envirothon is an environmental learning experience created by Pennsylvania Conservation Districts for Senior High students. Nearly 25 years later, Envirothon events are held throughout the United States and Canada. Pennsylvania holds Envirothon events in 66 counties. York County is one of the rare exceptions throughout the United States that offers the Envirothon to grade levels other than senior high - we begin our events in the third grade!

The Conservation District plans, coordinates and runs the Envirothon each year with the help of a committee composed of cooperating agency staff and volunteers. Substantial fundraising occurs each year to make the Envirothon possible. We depend on local corporate, individual, cooperating agency, and nonprofit organization sponsors to donate time, talent and resources.

The Envirothon provides quality environmental education to public, private & homeschooled students and teachers in York County. Last year over 800 students representing 150 teams and 14 school districts participated locally.

Studying our natural resources and taking part in an annual competition are both part of the Envirothon. So is teamwork, sportsmanship & fun. The lowest grade levels introduce students to the Envirothon while the competition intensifies as students advance through grade levels.

Each student participates as part of a school team. Envirothons are designed to be year-long, multi-media and interdisciplinary environmental education experiences. Months of study culminate in a day-long, outdoor competition in the spring. **Our county competitions are held rain or shine in late April and early May at the John Rudy County Park located off of Mt. Zion Road in York - the NEW official "Home of the York County Envirothons."**

At the Senior High level, the winning York County team earns the right to represent York County at the PA State competition where they compete for college scholarships and various prizes. The winning state team then represents Pennsylvania at the North American competition sponsored by Canon and held each July somewhere in the United States or Canada. **York County won both the Pennsylvania Envirothon & Canon Envirothon in 1991, and in 2007 they won the Pennsylvania Envirothon and took second place overall at the Canon Envirothon!**

Coaches (teachers or other adults) receive free resources (i.e. study material) through the York County Conservation District and its partnering organizations. Many teachers have included these valuable resources in preparing their daily lesson plans.

Resources are selected and compiled by an Envirothon committee from government agencies, industry, non-profit organizations and other sources. **Envirothon resources are designed to compliment and support the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Environment and Ecology standards.**

All students who attend the competition receive a T-shirt, medallion & certificate for their participation. Snacks & lunch are provided. There is also an opportunity for teams to receive place ribbons and trophies.

The purpose of this manual is to help coaches have a successful Envirothon. Have fun & good luck to you all.

*Kim J. Young*

Envirothon Coordinator, York County Conservation District

## Getting Organized:

Please read this manual carefully and make every effort to follow all of our rules in order to ensure that your team is able to register and compete.

All registration forms are located in the back of this manual. Please note the registration forms are color coordinated & your registration deadlines vary. We have also included a checklist in the back of this manual to assist you in planning.

## Forming Your Team(s): READ CAREFULLY

Last year we restructured our 5th & 6th & Middle School competitions.

**We now have BOTH a 5th & 6th Grade Event AND a Middle School Event (6th, 7th & 8th Grades)**

**Where & When will your 6th Graders compete?**

**It depends on what school building they attend.**

**If your 6th Graders currently go to school in the same building as 7th & 8th graders** they will study with 7th & 8th graders and compete together in the Middle School Event on Tuesday May 5th, 2008.

**If your 6th graders currently go to school in the same building with 5th graders** they will study with the 5th graders and compete together at the 5th & 6th Grade Envirothon on Wed. May 6th, 2008.

**If your 6th graders are in a building by themselves**, we encourage you to participate in our Middle School event.

**LET'S REVIEW** - This means that some 6th graders will be competing with 5th graders and some 6th graders will be competing with 7th & 8th graders. The choice is not up to the coach. The determining factor has to do with the school building that your 6th graders are currently attending.

## How Many Students May I Have on Each Team?

**Each Team may have minimum of THREE (3) and maximum of SIX (6) students.**  
There are No Alternates - only team members.

Coaches bringing more than six students per team on the day of competition will be disqualified.

**All team members** must be residents of York County and must be enrolled in the participating school.

## How Many Teams May I Bring?

### The 5th & 6th Grade Event:

1. If your district's **school buildings contain Grades K-5** - You may bring one **(1) team per building**.
2. If your district's **school buildings contain** a separate building for **Grades 5th & 6th** - You may bring a maximum of three **(3) teams per building**.
3. If your district's **school buildings contain Grades K-6** - You may bring two **(2) teams per building**.

