

# york county ENVIROTHON



**"Take the Challenge"** - It looks like a lot of fun, but it's a lot of work too!

**So What is the Envirothon?** It's the largest environmental education competition in the nation, originally created by Pennsylvania's Conservation Districts for Senior High students. Now, **over 28 years later**, Envirothon events are held throughout the United States and Canada. In our Commonwealth 66 counties participate. *York County is one of the few places throughout North America to offer the Envirothon beginning in the third grade.* **The Envirothon works!** We've been doing it long enough to observe students progress from grade to grade with their envirothon teams - many graduating from college with degrees in conservation, agriculture and environmental sciences. Studying our natural resources and taking part in the annual competitions are both part of the Envirothon, but so is teamwork, sportsmanship and fun!



**It takes more than a village to run the Envirothon! It takes sponsorship money and numerous cooperating agencies who work year-round with the Conservation District to present our four grade-level events here in York County. We raise about \$24,000.00 each year in order to run our Senior High, Middle School, 5th & 6th Grades and 3rd & 4th Grades events. We work with both our County & State Parks, the PA Game Commission, the PA Fish & Boat Commission, NRCS, the York County Planning Commission and the York County Solid Waste Authority and many more agencies and volunteers. We also have an annual Clay Shoot each fall to kick off our sponsorship campaign - a Clay Shoot started by and supported by many of our local & state legislators and representatives!**



**Nearly one thousand students from York County alone participate in school Envirothon programs**, with almost every school district represented. Our home-schooled students - and new this year - our local Charter Schools provide a strong presence as well.

**The many benefits of the program** - teamwork, leadership, problem solving, scientific reasoning and local & global stewardship - go far beyond just the team members.

The Conservation District creates a curriculum of environmental study resources on CDs & our website each fall. These resources include **Aquatics, Forestry, Soils Wildlife and a new environmental Current Issue each year**. All meet our state or national science standards.

**Many schools use these age-appropriate study resources to add new educational materials to their current classrooms or their libraries.** In some schools over 80 students might be studying all year trying to earn a place on their school's team of just five students. All for a chance to participate in the year-end County competition!



While our lower grade events are designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of the Envirothon, the **competition intensifies as students advance through grade levels**. Each student participates as part of a school team, studying their resources throughout the year - often in extra-curricular clubs. All students at the year-end, county-wide competitions in late April & early May earn T-shirts and collector medallions. Ribbons and trophies are also awarded to the teams with the highest accumulated scores.

**At the Senior High level the competition increases - as does the responsibility.** The winning county Senior High team represents their County at the **PA State Envirothon** in late May (held at a different Pennsylvania college or university each year).

The team that wins the PA State Envirothon competition will represent Pennsylvania at the **North American Envirothon**, held this year in Montana.

**York County has won the PA State Envirothon three times** (*the York Homeschoolers - above left at the county event, and above right at the state event - are the 2013 State Champions!*). More awards and college scholarship money is on the line for these top teams at both the state and North American events.

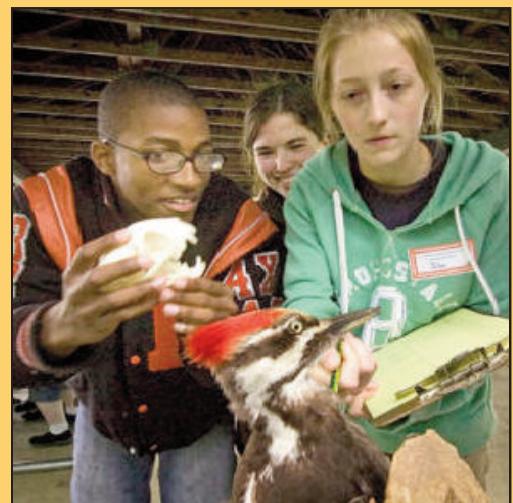
In 1991 York County's team from Red Lion High School won the North American Envirothon - held in Maine. And in 2007 Northern High School placed second at the North American Envirothon - in New York.

#### Consider This...

At our County level, Envirothon students study approximately 300 pages of independent science material to prepare for their year-end competitions.

In order to be competitive for the North American Envirothon, our winning Senior High team will study about 1,000 pages of new science material during their summer vacation.

These students are our future leaders!





The ENVIROTHON provides students with the opportunity to explore future careers in conservation, and its related fields, by including professional staff on its committees and in its events and - most importantly - by allowing students to interact with them.

And in the Envirothon - **GIRLS participate and win - in every science topic and at every grade level - at the very same percentage as boys, if not higher!**



## Are You Ready to “Take the Challenge?”

Contact the York County Conservation District (below) or your local School District and ask how to get your child involved or how you may be able to volunteer as a chaperone or a coach.



CALL 717-840-7190 or [kyoung@yorkccd.org](mailto:kyoung@yorkccd.org)

