

# Coach's Manual

York County 2009 Envirothon

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Event

***New  
Event Site!  
@  
John Rudy  
County Park***



**An Environmental Education Partnership**

York County Conservation District 118 Pleasant Acres Road York, PA 17402  
Telephone (717) 840-7430/Fax (717) 755-0301/Email [yorkccd@yorkccd.org](mailto:yorkccd@yorkccd.org)  
Website: [www.yorkccd.org](http://www.yorkccd.org)

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## York County 3rd & 4th Grade Envirothon 2009

### 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, multimedia 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 participating. Snacks & lunch are provided. There is also an opportunity at the 3rd & 4th grade levels to earn proficiency level ribbons and fun prizes for efforts such as creativity and teamwork.

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. **There have been many changes made to the 3rd & 4th grade Envirothon over the past few years.** Please make every effort to follow all of our new rules in order to ensure that your team is able to register and compete. We think you will be pleased with the changes. They are designed to eliminate a lot of the competition for this age group and serve as an introduction to the Envirothon and its topics.

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

## Forming Your School Team(s) **PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHANGES MADE LAST YEAR**

**Each school building** may bring **TWO (2) separate TEAMS** to the competition. **Each team may have FOUR (4) TO FIVE (5) students** for a total of 10 students per building. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**ALTERNATES NO LONGER EXIST.** DO NOT BRING ALTERNATES TO THE COMPETITION!

**Home schooled students may register three separate teams** of 4-5 students each. Home schooled students must reside in York County.

**All teams must have their own name.** If you have 2 teams, you must have 2 names. Each team must list their team name on the March registration form. We will no longer register a team without a name.

Many of the changes to the 3rd & 4th grade event have resulted in less competition. For that reason **your team make-up is your choice.** In other words...you may have a combined team of third-graders & fourth-graders. Or you may choose to have a team of all third graders or a team of all fourth graders. Keep in mind that a team of ALL third graders might be at a disadvantage.

**Each team must have a team captain.** If you bring 2 teams, you must have 2 captains. Team captains accept awards on the team's behalf.

**Each team must have a designated coach** who chaperones the team all day. If you have 2 teams, you must have two coaches with you during the competition. Your second coach may simply be a parent assigned to chaperone one of the teams that day. No team may compete without a chaperone. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Only team members, chaperones and official school personnel** may be on the testing course during the event. Students, family members & guests who are not of an official team are not allowed on course. NO EXCEPTIONS. **Please see page 7 for info on Rudy Park and all it has to offer visitors during the testing portions of the day.**

## 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 whether you plan to bring one or two teams. 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 - Tuesday May 12th - 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**. You will receive your team's instructions & schedule for the day, along with your team T-shirts. Please have your students wait for you outside while you register.

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**Other Forms:** Optional contests - return forms with your TEAM(s) registration form(s) due March 6, 2009

**Most Creative Name contest entry form** - This is the **gold** form. If your team(s) chooses to enter this contest, please have them fill out the form and return it to the Conservation District by **March 6, 2009**. Please note: *Students* must fill out this form.

**Best Team(s) Ever! contest entry form** - Also a **gold** form. If the coach chooses to enter this contest, please fill out the form and return it to the Conservation District by **March 6, 2009**. Please note: *Coaches* must fill out this form.

**Coach of the Year contest entry form** - Also a **gold** form. If your team chooses to enter you into this contest, please have them fill out the form and return it to the Conservation District by **March 6, 2009**. Please note: *Students* must fill out this form.

## 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.**

Any team arriving for the competition **WITHOUT** a coach **WILL BE DISQUALIFIED**. No exceptions. No students are allowed on the testing rotation without adult supervision!!!

**LET US REVIEW:** If you are coaching two teams this year, you **MUST** make sure you have another adult (assistant coach, parent, volunteer, school administrator) who will chaperone your second team on the day of competition!

## Study Resource Packets (binders):

All Study Resources in testing subject areas 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 were unable to attend the Coaches' Meeting and need study resources or you feel you are missing a resource, please contact Amber at Nixon Park at 717-428-1961.

**All resources are kept at Nixon Park after the November Coach's Meetings.**

## York County 3rd & 4th Grade Envirothon 2009

### Study Sessions:

Student Study Sessions - All study sessions will be held at **Nixon Park** on a first come, first serve basis. *Study sessions can be scheduled beginning February 13, 2009.*

**Call Amber at 717-428-1961 to register** for one study session. Travel directions are below.

Please note the registration times for the day of your session. This 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!