### The Middle School (6th, 7th & 8th Grade) Event:

1. If your district's **school buildings contain Grades 6th, 7th & 8th** - You may bring three **(3) teams per building**.
2. If your district's **school buildings contain Grades 7th & 8th** - You may bring three **(3) teams per building**.

## HOME SCHOOLERS:

**Home Schooled teams** may bring TWO (2) Teams to the 5th & 6th Grade Event and TWO (2) teams to the 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Event.

**Home Schooled Teams** may have a minimum of 3 students and a maximum of 6 students per team. All Home Schooled students must be York County residents.

## What Else do I Need to Know?

**Each team must have their own name.** If you have 2 teams, you must have 2 different names, three teams - 3 different names. Each team must list their team name on the March registration form. We will not register a team without a name.

**Each team must have a team captain.** If you bring 2 teams, you must have 2 captains, etc. Team captains accept awards on behalf of their team and make final decisions if the judges have a question or dispute.

**Each team must have a designated coach.** If you have 2 teams, you must arrive with two coaches the day of competition, three teams - three coaches. Your additional coach(es) may simply be a parent assigned to chaperone one of the teams that day, but no team may compete without a coach/chaperone. NO EXCEPTIONS.

## How to Register Your Team(s):

Coaches: There are three steps to registering your team(s). It's very simple:

### **1. In early December you must REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL.**

Think of this as your "Intent to Participate." You will provide your name and contact information and tell us how many teams you plan to bring. This simply gives us an idea of how many teams to anticipate. **Complete the School Registration Form (lilac)** and **return to the Conservation District** by **December 5, 2008**.

### **2. In early March you must REGISTER YOUR TEAM(S).**

This is when you will list your team name(s) and order your team T-shirts. Of all the registration forms, this is the most important and the most time sensitive. You risk eliminating your team(s) from the event or not receiving T-shirts for your team(s) if you miss this registration. **Complete the Team Registration Form (blue)** and **return to the Conservation District** by **March 6, 2009**.

### **3. On the day of competition - May 5th or May 6th - you must bring your STUDENT REGISTRATION Form to the registration table.**

You will provide the names of your students and team captain on this form and hand it to us during registration the morning of the event. **Complete your Student Registration Form (salmon)** before you arrive and **present it to us when you register that morning**. When you hand in this form you will receive your team's instructions & schedule for the day and the coaches instructions & schedule for the day. At this time you will also receive your team T-shirts. Please have your students wait for you outside while you register.

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**ALL FORMS CAN BE FOUND IN THE BACK OF THIS COACHES MANUAL**

## Thank Our Sponsors:

Each year the Envirothon grows in scope and size. It is no surprise that costs required to maintain and improve these programs increase as well. Without our generous sponsors all of the Envirothon events would be in serious jeopardy.

Teams are always asked to send thank you cards or letters to our sponsors each spring as the school year draws to a close.

To help your students, registered teams will receive a short list of sponsors prior to their event. A complete list of sponsors will be distributed to you in your coach's packet on the day of your event.

## Who is the Coach?

The **Team Coach** is usually a teacher or school administrator. However, a coach may be any adult, parent or volunteer over the age of 18 years with permission of their school district to register a team of students.

Many schools have a teacher serving as a coach with parents or other adults helping as assistant coaches during the year or acting as an additional chaperone on the day of competition.

Each team that registers **MUST** have a designated coach whose name, school and contact information will be listed with the team. Whenever possible, please use the same coach's name and contact information on each registration form throughout the school year.

A team may have more than one coach. However, only one coach per team will receive the study resource packets each year. And only one coach per team will be provided with a **Coach's Manual, Registration Forms & Checklist.**

Whether you are coaching one, two or three teams, you must have an adult assigned to each team during the competition. Any team arriving for the competition **WITHOUT** a coach **WILL BE DISQUALIFIED**. No exceptions. No teams are allowed on the testing rotation without adult supervision!!!

**LET US REVIEW:** If you are coaching more than one team, you **MUST** make sure you have another adult (assistant coach, parent, volunteer, school administrator) with each of your teams on the day of competition!

## Study Resource Packets (binders):

All Study Resources are provided free of charge courtesy of the York County Conservation District and its partnering agencies.

