

# Coach's Manual

York County 2012 Envirothon

5th & 6th Grades & Middle School



**The Envirothon is an Environmental Educational Partnership**

sponsored by the York County Conservation District

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York County 5th - 8th Grade Envirothon 2012

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**These Important Forms** in the back of manual are required for participation:

**STUDENT** Registration Form

**TEAM** Registration Form

**SCHOOL** Registration Form

***PA WILDLIFE JOURNAL: PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS & MAMMALS***

**Book Order Forms**

## 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 N. Sherman Street in York - the 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. **The Canon Envirothon is coming to Pennsylvania's Susquehanna University THIS SUMMER for their 25th anniversary!**

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 are provided. There is also an opportunity for teams to receive place ribbons.

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 5th thru 8th Grade Team(s):

**We have BOTH a 5th & 6th Grade Event & a Middle School Event (6th, 7th & 8th) Where your 6th Graders compete 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.

**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.

**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).

## How Many Teams May I Bring? **NEW THIS YEAR**

Forming Your Team(s): 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Event & Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) Event

Grade	Student Population per building	Number of Teams allowed
5 <sup>th</sup>	200 or less	1
	201-400	2
	401 or more	3
6 <sup>th</sup>	200 or less	1
	201-400	2
	401 or more	3
7 <sup>th</sup>	200 or less	1
	201-400	2
	401 or more	3
8 <sup>th</sup>	200 or less	1
	201-400	2
	401 or more	3

The number of teams you may bring to the competition is determined by the number of students in your building per grade. For example, if you have 200 or less 5<sup>th</sup> graders and 200 or less 6<sup>th</sup> graders in your school building you may bring a total of 2 teams. Or, if you have 200 or less 6<sup>th</sup> graders and 200 or less 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 200 or less 8<sup>th</sup> graders in your school building you may bring a total of 3 teams. Use the chart above to determine the number of teams you may bring to the competition.

**YOUR SCHOOL OFFICE WILL KNOW YOUR STUDENT POPULATION**

**EACH OF YOUR TEAMS IS LIMITED TO SIX (6) STUDENTS**

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

**Home School Coaches need to adhere to student population guidelines posted on previous page.**

Home school students must reside in York County.

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

**What Else do I Need to Know?**

**EACH TEAM MUST HAVE THEIR OWN DISTINCT NAME** (limited to four words including your school name).

**EACH TEAM MUST LIST THEIR TEAM NAME(S) on the blue TEAM registration form due in March.** You do not need a team name(s) until then. You cannot register your team(s) without a name.

Please follow the Team Name Guidelines on the back of the **blue TEAM registration form** to avoid confusion in our computer database.

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

**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. 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.

**Only team members, coaches or chaperones may be on the testing course** during the event. Any students, family members or guests not part of an official team will not be allowed on course. 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 2, 2011.**

### **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 2, 2012.**

### **3. On the day of competition - May 1st or 2nd - 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 in the parking lot 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 (CDs):

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

Each coach will receive their new study resources on **color CDs**. Each team will be provided one set of study materials each year. **We recommend you print out at least one copy of your resources for your school Envirothon collection in a 3-ring binder.**

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).

Always refer to your **Resources Cover Sheet** for each topic of study to determine if you are missing a resource. If so, **go to our website at [yorkccd.org](http://yorkccd.org) and click on education/envirothon** to find your missing resource. If you still cannot find a resource, contact Amber at Nixon Park at (717) 428-1961.

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 February 14th** 2012 (Valentine's Day). 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. You will not be turned down (though you may have to choose another date).

**Call Amber at 717-428-1961** to register for one session (coach & 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!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Registration Time</u>	<u>Study Session Begins</u>
Saturday March 24th	12:15 pm	12:30 - 3:30 pm
Tuesday April 3rd	4:15 pm	4:30 - 7:30 pm
Saturday April 7th	8:45 am	9:00 - 12:00 pm

If necessary, a snow date and/or overflow date may be scheduled.

## Awards & Prizes:

Every student 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, 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.

**MOST CREATIVE TEAM HAT CONTESTS FOR EACH EVENT!**

## The 2012 5th - 8th Grade Study Topics:

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

- > Aquatic Ecology
- > **2012 Current Issue: Natural Resources & Energy**
- > Forestry
- > Non-testing (educational program)
- > Wildlife

Directions to Nixon County Park for study sessions:

**From York** Follow to South George Street through Jacobus to Valley Road. Turn right onto Valley Road (across from Jacobus Fire Hall). Follow Valley Road to bottom of hill; Turn right on Nixon Drive; Go one block to stop sign and turn left. The Nature Center is at the end of the lane.

