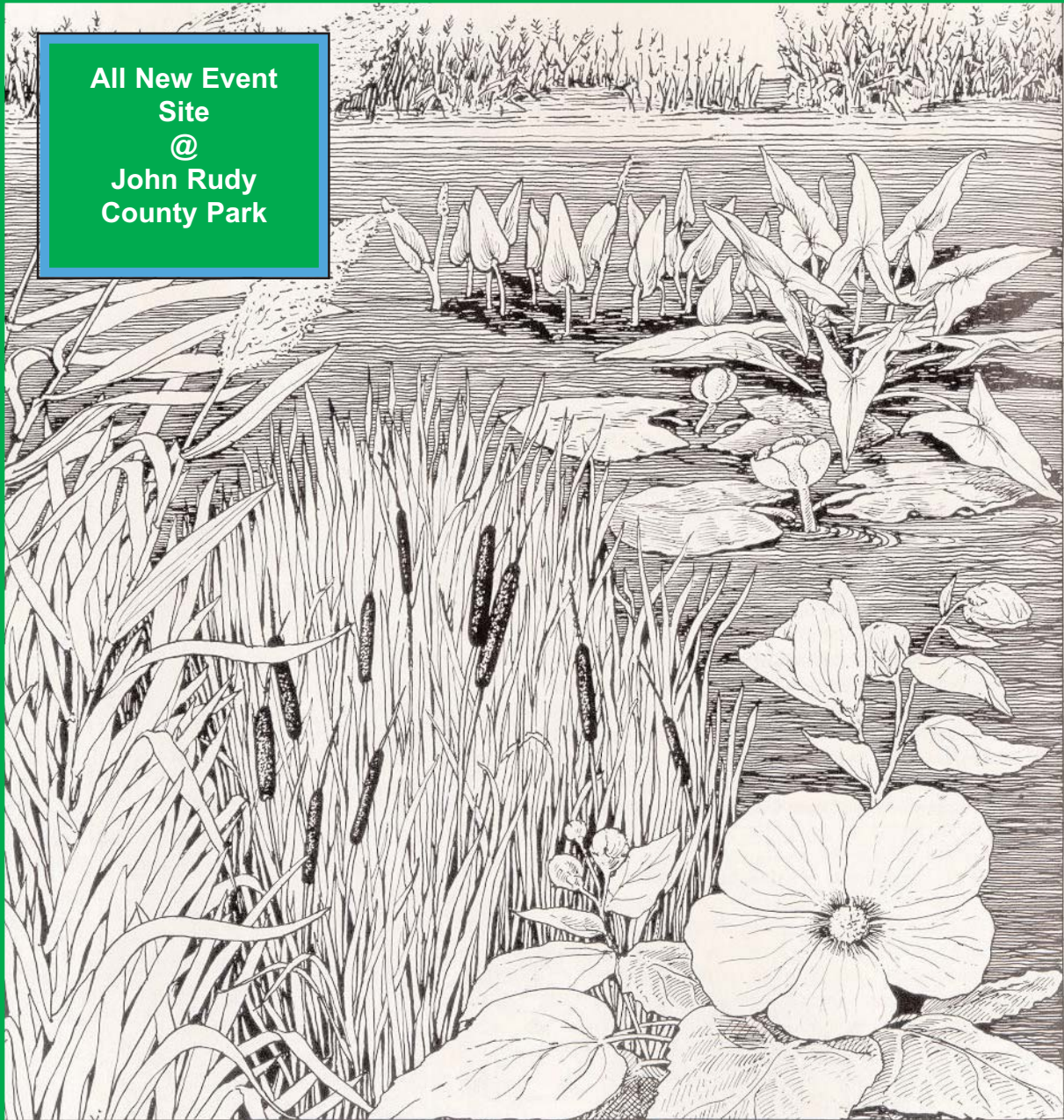


Coach's Manual

York County 2009 Envirothon

Senior High Event

All New Event
Site
@
John Rudy
County Park



An Environmental Education Partnership

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York County Senior High 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 & home-schooled 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 lower 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 School Team(s):

Each School District may bring **TWO (2) separate TEAMS** to the competition.

Each Team may have THREE (3) TO SIX (6) students of any arrangement of grades from 9th-12th. There will be No Alternates - only team members. If you bring more than six students on the day of competition you will be disqualified.*

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

Home schooled students may register two separate teams of 3-6 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.

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

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

*Please note: The winning York County team that earns the right to compete at the PA Envirothon may only take five (5) team members to that level of competition.

