



Venango County Envirothon

2024-2025 Information Guide



Venango Conservation District
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Franklin, PA 16323

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www.venangocd.org/envirothon

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1. INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES

Greetings! You and your students are invited to attend the 2025 Venango County Envirothon! The Envirothon is a program designed to cultivate a desire to learn more about our natural environment through competitive events. The program emphasizes the importance of environmental sensitivity while stressing a need to achieve a social, ecological, and economic balance. The goal is to not only teach environmental facts and realities, but also to instill an understanding of the ecological and community factors that are involved in environmental decisions and actions. Through the learning objectives of awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and application, students become more environmentally-aware and action-oriented adults.

OBJECTIVES

Awareness: The Envirothon will help students cultivate an awareness of the total environment and acquire sensitivity towards its limited natural resources.

Knowledge: The Envirothon will help students develop a basic understanding of the earth's ecological systems and the life-sustaining implication these systems have on all living things.

Attitudes: The Envirothon will help students develop attitudes, which embrace environmental sensitivity and instill the dedication to participate in activities geared towards protecting the environment.

Application: The Envirothon will help students develop skills needed to identify, investigate, and contribute to the resolution of environmental issues and problems.

2024 VENANGO COUNTY ENVIROTHON RECAP

Last year, the Venango Conservation District hosted **58 students**, representing **12 teams**, from **4 schools** across the county!

The "Tunnel Rats" team from Cranberry High School were crowned the winners and traveled to Mifflinburg, PA to represent Venango County at the Pennsylvania Envirothon competition. They placed 39th out of 64 teams.



2. GENERAL INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

WHAT IS THE EVENT LIKE?

There are five areas of study in the Envirothon. They include: **Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatic Ecology, Soils & Land Use**, and the **Current Issue**. This year's current issue is "Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change." The resources and information to reference for each station is located on the PA Envirothon website under "[station training](#)." In order to perform well at the Envirothon, it is imperative to learn the materials and prepare well in advance. It is at each team's discretion to decide how they will prepare for the competition. Some teams assign each member a topic to "specialize" in, while others study each station as a group. Using either method is permissible. The Venango Conservation District coordinates the annual competition - we hold a "training day" one month in advance of "testing day" each spring. We crown the first, second, and third place winners (along with winners of each station), and the first-place team has the opportunity to advance to the state Envirothon competition held each year in May.

TEAM REGISTRATION

Any school located within Venango County is eligible to participate in the annual Envirothon competition. Homeschool or cyber school students can also form teams. **Each school can send up to three teams of five members, with a minimum of three members per team.** Please note: You must have 5 members on a team in order to compete at the state-level Envirothon. This 5-member team must be from the same educational unit and must have competed in the county competition. Three member teams are not eligible to move on to the state competition. **These students must be enrolled in grades 9 – 12.** Each school must have an advisor that serves as the point of contact for their teams. Often times the advisor is a science teacher, but not always! The advisor can be any non-student adult (20 years or older) that represents the school. They help to recruit students for their team(s) and help them study throughout the year in preparation for the Envirothon competition. Study resources can be found on page 5 of this guide and in the [Teacher Resource Booklet](#) located on the PA Envirothon website.

Please mail or drop off your [registration form\(s\)](#) along with your \$10.00 payment per team to the Venango Conservation District, by **Friday, February 28, 2025**.

Venango Conservation District
Attn: Envirothon
4871 US 322
Franklin, PA 16323

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Bailey Kozalla, Envirothon coordinator by calling 814-676-2832 ext. 2 or emailing bkozalla.vcd@gmail.com. If there are any changes or updates after submitting your registration form(s), please contact Bailey before the February 28th deadline so we can ensure we order the correct t-shirt sizes.

3. TRAINING DAY & TESTING DAY

Please mark the following dates on your calendar for the Venango County Envirothon training day and testing day. Both days will be held at Two Mile Run County Park.

TRAINING DAY

Friday, March 28, 2025

We will be offering an “Envirothon Training Day” at Two Mile Run County Park on **Friday, March 28, 2025** from 9:00am to 1:30pm. Please meet at the park office (Nature Lodge) located at 471 Beach Road, Franklin, PA 16323. Students will cycle through stations at the surrounding pavilions, much like the cycle during testing day. The training stations will be conducted by our agency partners for their respective topics (ex. Game Warden holds training session for the wildlife station). Please indicate on your team registration form if you are planning on attending the training day. Please note: This training day is considered one of the final steps of preparation for the Envirothon. It should not be the start or considered the substitute for preparation. We ask that students **pack their own lunch for training day**. Students will receive their Envirothon t-shirts on training day (we encourage teams to wear their shirts for testing day!).

