



2023 LEBANON COUNTY ENVIROTHON REVIEW



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STATISTICS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

17 schools: Adventure Academy (homeschool), Anville, Cornwall, Ebenezer, ELCO Intermediate, Forge Road, Harding, Henry Houck, Jonestown, Lingle Avenue, Northwest, Northside, Pine Street, South Lebanon, Southeast, Southwest, and Union Canal Elementary Schools for a total of 30 teams and 143 students participating.

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

6 schools: Cedar Crest, ELCO, Lebanon, Lebanon Christian Academy, Myerstown Enrichment Center, and Palmyra Middle Schools for a total of 20 teams and 96 students participating.

HIGH SCHOOL:

6 schools: ELCO, Lebanon, Lebanon Christian Academy, Myerstown Enrichment Center, Northern Lebanon, and Palmyra High Schools for a total of 21 teams and 101 students participating.



Lebanon County has fielded Envirothon teams and encouraged students to explore their relationship with the natural world for over thirty-nine years. Special thanks to the parents, communities, and students that have stood behind this program; to the schools and administrators that have supported our outreach; and to the Board of the Conservation District, the Lebanon County Commissioners, and local businesses for their generous support. We especially thank the teachers and volunteers who devote time, energy, and passion into making this program successful! We appreciate you. My sincerest thanks, Katie Hollen, Lebanon County Envirothon Coordinator.

Elementary School Envirothon:

ES FIELD EXPERIENCE:

Students in grades 4-6 across Lebanon County participating in this year's Elementary School Envirothon experienced a day-long learning adventure at Camp Rocky Creek, thanks to the generosity of the Lebanon YMCA. On April 18th, 167 students (includes alternates) traveled to Camp Rocky Creek to explore and learn in preparation for the competition on April 20th.



Students divided into groups and rotated through the following stations: **1. Aquatics:** Led by Nolde Forest Environmental Educator (retired) Eleanor Sweeney and Tony Alvarado (Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program Coordinator, LCCD), students practiced macroinvertebrate (aquatic insects) collection and ID from the stream and reconstructed a map "puzzle" of PA's river basins. **2. Wildlife:** Students reviewed their wildlife knowledge and ID skills with pelts and skulls. Eric McCabe (Owner, Keystone Wildlife Services) and Brant Portner (Environmental Educator, Middle Creek) led the students through the activities. **3. Forestry:** Under the guidance of Jan & Larry Taylor, students were familiarized with the job of a forester, forest products, and basic tree identification skills. Students were also introduced to important insect pests that are impacting Pennsylvania forest species today: the Spotted Lanternfly (*Ailanthus*, fruit trees and more), Emerald Ash Borer (ash species) and Woolly Adelgid (hemlock trees). These pests are increasingly harmful due to their limited natural controls. **4. Mishmash:** Students cycled through various water-related activities. Maranda Smith (Agricultural Conservation Specialist, LCCD) led students through the Enviroscope, a model illustrating watershed dynamics and non-point source pollution. Margaret Hopkins, a Penn State Master Watershed Steward, played "The Drain Game" with students,

showing how to properly dispose of certain items so they don't end up in our waterways. Taylor Wade (Administrative Assistant, LCCD) guided the students through the steps of the water cycle as they made water cycle rings.

A very special thank you to our station leaders and field experience organizers: Eleanor Sweeney, Tony Alvarado, Jan & Larry Taylor, Eric McCabe, Brant Portner, Taylor Wade, Maranda Smith, and Margaret Hopkins!





Elementary School Envirothon:

This year, 143 students on 30 teams competed in the 30th Lebanon County Elementary School Envirothon. Elementary schools from Adventure Academy (homeschool), Annville, Cornwall, Ebenezer, ELCO Intermediate, Forge Road, Harding, Henry Houck, Jonestown, Lingle Avenue, Northwest, Northside, Pine Street, South Lebanon, Southeast, Southwest, and Union Canal brought students to Coleman Memorial Park on April 20th to participate in this year's Envirothon.

Students rotated through four outdoor stations and were tested in areas of wildlife, forestry, and aquatics. The fourth station, a learning (non-testing) station, taught students about pollinators.