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

Directions to John Rudy County Park for competitions:

**From Route 30** follow Sherman Street north 3 miles to Mundis Race Road, turn left, park is .6 mile on right.

Rudy Park is located about one mile north of the Galleria Mall. Their address is: 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 will be sent an evaluation form by email after your event. Suggestion boxes will be available the day of the event.

The evaluations and suggestions *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 15, 2011 - 4:00 pm.....Coaches Meeting at County Annex building
- December 2, 2011.....**School Registration** deadline
- February 14, 2012.. .....First day to Register for Student Study Sessions
- March 2, 2012..... **Team Registration & T-shirt order** deadlines
- March & April.....Student Study Sessions @ Nixon Park
- April 6, 2012 . . . . .Receive email confirmation - Contact us ASAP if you don't
- May 1st 2012.....**MIDDLE SCHOOL (6th, 7th & 8th) Event;**
  - .....Bring **Student Registration** Forms with you
- May 2nd, 2012 . . . . .**5th & 6th Grade EVENT;**
  - .....Bring **Student Registration** Forms with you

**Coaches - Copy & send home with each team member prior to the 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\* (bring your own) and the Awards Recognition Ceremony. Please check with your coach for the schedule for the day.

If you choose to come to the park earlier, please be aware that you will NOT be permitted to travel with, or talk to your child or their team. 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 expansive lawn to relax on, and more.)

If you have an emergency and need to find your child, you must come to our Registration Pavilion first 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 pavilion for your child & their coach to arrive.

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 & enjoy the events of the day. Please do not ask to see your child for a casual interaction during testing.

\*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 again 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 awards ceremony must be leashed and quiet.

# 5th & 6th Grades & Middle School Event Schedule

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
8:45 - 9:10 am	Registration
9:10 - 9:25 am	Orientation
<b>9:30 - 10:00 am</b>	<b>Rotation 1</b>
<b>10:05 - 10:35 am</b>	<b>Rotation 2</b>
10:35 - 10:40 am	snack
<b>10:45 - 11:15 am</b>	<b>Rotation 3</b>
<b>11:20 - 11:50 am</b>	<b>Rotation 4</b>
<b>11:55 - 12:25 pm</b>	<b>Rotation 5</b>
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. But all teams are responsible for bringing their own lunch, drinks, trash bags, etc. for their lunch break. Please be prepared to take your lunch back with you. Rudy Park is a "Carry-In, Carry-Out" facility.

## 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

### 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



## Coaches:

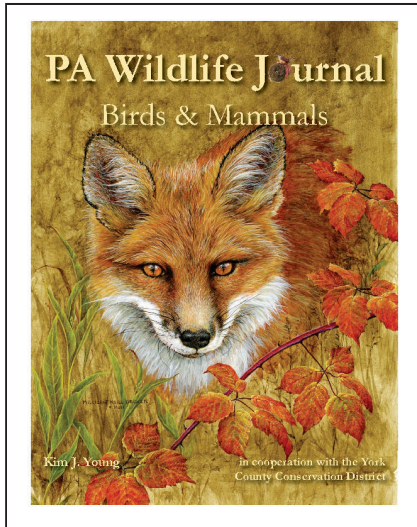
Please help us promote our new 2012 print - *Sweet Bay Magnolia Home*.  
We receive 50% of each sale.

&

Don't forget to contact your school PTO to ask if they might 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** in the clubhouse post-competition for coach & student review.  
**NO TESTS will be shown to coaches during the competition.**  
**NO TESTS will be handed out after the competition.**



Our colorful, 300-page reference book ***PA Wildlife Journal: Birds & Mammals*** is at the printers and nearing publication.

**Each coach will receive one book during the 2012 Event Competition.**

If you would like to purchase more copies for your team or school, please use the order form in the back of this manual or go to our website at [yorkccd.org](http://yorkccd.org) and click on the image of the book cover.

**Book Price: \$24.95**

(10% Discounts on orders of 10 or more)

**Please Make Checks Payable to YCCD**

*Credit Cards are also accepted!*

## Coaches Checklist

- \_\_\_\_\_ December 2nd - Return **School Registration Form (Pink)** to Conservation District
- \_\_\_\_\_ February 14th - Register for Student Study Sessions at Nixon Park  
Call Amber (717) 428-1961
- \_\_\_\_\_ March 2nd - Return **Team Registration & T-shirt order form (blue)** to Conservation District
- \_\_\_\_\_ April 6th - Have you have received your **Confirmation email from the Conservation District** yet? If not, contact Kim ASAP at 717-840-7190 or [kyoung@yorkccd.org](mailto:kyoung@yorkccd.org)
- \_\_\_\_\_ May 1st - **MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENT** Bring your completed Student Registration Form (salmon) to the competition & turn in at registration.
- \_\_\_\_\_ May 2nd - **5th & 6th Grade Event** Bring your completed Student Registration Form (salmon) to the competition & turn in at the registration.