TESTING DAY

Friday, April 25, 2025

The day of the competition, or “Envirothon Testing Day” will be held at Two Mile Run County Park on **Friday, April 25, 2025**. Please meet at the park office (Nature Lodge) located at 471 Beach Road, Franklin, PA 16323 by **9:00am**. The day will conclude by 1:30pm. You will confirm your registered teams by signing in at the front desk. If there are any changes or substitutions to your team(s), you can explain these on the sign-in sheet (we need to keep record of who competed in order to certify the winner for the state-level competition). Students will rotate throughout the five testing stations located at the surrounding pavilions for 30 minutes each. Each station will be proctored by our agency partners. **Lunch will be provided** for students and teachers on testing day. After lunch, we will announce the winners of each station and the overall 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. It is very important to **dress for the weather!** The event will be held rain or shine, so please be prepared for variable weather conditions that could include rain, snow, and/or muddy ground.

ENVIROTHON SCHEDULE

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Team Sign-In & General Information
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	First Station
10:10 AM – 10:40 AM	Second Station
10:50 AM – 11:20 AM	Third Station
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Fourth Station
12:10 PM – 12:40 PM	Fifth Station
12:40 PM – 1:10 PM	Lunch (provided for testing day only)
1:10 PM – 1:30 PM	Awards and Photos

4. STATION TRAINING & RESOURCES

In order to perform well at the Envirothon, it is imperative to learn the materials and prepare well in advance. Some schools have clubs that meet after school or during a designated activity period to study the Envirothon material. Others have students study the material on their own time. The following links and resources will be helpful when preparing for the Envirothon.

IMPORTANT LINKS

- [Envirothon Station Training](http://www.envirothonpa.org/station-training/) – students will need to study the “Reference Material Lists” for each station.
www.envirothonpa.org/station-training/
- [Teacher Resource Booklet](http://www.envirothonpa.org/station/teacher-resource-packet/) – provides an overview of the Pennsylvania Envirothon program, lists the learning objectives for each station, provides study tips, and contains sample tests.
www.envirothonpa.org/station/teacher-resource-packet/
- [Venango County Envirothon Webpage](http://www.venangocd.org/envirothon) – information related to the upcoming Venango County Envirothon will be posted here, as well as a list of our available study resources and helpful links.
www.venangocd.org/envirothon

STUDY TIPS

- Even if your team has participated in Envirothon before, still make sure to study the station material listed on the PA Envirothon website. While much of the material is the same each year, there are parts that change. For example, the wildlife station has a “species profile” that changes each year.
- Participate in stewardship projects or coordinate a field trip to a park or other outdoor space. There are many opportunities within Venango County where students can participate in an outdoor experience to help connect the information they learn in the classroom with real-world scenarios.
- Request a presentation or study session! The Venango Conservation District’s Envirothon coordinator can travel to your school or location of your choosing to assist students with a station they may be struggling with, provide practice with the hands-on resources (Biltmore stick, wildlife ID, etc.), and more.
- Check out the websites of our partner organizations (PGC, PFBC, DCNR, NRCS, etc.). They often have links to resources applicable to their respective stations.
- Watch YouTube videos. There are a variety of videos available for each station that provide demonstrations for the hands-on topics. For example, search “How to use a Biltmore Stick” or “Envirothon Wildlife Station.”
- Sign out our Envirothon study kits! See the next page for more information.

ENVIROTHON STUDY KITS

The Venango Conservation District has a variety of Envirothon study kits that can be loaned for up to two weeks at a time. These can be reserved at any time of the year by contacting Bailey Kozalla by calling 814-676-2832 ext. 2 or emailing bkozalla.vcd@gmail.com.

Wildlife Kit



Students are able to practice their wildlife identification skills using our wildlife kit. The kit contains a variety of tanned pelts, as well as replicas of skulls, tracks, and scat. A deer aging kit is also included.



Forestry Kit



By using our forestry kit, students can practice their tree identification skills by using the 10 different tree samples. Also included in the kits are hardwood samples, leaf collections, a Biltmore stick, and ID guides.



Aquatic Ecology Kit



We have a variety of macroinvertebrate and water quality resources that can be loaned for studying the aquatics station. We have discovery tanks, preserved macros, fish replicas, chemistry test kits, nets, buckets, sorting trays, and more.



Soils & Land Use Kit



Our soil profile posters and soil samples can be used by students to study soil horizons and texture. Use the unpinned posters to test knowledge on locating boundaries of horizons, and the pinned posters to check answers.



5. AWARDS & STATE COMPETITION

VENANGO COUNTY ENVIROTHON AWARDS

All students registered to compete in the Venango County Envirothon will receive a t-shirt at training day. We encourage students to wear their t-shirt on testing day.

The first-place winning team of the Venango County Envirothon will have the highest cumulative score by adding the scores from each of their station tests. Each station test has 100 possible points. We award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place medals to each student on their respective placing team. The first-place team also receives a plaque with their team and school name engraved.

We also recognize the winners of each station. Our partners typically provide certificates and goodie bags from their respective agencies to these winners.

If you or your school is interested, we can present the plaque to your winning team at your annual awards assembly at the end of the school year. Contact Bailey Kozalla for more information.

ADVANCING TO THE PA STATE ENVIROTHON

The Pennsylvania state Envirothon competition will be held Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at Windber Recreation Park in Windber, PA. The winning team of the 2025 Venango County Envirothon will be eligible to compete at the state level against other county-winning teams across the state.

