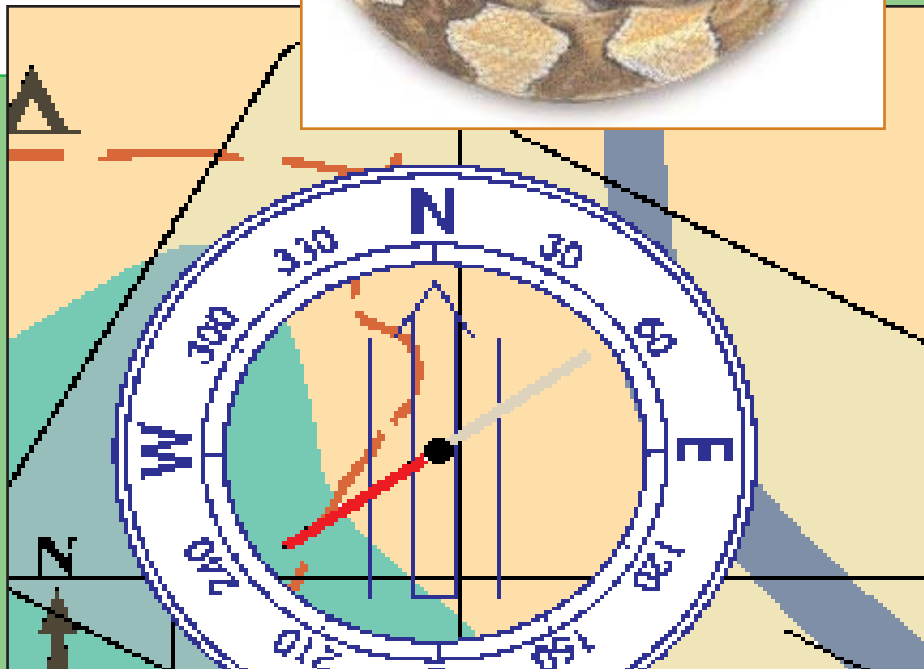


Coach's Manual

York County 2010 Envirothon

5th & 6th Grades and
Middle School (6th, 7th & 8th) Events

Celebrating 25 Years!



An Environmental Education Partnership

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York County 5th - 8th Grade Envirothon 2010

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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 are 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 John Rudy County Park located off of Mt. Zion Road in York - the "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. **The Canon Envirothon is coming to Pennsylvania in 2012!**

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. 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 have BOTH a 5th & 6th Grade Event & a Middle School Event (Grades 6, 7 & 8)

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 4th, 2010.

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 5th, 2010.

If your 6th graders are in a building by themselves, we encourage you to participate in our Middle School event. (there are less teams that day)

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 Middle School (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 (pink)** and **return to the Conservation District** by **December 4, 2009**.

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 5, 2010**.

3. On the day of competition - May 4th or May 5th - 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.

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 (CDs):

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

New this year we are providing our resources on **color CDs**. Each school will be provided one set of study materials each year. **New** schools will get a binder to hold their resource packet or get a color CD. **Returning** schools will get a resource packet containing new materials to be added to their existing binders or get a color CD. **We plan to provide only CDs within a year or two** to save paper. Please plan accordingly.

All resources are considered **property of the school or home school group** and are intended to be used for each successive year. If you haven't already, we suggest you create an Envirothon Library for your school (especially in the case of changing coaches).

If you need study resources or you feel you are missing a resource, please contact Kim at the Conservation District at 717-840-7190. **Or go to our website at yorkccd.org and click on education/envirothon.** Coaches are responsible for making additional copies of any of the resources.

Study Sessions for 5th thru 8th grades:

Student Study Sessions - All student study sessions will be held at **Nixon Park**. Study sessions can be **scheduled beginning on Tuesday, January 5th, 2010**. Do not leave a message. You must talk to a real person in order to schedule your study session. Be patient - the Nature Center is a busy place. No group has ever been turned down for a study session!

Call Amber at 717-428-1961 to register for one study session (coaches & team members only). 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!

Study session times include registration:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Registration Time</u>	<u>Study Session Begins</u>
Tuesday, March 23rd	4:15 pm	4:30 - 7:30 pm
Saturday March 27th	12:15 pm	12:30 - 3:30 pm
Saturday April 10th	8:45 pm	9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Students are encouraged to bring snacks or sandwiches for evening program.

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.

NEW THIS YEAR - MOST CREATIVE HATS CONTESTS - FOR BOTH EVENTS!

The 2010 5th - 8th Grade Study Topics:

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

- > Aquatic Ecology
- > **2010 Current Issue: Outdoor Safety & Survival**
- > Forestry
- > Non-testing (educational program)
- > Wildlife

Directions to Nixon County Park for study sessions:

From York, follow S. George Street through Jacobus to Valley Road. Turn right onto Valley Road; follow .8 mile to bottom of hill; turn right onto Nixon Drive; go one block and turn left onto Nixon Drive; follow to Nature Center.

