

York County ENVIROTHON



“Take the Challenge” - It looks like a lot of fun, but it’s a lot of work too!

What is the Envirothon?

It’s the largest environmental education competition in the nation

- Created by Pennsylvania’s Conservation Districts originally for senior high students
- Envirothon events held in 66 of 67 PA counties, all 50 states, Canada, and beyond
- 37 years of cooperative environmental education programming

FUN FACT: York County is one of the few places throughout North America to offer the Envirothon beginning in the third grade.

Why participate in the Envirothon?

Because the Envirothon works! (...and it’s FUN!)

- Students have fun while learning teambuilding, sportsmanship, stewardship, and independent research skills.
- Many students pursue degrees and careers in conservation, agriculture, and environmental sciences.

How does the Envirothon happen?

It takes a village to run the Envirothon!

- York County Conservation District coordinates the Envirothon.
- Cooperating agencies work year-round with the Conservation District.
- Community sponsors & fundraising events provide financial support.
- Volunteers prepare study materials, teach students, and assist with event logistics.

Cooperating Agencies



YORK COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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. 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.

How many students participate in the Envirothon?

Nearly 1,000 York County students participate in the Envirothon each year!

- Almost every school district in York County participates.
- Home-school associations and local charter schools participate.

FUN FACT: In some schools over 80 students may be studying all year to earn a place on their school's team of just 5 students.

What do students study?

The Conservation District creates a curriculum of environmental study resources on our website each fall.

- Resources include Aquatics, Forestry, Soils Wildlife and a new environmental Current Issue each year. All resources 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 libraries.

Is the Envirothon competitive?

Competition intensifies as students advance through grade levels.

- Lower grade events are designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of the Envirothon.
- Each student participates as part of a school team, studying their resources throughout the year - often in extra-curricular clubs.
- All students earn T-shirts and collector medallions at the county-wide competitions in late April & early May.
- Ribbons and trophies are awarded to the teams with the highest accumulated scores.
- 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.
- More awards and college scholarship money is on the line for these top teams at both the state and North American events.

FUN FACT: York County has won the PA State Envirothon 3 times. 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 2nd 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. 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!

Ready to "Take the Challenge?"

Contact the York County Conservation District (717-840-7430; yorkccd@yorkccd.org) 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.