The team's advisor(s) must register by May 2, 2025 to attend and compete by completing the [online form](#) on the PA Envirothon website. The Venango Conservation District will provide a registration guide to the winning team's advisor(s) to assist with this process. This year, there will be a \$0 fee to participate in the state competition. Students and their advisors are asked to bring their own lunch, however.

Much like the local county Envirothon, students cycle through the testing stations of wildlife, forestry, aquatic ecology, soils and land use, and the current issue. In addition to these testing stations, students are also asked to participate in the virtual [oral component](#). The oral component tests a team's ability to consider an environmental issue, discuss its likely ramifications and effects, develop possible solutions, and present their findings to a panel of judges and answer their questions during a 20-minute session. The oral component scenario and schedule will be released on Friday, May 2, 2025.



6. VENANGO COUNTY ENVIROTHON RULES

ELIGIBILITY

1. Team members must be enrolled in grade levels nine (9) through twelve (12) or in an equivalent non-traditional school program ranking (such as being homeschooled).
2. Each school can send up to three teams of five members, with a minimum of three members per team. Please note: You must have 5 members on a team in order to compete at the state Envirothon. This 5-member team must be from the same educational unit and must have competed in the county competition. Three member teams are not eligible to move on to the state competition.
3. A student may only participate in a maximum of four Venango County Envirothon competitions over the course of their high school career.
4. Each team or team member participating in the Venango County Envirothon may not participate in another county's Envirothon during the same academic year.
5. All members on a team must represent the same educational unit (public, private, parochial, non-traditional school).
6. Each team must be registered with the Venango Conservation District by the established deadline in order to participate at the Venango County Envirothon.

COMPETITION

7. An advisor must accompany the team(s) for each school attending the Venango County Envirothon. An advisor must be a non-student adult aged 20 years or older.
8. Students will rotate as a team to each testing station as indicated on the provided Venango County Envirothon competition schedule.
9. Advisors and/or chaperones are not permitted at or near the station testing areas before or during the competition as indicated on the provided station location map.
10. Participating students may only use reference and resource materials provided by Venango County Envirothon representatives at the testing stations. No personal reference or resource materials are allowed at the testing stations.
11. No electronic or battery-operated devices such as cell phones, laptops, smart watches, iPods, tablets, calculators, or cameras are allowed to be possessed by students during testing periods. There will be space available to securely store these devices during testing periods. Allowances will be made for media, camera crew, and agency personnel.
12. Students and their advisors are permitted to view their station and overall test scores, but are not permitted to view the scored tests and answer sheets. This is to prevent the sharing of questions and answers to students participating in other county-level Envirothon events.
13. All test scores determined by Venango County Envirothon representatives are final. The winning team at the Venango County Envirothon is the team with the highest cumulative score which is totaled by adding the scores from each respective station test. In the event of a tie, a tie-breaker question will be employed. Tests and answer sheets will remain as property of the Venango Conservation District.

14. Substitutes to any team members are permissible. Any changes to team members must occur before the start of the competition day and should be made by contacting the Venango Conservation District as soon as possible.
15. Additional students that will not be participating in the competition may attend the Venango County Envirothon training day if there is space available. Contact the Venango Conservation District in advance if you are planning to do this. Please note: only the students competing in the Venango County Envirothon and their advisors/chaperones are permitted to attend the day of competition.

ADVANCING TO THE PA STATE ENVIROTHON

16. The winning team of the Venango County Envirothon may advance to the Pennsylvania state Envirothon competition. Should the team choose to advance, all Pennsylvania Envirothon rules will be followed by the team. Pennsylvania Envirothon rules and regulations will be provided to the winning team upon conclusion of the Venango County Envirothon competition.
17. If the team advancing to the state competition cannot send the five original team members that competed at the Venango County Envirothon, the advisor is permitted to make substitutions for one or two of the original five team members. All members and substitutions must represent the same educational unit and have competed in the same county event. A four-person team may compete as an exhibition only if there are no substitutions available.
18. In the event the winning team cannot attend the state Envirothon event, the next highest scoring team will have the opportunity to be sent in its place so long as the Pennsylvania Envirothon and Venango County Envirothon rules are met.

MISCELLANEOUS

19. Any team involved with any infraction of the rules or inconsistencies shall be subject to disqualification.
20. The Venango County Envirothon rules and regulations are subject to change by the Venango Conservation District. Any and all changes will be announced before the competition begins.
21. Any exceptions to these rules and regulations must be approved by the Venango Conservation District.

7. PARTNERS & SPONSORS

The Venango County Envirothon would not be possible without our generous partners and sponsors. Our partners donate their time and knowledge towards training the students and helping to facilitate the event. Our sponsors donate money and/or resources that ensure the event is a success! We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to these partners and sponsors for making the 2024 Envirothon a success. Thank you for helping us educate the next generation of environmental stewards.

PROGRAM PARTNERS:

Pennsylvania Envirothon, Inc.

EVENT PARTNERS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC)
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC)
Penn State Extension – Venango County
Venango County Commissioners

EVENT SPONSORS:

Two Mile Run County Park
Northwest Pennsylvania Environmental Literacy Coalition
Domino's Pizza, Franklin