The study session schedule is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Registration Time</u>	<u>Study Session Begins</u>
Saturday March 21st	12:30 pm	12:45 - 3:30 pm
Saturday April 4th	8:45 am	9:00 - 11:45 am
Saturday April 7th	4:15 pm	4:30 - 7:15 pm

### Directions to Nixon County Park:

#### **From Susquehanna Trail (George Street)**

- Take Susquehanna Trail 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**

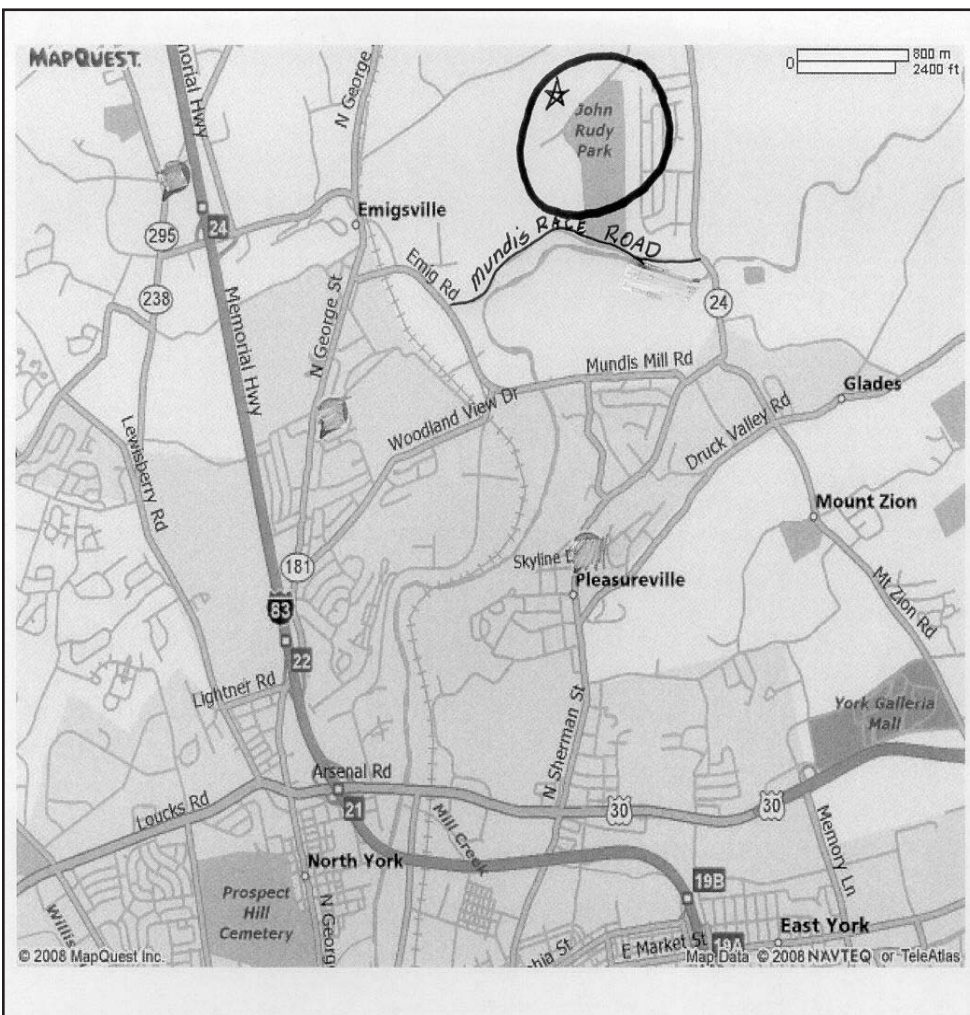
- Heading south - end of exit ramp turn right onto Leader Heights Road.
- Heading north - end of exit ramp turn left onto Leader Heights Road.
- Follow to South George Street.
- Turn left at traffic light and follow into Jacobus (2.2 miles).
- Turn right onto Valley Road (across from Jacobus Fire Hall).
- 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.

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 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 central 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/>

## York County 3rd & 4th Grade Envirothon 2009

### Awards & Prizes: **TEAM AWARDS BASED ON PROFICIENCY**

In an effort to place more emphasis on fun & education at the 3rd & 4th grade events, we are eliminating some of the competitive elements of the competition. We will no longer award place ribbons or photo plaques for overall place settings for 1st - 10th place.

Instead we will offer the following overall team recognition:

**Blue Ribbons will be awarded to ANY team(s)** that scores within a proficiency level\*

**Red Ribbons will be awarded to ANY team(s)** that scores in next proficiency level \*

**White Ribbons will be awarded to ANY team(s)** that scores 3rd proficiency level\*

\*Proficiency levels to be determined at a later date.

#### **Prizes awarded to the Outstanding team in each test category:**

Aquatics, Forestry & Wildlife

The team exhibiting **Best Teamwork during the event** will be awarded the Envirothon Flag to keep and display throughout the year.

During the event, fun prizes will also be awarded for **High Score Scavenger Hunt, Most Creative Team Hat, Most Creative Team Name, Most Enthusiastic Team.**

Prior to the event, teams may submit contest entry forms for

**Best Team Ever** (as determined by coach) & **Coach of the Year** (as determined by team).

Prizes will be awarded in these categories at the recognition ceremony.