Each team will be provided one set of study materials each year. **New** schools/teams will get a binder plus their resource packet. **Returning** schools/teams will get a resource packet containing new materials to be added to their existing binders. All resources are considered **property of the school or home school group** and are intended to be used for each successive year.

Whenever possible, sources for resources are listed in your resource packet or on our website. Any coach wishing additional copies of any resources will need to secure those additional copies on their own.

If you need study resources or you feel you are missing a resource, please contact Amber Carothers at Nixon Park at 717-428-1961.

## York County 5th - 8th Grade Envirothon 2009

### Study Sessions for 5th thru 8th grades:

Student Study Sessions - All student study sessions will be held at **Nixon Park**. Call-in Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. You may begin scheduling your Study sessions on February 13, 2009. To register, **Call Amber at 717-428-1961**.

Please note the registration times for the day of your session. That is the time you should be at the Nature Center! Be on time so your students do not miss the start of their session. And please be aware that the Nature Center closes at 4:30 pm on weekdays. If you are running late for an evening session you run the risk of being locked out!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Registration Time</u>	<u>Study Session Begins</u>
Saturday March 21st	8:45 am	9:00 am - 12:00 noon
Thursday March 26th	4:15 pm	4:30 - 7:30 pm
Wednesday April 1st	4:15 pm	4:30 - 7:30 pm
Saturday April 4th	12:15 pm	12:30 - 3:30 pm

\*\* Our Snow date will be Saturday April 25, 2009

### Awards & Prizes:

Every student who participates on the day of the event is awarded a T-shirt, collector's medalion & a participation certificate.

We also award team ribbons to 1st-10th places overall, photo plaques to 1st-6th places overall & team ribbons to 1st-3rd place in the testing categories.

Special recognition awards may be presented, but please note that team or individual awards vary from year to year depending on sponsorship.

### The 2009 5th - 8th Grade Study Topics:

Teams will rotate through the five following testing stations during the competition -

- > Aquatic Ecology
- > **2009 Current Issue: Recreational Impacts on the Environment**
- > Forestry
- > Non-testing (educational program)
- > Wildlife

## Directions to Nixon County Park for study sessions:

### From Susquehanna Trail (George Street)

- Take Susquehanna Trail from north or south into Jacobus.
- Turn left or right onto Valley Road (across from Jacobus Fire Hall)
- Follow Valley Road to bottom of hill (.8 mile).
- Turn right onto Nixon Drive.
- Go one block to stop sign and turn left. The Nature Center is at the end of the lane.

### From I-83, Exit 14

- Heading south - end of exit ramp turn right onto Leader Heights Road.
- Heading north - end of exit ramp turn left onto Leader Heights Road
- Follow to South George Street.
- Turn left at traffic light and follow into Jacobus (2.2 miles).
- Turn right onto Valley Road (across from Jacobus Fire Hall)
- Follow Valley Road to bottom of hill (.8 mile).
- Turn right on Nixon Drive.
- Go one block to stop sign and turn left. The Nature Center is at the end of the lane.

## Evaluation Forms:

All coaches are asked to complete the evaluation form enclosed in the coach's packet they receive the morning of the competition. Forms may be turned in the day of competition or mailed back to the Conservation District by June 5, 2009.

The evaluations *are* carefully reviewed and discussed by committee members. We do occasionally alter our event - as a direct result of many of your comments. Please return your evaluation forms.

