

NEWS RELEASE

**Pennsylvania Envirothon
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2009 Pennsylvania State Envirothon Results

The 26th Pennsylvania State Envirothon was held at Bald Eagle State Park, Howard, Centre County on Tuesday, May 19. High school students from 65 Pennsylvania counties participated in this year's event.

The Envirothon is designed to give students an opportunity to acquire and demonstrate their knowledge of environmental resources and their connection to each other and human activities. The students are challenged in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soil / land use, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. The 2009 current environmental issue was biodiversity in a changing climate.

Teams participating represent the best and the brightest of the thousands of high school teens who have competed in county Envirothon competitions sponsored by conservation districts across the state. At the state level, the Envirothon is sponsored by Pennsylvania's sixty-six conservation districts, the State Conservation Commission, and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. The program is managed by a board of directors representing those sponsors. Technical expertise is provided by the following agency partners: PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Game Commission, PA Fish & Boat Commission, and the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Financial sponsors of the 2009 Envirothon are EXCO North Coast Energy, Air Products and Chemicals, PPL Corporation, Nestle Water North America, Bayer HealthCare Consumer Care, Canon Envirothon, The Hershey Company, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and the PA Growing Greener Program. The Hershey Company, Dwight Lewis Lumber, Lewis Lumber Products, and Cargill are "Corporate Station Sponsors."

The 2009 Pennsylvania Envirothon champions will represent the Commonwealth at the 22nd Canon Envirothon North American competition planned for August 2 - 8 at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. Pennsylvania has won the North American event in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2005. More than 48 states and eight Canadian provinces have initiated Envirothon contests based on the program that was originally developed by Pennsylvania's conservation districts.

The 2009 Pennsylvania State Envirothon champions, scoring 460 points of a possible 500, are from Penncrest High School located in Delaware County. Team members include: Alex Senko, Elizabeth Freeburg, Katie Davis, Katie Ferguson, and Jennifer Walker. Team advisors are: Mark Samilenko and Amanda Meltz.

Top 10 winners, with scores include:

Second Place - Future Hope Homelearners, Snyder County, with a score of 427:

Third Place - Warren Area High School, Warren County, with a score of 423;

Fourth Place - North East High School, Erie County, with a score of 419;
Fifth Place - Cedar Cliff High School, Cumberland County, with a score of 412;
Sixth Place – Homeschoolers, York County, with a score of 409;
Seventh Place – Carmichaels Area High School, Green County, with a score of 403;
Eighth Place – Blue Mountain High School, Schuylkill County, with a score of 397;
Ninth Place – Northern Bedford High School, Bedford County, with a score of 390; and
Tenth Place – Canon High School, Bradford County, with a score of 389.

Sunbury Christian Academy, Northumberland County's winner at the local Susquehanna Valley Envirothon held in early May at the Shikellamy State Park Overlook, placed 22nd with a score of 338. Team members included Michelle Cease, Janelle Kifer, Jason Hoffman, Molly Gutelius, and Carissa Erdman. Team advisor is John Hernandez.

The PA Envirothon awarded scholarships to the first, second, and third place teams. The scholarships were sponsored by the PA Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State Conservation Commission. Each of the top ten teams received a plaque and other prizes.

For more information on the Envirothon program, contact your local conservation district or contact the Pennsylvania Envirothon by phone (814) 623-7900 ext. 111, Email paenvirothon@pennswoods.net, or visit the website at www.envirothonpa.org.

Sunbury Christian Academy, Northumberland County's winner