Team Study Focus Areas:

Each participating student competes on a team and rotates through six testing stations during competition. Senior High teams are challenged in the following subjects in 2009:

- > Aquatic Ecology
- > Forestry
- > Soil Pit
- > **Current Issue: Biodiversity in a Changing World**
- > Soils
- > Wildlife

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 April 28th - 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 and your 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.

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 not be possible.

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.**

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!!!

Senior High coaches do not stay with their team during the competition. Instead, you will receive a schedule that assigns you to another team. You are expected to stay with that team for the duration of the testing. No Team will be unchaperoned and no coach should be on the grounds without a team to accompany.

LET US REVIEW: If you are coaching two teams this year, you **MUST** make sure you have another adult with you (assistant coach, parent, volunteer, school administrator) 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 Kim Young at the Conservation District at 717-840-7190 or kyoung@yorkccd.org.

York County Senior High Envirothon 2009

Study Sessions:

Student Study Sessions - Study Sessions for senior high teams are held at the discretion of each Station Leader's work & personal schedule. Locations, dates & times vary, though we do try to offer some study sessions that combine subjects for your convenience. Study sessions for Soils/Soil Pit usually take place at Nixon Park where a sample soil pit is in place.

To Schedule a Study Session please contact an individual Station Leader.

Aquatic Ecology.....	Blaine Snyder @ Tetrattech 717-495-2168
Current Issues.....	Beth Lucabaugh 717-235-7170
Forestry.....	Jeff Gossert @ Gossert Forestry 717-751-0864
Soils.....	Katrina Thompson @ USDA NRCS 717-755-2966 ext. 104
Wildlife.....	Kim Richard 717-741-0635 or Guy Hansen @ PA Game Commission 610-926-3136, 3137 or 1966

If you are having trouble reaching a Station Leader, contact Kim at the Conservation District @ 717-840-7190 or kyoung@yorkccd.org.

Directions to Nixon County Park (site of study soil pit):

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.

We 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.

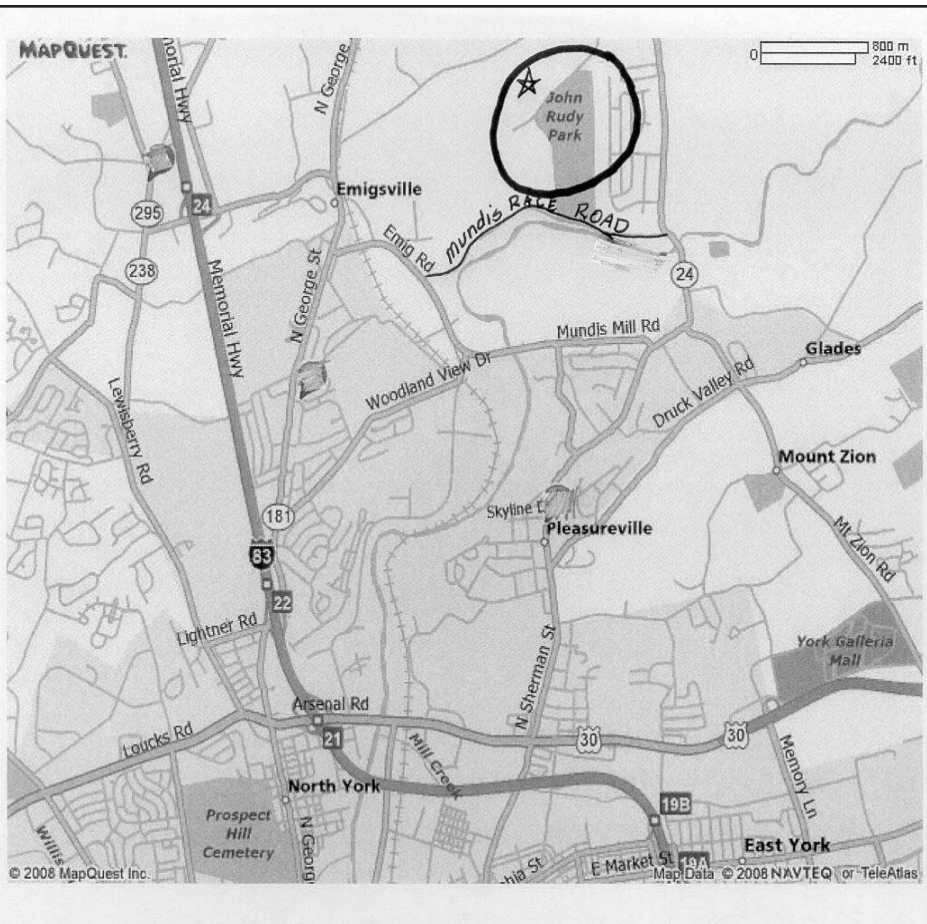
From Rt. 30, follow Mt. Zion Road (Rt. 24) north 3 miles to Mundis Race Rd; turn left onto Mundis Race Road, park is .6 mile on right; turn right into park entrance. If you pass the field-stone house, you have gone 100 yards too far.