## Important Dates for 5th - 8th Grade Coaches:

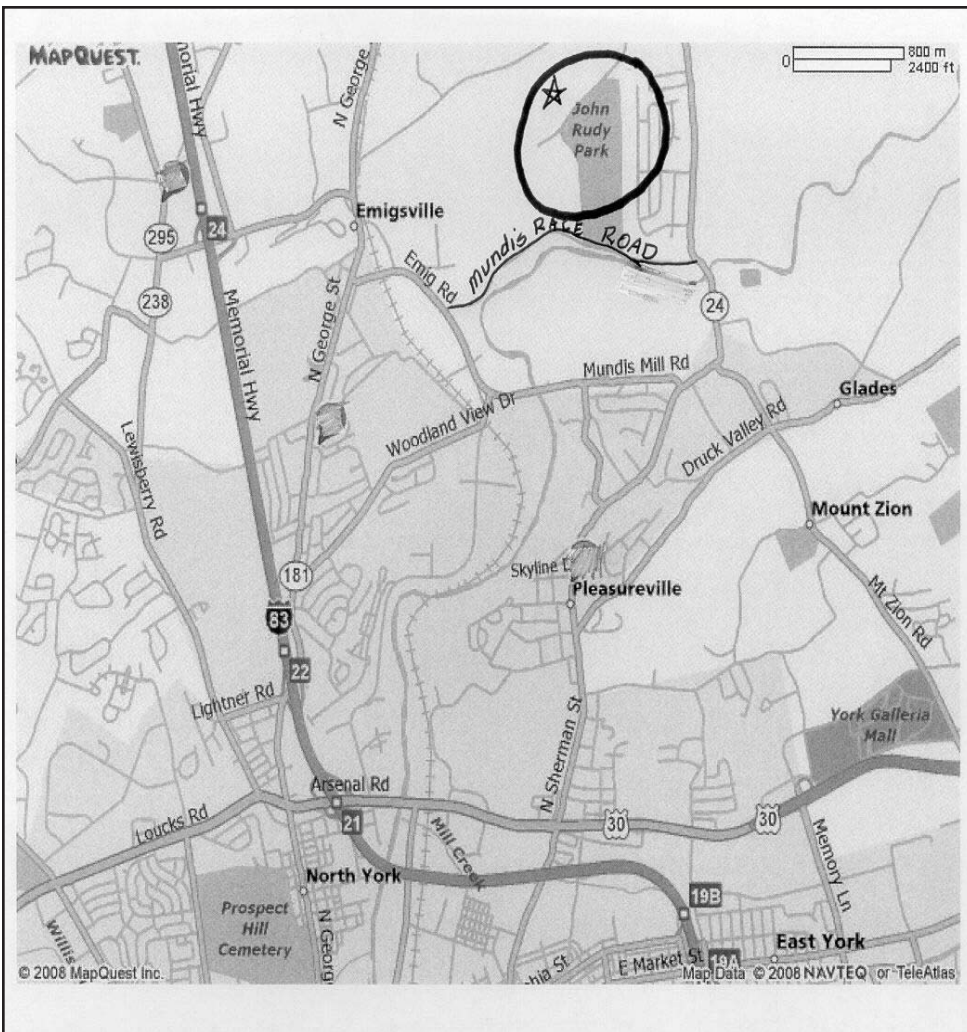
November 18, 2008 - 4:30 pm.....Coaches Meeting at County Annex building  
December 5, 2008.....**School Registration** deadline  
February 13, 2009 .....First day to Register for Student Study Sessions  
March 6, 2009 . . . . .**Team Registration & T-shirt order** deadlines  
March & April.....Student Study Sessions @ Nixon Park  
April 10, 2009 . . . . .Receive confirmation - Contact us ASAP if you don't  
May 5th 2009.....**MIDDLE SCHOOL (6th, 7th & 8th) Event;**  
. . . . .Bring **Student Registration** Forms with you  
May 6th, 2009 . . . . .**5th & 6th Grade EVENT;**  
. . . . .Bring **Student Registration** Forms with you

We are pleased to announce that **John Rudy County Park** is now  
York County's new  
"Home of the Envirothons"

Located at 400 Mundis Race Road, less than 3 miles north of the Galleria Mall in east York, Rudy Park is the headquarters of the York County Park system. From Rt. 30, follow Mt. Zion Road (Rt. 24) north 3 miles to Mundis Race Rd; turn left onto Mundis Race Road, park is .6 mile on right; turn right into park entrance. If you pass the field-stone house, you have gone 100 yards too far.

All participants should enter Rudy Park from the Mundis Race Road entrance and pull into the large parking lot straight ahead.

