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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Montgomery County CD Hosts 2016 Envirothon and BioBlitz**

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Montgomery County Conservation District hosted three Envirothon events this spring in an effort to provide free environmental education for local students. Approximately 300 students participated in the events, which were held for the high school, middle school and elementary school levels.

All three events were held at Montgomery County's Lower Perkiomen Valley Park. Partners included educators from Montgomery County Parks, Trails and Historic Sites, PA Game Commission, PA Fish and Boat Commission, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Penn State Extension, Elmwood Park Zoo, and the PA Alliance for Geographic Education. Volunteers from the PA Department of Environmental Protection, as well as Montgomery County's Health Department and Planning Commission, helped to run the event.

Envirothon is free for schools to participate and is funded through a mini-grant from Pennsylvania Envirothon, Inc., as well as donations from local supporters.

At Envirothon, the students attended sessions on wildlife, forestry, soils and land use, and aquatic ecology. Both the high school and middle school events also included a competition component. At the high school event, a team of five students from Perkiomen Valley High School came out on top, and they will move on to represent Montgomery County at the Pennsylvania Envirothon competition later this month. Lower Merion and Souderton High Schools clinched second and third place, respectively.

At the middle school event, the top-scoring team was from Arcola Intermediate School. Second and third place went to Pennbrook Middle School and Spring-Ford Seventh Grade. The middle

school students also took part in a National Geographic BioBlitz, which is an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area.

Envirothon helps shape participants into good stewards of our world, and it is a great opportunity for students to get outside and learn from environmental experts.

For more information, visit [www.montgomeryconservation.org/programs/envirothon](http://www.montgomeryconservation.org/programs/envirothon).



Caption: Students using a GPS camera unit to record a species during the BioBlitz.

Photo Credit: Jen Isett