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

Your team's visitors are welcome to enjoy Rudy Park's many features during the testing phase of the Envirothon - in areas separate from the rotating teams.

One of eight county parks, Rudy Park provides:

- * 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 Day - Tuesday April 28th

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
8:45 - 9:10 am	Registration
9:10 - 9:25 am	Orientation
9:30 - 9:55 am	Rotation 1
10:00 - 10:25 am	Rotation 2
10:30 - 10:55 am	Rotation 3
10:55 - 11:00 am	snack
11:05 - 11:30 am	Rotation 4
11:35 - 12:00 noon	Rotation 5
12:05 - 12:30 pm	Rotation 6
12:30 - 1:20 pm	Lunch
1:20 - 2:00 pm	Recognition Ceremony

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 taken home, and returned to the Conservation District by June 1, 2009.

The evaluations *are* carefully reviewed and discussed by committee members. For the most part we are compelled to follow the rules set out by the Pennsylvania Envirothon. But we do occasionally alter our event - as a direct result of many of your comments. Please return your evaluation forms.



York County Senior High Envirothon 2009

Rules:

1. **Competitors must be enrolled in grade levels nine (9) through 12** or equivalent home education program ranking. Students may not have reached their 19th birthday by August 15 of the current competition year.
2. **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.
3. **Students are to be prepared/dressed for the weather.** This is an outdoor event and is held rain or shine.
4. **Changes in scheduling or rules and regulations will be clearly stated** to everyone during morning orientation.
5. **Each team must have a designated coach/chaperone**, 18 or older, who must supervise the team at the entire competition or the team will be disqualified. * **Please Note** at Senior High competition, Senior High coaches will be assigned to supervise a competing team during the competition.
6. **The team members will travel through stations together** and will compete as a team.
7. **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. (only 5 students may compete on the winning team that goes to the State Envirothon in late May)
8. **Only team members, chaperones and official school personnel** 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 means no siblings, friends, classmates, etc. NO EXCEPTIONS. Family members and guests *are* invited to the awards ceremony following lunch, and family members and guests *are welcome* to roam the grounds & trails of Rudy Park during the competition.
9. **Pencils and clipboards are the only items permitted** on the testing circuit. Officials *will* confiscate any other items if found at stations.
10. **Coaches/chaperones may not instruct their team(s)** once the competition begins. Coaches/chaperones may observe teams from a distance. Station leaders will remind them to remain separate from students.
11. **Cheating, on the part of a coach or team member**, will result in disqualification from the competition.
12. **The winning overall team will be the team with the highest cumulative score** from all the completed stations.
13. **The high-scoring winning First Place Overall will represent York County** at the PA State Envirothon in late May. In the event the winning team cannot attend, the next highest scoring team may be sent it is place.
14. **Tiebreakers** will be used in the event of a tie(s), as necessary.
15. **The Judges' decisions will be final** on all issues of scoring on the day of competition
16. **Tests will be posted** in the clubhouse post-competition for coach's review.

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Awards & Prizes:

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

We also award team ribbons to 1st-10th places overall, trophies to 1st-3rd 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.

Contact Information:

Registration, Rules & General Info:

Kim J. Young at the
York County Conservation District
118 Pleasant Acres Road
York, PA 17402

(717) 840-7190 or (717) 840-7430
kyoung@yorkccd.org

Want to Talk to an Experienced Coach?:

Kim Holmes - retired winning coach from Northern York will be happy to help you and answer your questions (717) 495-2428 or email her at ryenriver@aol.com

If you email Kim Holmes, please put "Ethon" in your subject line.

Important Dates for Senior High Coaches:

November 20, 2008 - 4:30 pm.....Coaches Meeting at County Annex building
December 5, 2008.....**School Registration** deadline
March 6, 2009**Team Registration & T-shirt order** deadlines
April 10, 2009Receive confirmation - Contact us ASAP if you don't
April 28, 2008.....**Student Registrations due** today when you register
April 28, 2009**Senior High Envirothon** Event

Coaches - Use this checklist to cover your tracks...



- _____ December 5th - Return **School Registration Form (lilac)** to Conservation District
- _____ January 2nd - Start thinking about when you want to **schedule a study session** with a station leader for early spring. Don't wait until the last minute.
- _____ February 1st - Have you made **transportation arrangements** for the day of competition?
- _____ 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 Conservation District ASAP
- _____ April 28th - Bring your completed **Student Registration Form (salmon)** to the Envirothon competition & turn in at registration.