Rudy Park has many enjoyable features that are available to the public. If your team has any visitors (parents, grandparents, etc.) that plan to arrive during the event, please tell them they are welcome to enjoy Rudy Park during the testing phase of the Envirothon - in areas separate from the rotating teams. **Only team members, coaches and/or chaperones will be permitted on the testing portion of the course throughout the day!**



**One of eight county parks, Rudy Park provides:**

- \* a more centralized location
- \* 143 acres of sports fields
- \* large, sheltered picnic pavilions/testing stations
- \* playground equipment
- \* paved walking trails
- \* the new Canine Meadows dog park
- \* ample parking
- \* handicapped-accessible
- \* large restrooms & running water
- \* access to the Rail-Trail
- \* Park Rangers & Park Maintenance on duty
- \* access to a large, nearby maintenance barn in event of severe weather

**John Rudy County Park, 400 Mundis Race Road, York, PA 17402, 717-840-7440**  
or visit <http://www.yorkcountyparks.org/>

**Your Schedule for the 5th & 6th Grade Event or  
the Middle School (6th, 7th & 8th) Grade Event:**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
8:45 - 9:10 am	Registration
9:10 - 9:25 am	Orientation
9:30 - 10:00 am	Rotation 1
10:05 - 10:35 am	Rotation 2
10:35 - 10:40 am	snack
10:45 - 11:15 am	Rotation 3
11:20 - 11:50 am	Rotation 4
11:55 - 12:25 pm	Rotation 5
12:30 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 1:30 pm	Awards Ceremony
1:30 pm	Departure

**Contact Information:**

Registration, Rules & General Info:

Kim J. Young at York County Conservation District  
118 Pleasant Acres Road  
York, PA 17402  
(717) 840-7190 or (717) 840-7430  
kyoung@yorkccd.org

Resources & Study Sessions:

Contact Amber at Nixon County Park  
5922 Nixon Drive  
York, PA 17403  
(717) 428-1961  
parks-nixon@york-county.org

Want to Talk to an Experienced Coach?:

Janet Heathcote - retired teacher & coach from Friendship Elementary will be happy to help you and answer your questions  
(717) 235-5531  
jheath1967@aol.com  
If you email, please put "Ethon" in subject line



## Rules:

1. **Each team will be provided one set of study materials.** These are considered property of the school district, private school, charter school or home school group and are intended to be reused in successive competitions.
2. **Students are to be prepared/dressed for the weather.** This is an outdoor event and is held rain or shine.
3. **Changes in scheduling or rules and regulations will be clearly stated** to everyone during morning orientation.
4. **Each team must have a designated coach/chaperone,** 18 or older, who must supervise their team during the entire competition or the team will be disqualified.
5. **The team members will travel through stations together** and will compete as a team.
6. **No more than six students** will be allowed to compete on a team. Any team arriving on the day of competition with more than six students will be disqualified.
7. **Only team members and coaches/chaperones** may be on the testing course during the event. **Any student who is not an official team member** is NOT allowed on the testing course. This also means no siblings, friends, classmates, etc. NO EXCEPTIONS. Family members and guests *are* invited to the awards ceremony following lunch, and *are welcome* to roam the grounds & trails of Rudy Park during the competition. They will be kept separated from teams during the competition, but there is plenty to do.
8. **Pencils and clipboards are the only items permitted** on the testing circuit. Officials may confiscate any other items if found at stations.
9. **Coaches and chaperones may not instruct their team(s)** once the competition begins. Coaches and parents may observe teams from a distance. Station leaders will remind coaches and parents to remain separate from students.
10. **Cheating, on the part of a coach or team member,** will result in disqualification from the competition.
11. **The winning team will be the team with the highest cumulative score** from the combined, completed stations.
12. **Tiebreakers** will be used in the event of a tie(s), as necessary.
13. **The Judges' decisions will be final** on all issues of scoring on the day of competition.
14. **Tests will be posted** in the clubhouse post-competition for coach & student review.



\_\_\_\_\_ December 5th - Return **School Registration Form (lilac)** to Conservation  
District

\_\_\_\_\_ February 13th - Register for **Student Study Sessions** at Nixon Park  
Call Amber (717) 428-1961

\_\_\_\_\_ March 6th - Return **Team Registration & T-shirt order form (blue)** to  
Conservation District

\_\_\_\_\_ April 10th - Have you have received your **Confirmation notice from the  
Conservation District** yet? If not, contact Kim ASAP at  
717-840-7190 or [kyoung@yorkccd.org](mailto:kyoung@yorkccd.org)

\_\_\_\_\_ May 5th - Bring your **completed Student Registration Form (salmon)** to  
the **Middle School (6th, 7th & 8th Grade) Event** competition  
& turn in at registration.

\_\_\_\_\_ May 6th - Bring your **completed Student Registration Form (salmon)** to  
the **5th & 6th Grade Event** competition & turn in at  
registration.