All teams were recognized with blue, red, or white ribbons, Hershey chocolate bars donated by the Hershey Company and Envirothon certificates. **Pine Street Elementary's Team Orange** outscored the remaining 29 teams. Additionally, they received a 5 lb. Hershey chocolate bar donated by the Hershey Company, field guides, and the traveling Envirothon trophy to display at their school for the following year.

The Elementary Envirothon would not be possible without the help of numerous volunteers; including retired teachers, parents of former Envirothon students, local businesses, and Lebanon County Master Gardeners. Volunteers run the stations, administer the tests, and help with overall logistics; thank you for helping make this event possible! We also thank the team advisors who go above and beyond their existing curricula and activities to teach these students about our natural resources. **THANK YOU!**



2023 Elementary School Envirothon participants!



2023 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENVIROTHON WINNERS: PINE STREET ELEMENTARY'S TEAM ORANGE!

(L-R): Ethan Chirico, Crew Barger, Nathan Furman, Austin Morton, Luke Siegert





The winners of the 25th Lebanon County Middle School Envirothon:

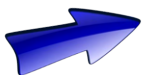
- 1st Place:
Palmyra-PinOakEOs
- 2nd Place:
Palmyra-MyLeafCyrus
- 3rd Place:
Palmyra-Don'tStopBeLeafing
- 4th Place:
Cedar Crest-We Frog-ot Our Name
- 5th Place:
Lebanon Christian Academy-Navy Seals
- 6th Place:
Palmyra-Horizon Wireless
- 7th Place:
Palmyra-ElmOs
- 8th Place:
Palmyra-LeafMeAlone
- 9th Place:
Myerstown Enrichment Center-The Skyhawkers
- 10th Place:
Palmyra-Kids-of-Heaven

Middle School Envirothon:

The 25th Middle School Envirothon was held May 12th at H.M. Levitz Park. Ninety-six students consisting of 20 teams participated in the natural resource education competition. Students rotated through five stations and were tested in areas of aquatics, forestry, wildlife, soils, and a current issue—biodiversity and invasive species.

The hands-on stations were led by LCCD, volunteers, and numerous agencies including the PA Game Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and DCNR Bureau of Forestry. Volunteers also included Lebanon County Penn State Master Gardeners, retired teachers, and PA Trapper's Association.

Special thanks to the Hershey Company for donating Hershey chocolate bars to all students, and a 5 lb. Hershey chocolate bar to the winning team! Your commitment to environmental education is commendable. Thank you for supporting the Lebanon County Envirothon!



2023 MIDDLE SCHOOL ENVIROTHON WINNERS: PALMYRA'S PINOAKEOS

(L-R) Emmalynn Shaw, Izzy Schaeffer, Grace Frew, Layla Musser, and Lilly Musser. Local representatives (L-R) County Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz, Alex Gamble (Sen. Chris Gebhard), Rep. John Schlegel, County Commissioner Bob Phillips, and Rep. Russ Diamond.



Second Place Winners: Palmyra's MyLeafCyrus

(L-R) Representative Russ Diamond, students Claire Wee, Sam Sweigart, Hope Reichley, Caroline Mayhew, and Caroline Kreitzer, and County Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz.





High School Envirothon:

On Thursday, April 28th, 101 students consisting of 21 teams from local high schools participated in the 39th Annual Lebanon County High School Envirothon at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. The Envirothon is designed to cultivate a desire to learn more about the natural world through competitive events. It challenges high school students to think critically about their personal impacts and responsibility to the environment.

Students rotated through five outdoor stations and were tested in areas of wildlife, forestry, aquatics, soils and land use, and this year's current issue, "Adapting to a Changing Climate." Identifying trees, bird calls, skulls, fish, aquatic insects, and soil properties were just a few of the tasks students were required to complete.

Testing stations were conducted by LCCD, PA Game Commission, NRCS, DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, Lebanon County Master Gardeners & Watershed Stewards, and numerous other volunteers. Thank you!



**2023
HIGH SCHOOL
ENVIROTHON
WINNERS:
PALMYRA'S
ENVIROVENGERS**
(L-R) Michael Harris, Miyah Moore, Emma Sibbach, Lauren Frazier, and Elena Kreitzer.