Nixon Park has a York address but is located in Jacobus. Here is their address if you want to Mapquest more specific directions. Nixon County Park, Nixon Drive, York, PA 17407. Phone: 717-428-1961.

Directions to John Rudy County Park for competitions:

From Rt. 30, follow Sherman St north 3 miles to Mundis Race Rd, turn left, park is .6 mile on right.

Rudy Park is located about one mile north of the Galleria Mall. Here is their address is you want to Mapquest more specific directions to our event location. John Rudy County Park, 400 Mundis Race Road, York, PA 17406. Phone: 717-840-7440.

Enter Rudy Park from the Mundis Race Road entrance (not Canine Meadows).

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 4, 2010.

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, 2009 - 4:00 pm.....Coaches Meeting at County Annex building
December 4, 2009.....**School Registration** deadline
January 5, 2010....First day to Register for Student Study Sessions
March 5, 2010**Team Registration & T-shirt order** deadlines
March & April.....Student Study Sessions @ Nixon Park
April 9, 2010Receive confirmation - Contact us ASAP if you don't
May 4th 2010.....**MIDDLE SCHOOL (6th, 7th & 8th) Event;**
.Bring **Student Registration** Forms with you
May 5th, 2010**.5th & 6th Grade EVENT;**
.Bring **Student Registration** Forms with you

Coaches - Please copy & send home with each team member prior to their event.

Parents & Family of Envirothon Team Members

You are welcome to join your child's Envirothon team at John Rudy County Park for their picnic lunch* & Awards Recognition Ceremony. Please check with your coach for the schedule for the day.

If you choose to come to the park earlier, be aware that you will NOT be permitted to travel with the team or talk to your child during testing. The testing area will be roped off to the public.

You are, however, welcome to enjoy Rudy Park and all it has to offer (walking trails, immediate access to the Rail/Trail for bike riding, playground equipment, an exercise trail, a large fenced-in dog park**, a large lawn to relax on and more).

If you have an emergency and must find your child, you must first come to the registration pavilion and be prepared to do the following:

1. Immediately produce identification
2. Identify the school, team & coach your child is registered with.
3. Wait at the registration pavillion until we bring your child & their coach to you.

Please **do not ask** to see your child for a casual interaction during testing. Because the Envirothon now takes place in a public park we are enacting much stricter rules during our events. We hope you understand this is done for the safety of your child - as well as to ensure all the students can quietly focus on and enjoy the events of the day.

*Weather permitting, lunch will be on the grass lawn. Teams & guests should bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. When the recognition ceremony begins, all team members need to be seated together with their coach only and be prepared to stand up and receive their awards. All guests should move to the outer perimeter of the awards area.

**As per state law, all dogs must be on a leash at all times unless they are within the fenced-in dog park. Any dogs at the ceremony must be leashed and quiet. Be prepared to clean up after your dog.

Contact Information for Coaches:

Registration, Rules & Resources:

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

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?

contact Janet Heathcote at (717) 235-5531 or jheath1967@aol.com.

Please put "Ethon" in subject line

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

Time	Activity
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

You Bring Lunch & We Provide Snacks

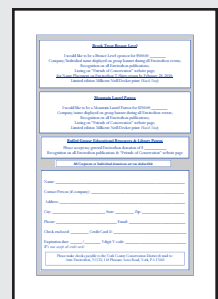
We will provide snacks (light refreshments & drinks) to all students & coaches after the second rotation (see above schedule).

But **all teams are responsible for bringing their own lunch, drinks, trash bags, etc.** for their lunch break. Please be prepared to take your trash back to school with you. Rudy Park is a "Carry-In, Carry-Out" facility.

Like last year, we suggest you have your students prepare a "Waste-free" lunch packed with recyclable items and bring food with them that leaves behind little-to-no waste.

Coaches

Please help us with our 2010 Sponsorship Drive by contacting your school PTO and ask them to consider a donation to the York County Envirothon to support your team(s).



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.
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** post-competition for coach & student review.

Coaches 2010 Checklist



_____ December 4th - Return School Registration Form to Conservation District (pink-colored form)

_____ January 5th - Register for Student Study Sessions at Nixon Park
Call Amber (717) 428-1961

_____ March 5th - Return Team Registration & T-shirt order form to Conservation District (blue-colored form)

_____ April 9th - 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

_____ May 4th - Bring your completed Student Registration Form to the Middle School (6th, 7th & 8th Grade) Event & turn in at registration. (salmon-colored form)

_____ May 5th - Bring your completed Student Registration Form to the 5th & 6th Grade Event & turn in at registration. (salmon-colored form)