Contest entry forms are in this packet.

And most important, because we believe that every student who participates on the day of the event is a WINNER, each student will be awarded a **Team T-shirt, a collector's medallion & a participation certificate** regardless of their team's standing at the end of the day. Please emphasize this to your students.

**Team Photos of interested teams will be taken during orientation & lunch** and made available through our website for your school or family scrapbooks. This is a fun memento for any team, regardless of your team's standing at the end of the day.

Please note that team or individual awards vary from year to year depending on sponsorship.

## Your Schedule for the Day - Tuesday May 12th New this Year

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>8:30 - 9:00 am</b>	<b>Registration/Team Photos</b>
<b>9:00 - 9:15 am</b>	<b>Orientation</b>
<b>9:25 - 9:50 am</b>	<b>Rotation 1</b>
<b>10:00 - 10:25 am</b>	<b>Rotation 2</b>
<b>10:35 - 11:00 am</b>	<b>Rotation 3</b>
<b>11:00 - 11:05 am</b>	<b>snack</b>
<b>11:15 - 11:40 am</b>	<b>Rotation 4</b>
<b>11:50 - 12:15 pm</b>	<b>Rotation 5</b>
<b>12:25 - 12:50 pm</b>	<b>Rotation 6</b>
<b>12:50 - 1:20 pm</b>	<b>Lunch/Team Photos</b>
<b>1:20 - 2:00 pm</b>	<b>Recognition Ceremony</b>

We will be starting registration slightly earlier in order to begin the event earlier.

We are also allowing more travel time between stations to allow for restroom breaks and for the younger students to travel more easily.

No team will be penalized for arriving late. Please make sure your school is aware of the new schedule and make your travel arrangements early.

Please arrange for your Team Photos (wear your T-shirts please) during registration if you arrive early enough, or during lunchtime. For those groups who are not in a hurry to leave the park, your team photos may be taken immediately following the recognition ceremony.



## 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 FIVE (5) students will be allowed to compete on a team.** Any team arriving on the day of competition with more than five 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. But they will be kept separated from teams during the competition.
8. **Pencils and clipboards are the only items permitted** on the testing circuit. Officials may confiscate any other items found at stations.
9. **Coaches and chaperones may not instruct their team(s)** once the competition begins. Coaches may observe teams from a distance. Station leaders will remind coaches to remain separate from students.
10. **Cheating, on the part of a coach or team member,** will result in disqualification from the competition.
11. **Teams will receive recognition** based on their ability to attain a proficiency level with their combined scores from completed stations.
12. **The Judges' decisions will be final** on all issues of scoring on the day of competition.
13. **Tests will be posted** in the clubhouse post-competition for coach & student review.

## York County 3rd & 4th Grade Envirothon 2009

### 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 @ 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 or jheath1967@aol.com  
If you email Janet, please put "Ethon" in subject line

### Thank Our Sponsors:

Teams are asked to send cards or letters to thank our sponsors. The Envirothon events would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors.

Prior to the competition, registered teams will receive a short list of sponsors. A complete list of sponsors will be distributed with your coach's packet at the event.

### Evaluation Forms:

All coaches are asked to complete the evaluation form in the coach's packet they receive the morning of the competition.

Please return these forms to the District **by June 1st, 2009** for your comments to be considered.

### Important Dates for 3rd & 4th Grades:

November 20, 2007 - 4:30 pm . . . . .Coaches meeting at County Annex building  
December 5, 2008 . . . . .**School Registration** deadline  
February 13, 2009 . . . . .First day to schedule study sessions  
March 6, 2009 . . . . .**Team Registration, t-shirt order** & other contest deadlines  
March 21, 2009 - 12:30-3:30 pm . . . . .Saturday Study Session at Nixon  
April 4, 2009 - 8:45-11:45 am . . . . .Saturday Study Session at Nixon  
April 7, 2009 - 4:15-7:15 pm . . . . . Tuesday Study Session at Nixon  
April 10, 2009 . . . . .Receive confirmation to participate - Contact us ASAP if you don't  
May 12, 2009 . . . . .**3rd & 4th Grade Envirothon** Event



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

\_\_\_\_\_ February 13th - Register for Student Study Sessions at Nixon Park

(717) 428-1961

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

\_\_\_\_\_ March 6th - Return "Most Creative Name," "Best Team Ever" & "Coach of  
the Year" entry forms **(gold)** to Conservation District

\_\_\_\_\_ April 10th - Have you have received your **Confirmation notice from the  
Conservation District** yet? If not, contact Conservation  
District ASAP

\_\_\_\_\_ May 12th - Bring your completed Student Registration Form(s) **(salmon)**  
to the Envirothon competition & turn in at registration.