The winners of the 39th Lebanon County High School Envirothon:

- 1st Place:
Palmyra-Envirovengers
- 2nd Place:
Lebanon Christian Academy-Darkside Juncos
- 3rd Place:
Northern Lebanon-Trash Pandas
- 4th Place:
Northern Lebanon-Ditch Chickens
- 5th Place:
ELCO-A Water Penny for Your Thoughts
- 6th Place:
Palmyra-Ocean's Five
- 7th Place:
ELCO-The Buck Stops Here
- 8th Place:
Myerstown Enrichment Center-Kingfishers of Men
- 9th Place:
Palmyra-What's Stomata
- 10th Place:
Palmyra-Chris Rock Slappers



Palmyra's Envirovengers represented Lebanon County at the Pennsylvania State Envirothon at Camp Mount Luther on May 24, 2023, where they competed against over 60 teams and placed **5TH OVERALL!** Congratulations!



**Second Place Winners:
Lebanon Christian Academy's Darkside Juncos**
(L-R) County Commissioner Bob Phillips, students Emmilyn Johnson, Shyann Sadler, Elijah Thomas, Bryce Archer, Matthew Dech, and Representative John Schlegel.



**Third place winners:
Northern Lebanon's Trash Pandas**
(L-R) Representative John Schlegel, students Erin Shuey, Kenneth Battistelli, Carley Umbrell, Brianna Konefal, and Haley Blair.

2023

LEBANON COUNTY ENVIROTHON



The Lebanon County Envirothon would not be possible without the support of our community! The 2023 Envirothon has been made possible by the Lebanon County Conservation District, with financial and other support provided by:

BALD EAGLE PLATINUM LEVEL (\$5000+)

Lebanon County Conservation District
Lebanon County Commissioners

RUFFED GROUSE SILVER LEVEL (\$1000+)

The Hershey Company

BROOK TROUT BRONZE LEVEL (\$500+)

Chrisland Engineering

EASTERN HEMLOCK PATRON (\$250+)

Dourte Electric, Inc.
Steckbeck Engineering, Inc.

MOUNTAIN LAUREL PATROL (\$100)

Izaak Walton League of America, Lebanon County Chapter

OTHER

Crystal Springs
Lebanon Valley Family YMCA

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS AND EVENT ORGANIZERS!

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
District 11 PA Trapper's Association
Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area
Natural Resources Conservation Service
PA Bureau of Forestry
PA Game Commission
Penn State Extension Master Gardeners
Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards



2023

LEBANON COUNTY ENVIROTHON



SAVE THE DATE(S)!

APRIL/MAY 2024				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
15 APRI	16 Elementary School Field Experience	17	18 Elementary School Envirothon	19
22	23	24	25 High School Envirothon	26
6 MAY	7	8	9	10 Middle School Envirothon

Congratulations to (L-R) Hayleigh Kapp, Samuel Davenport, and Kaitlin Stroik



recipients of a 2023 Lebanon County Envirothon Scholarship!

For a seventh year, the Lebanon County Envirothon offered a \$1,000 Envirothon Scholarship to graduating seniors participating in the Lebanon County Envirothon.

Due to funding from the Lebanon County Commissioners, the Lebanon County Conservation District, and the support of local businesses and organizations (see page 6), the Lebanon County Envirothon was proud to award three scholarships this year!

This year's recipients will be presented the scholarship and officially recognized at a Lebanon County Conservation District Board meeting. The recipients of the 2023 Lebanon County \$1,000 Envirothon Scholarship are: Samuel Davenport (LHS), Hayleigh Kapp (ELCO), and Kaitlin Stroik (PHS).

Thanks again to funding provided by a grant from the Lebanon County Commissioners, the generous donations of Lebanon County businesses and organizations, and additionally, funding provided by the Lebanon County Erosion & Sedimentation Program, the top ranking recipient, Hayleigh Kapp (ELCO), will receive a \$3,000 scholarship! Congratulations!



PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE 2024 LEBANON COUNTY ENVIROTHON!

Please contact the Lebanon County Conservation District, 2120 Cornwall Road*Suite 5, Lebanon, PA 17042
Phone: 717-277-5275.

Interested in volunteering with the Envirothon? Contact the Conservation District for details! Thank you!