

Lancaster County Conservation District Education Programs

2026-2027 School Year

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LANCASTER COUNTY Conservation District

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IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING AVAILABLE

Who We Are...

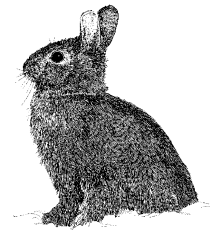
The mission of the Lancaster County Conservation District is the stewardship of the land, water, and other natural resources in Lancaster County.

About Programs...

The programs in this guide are available to Lancaster County students and residents. All of the programs are designed to address the PA Department of Education Science, Technology, Engineering, Environmental Literacy, and Sustainability Standards (see the last page). Each program can be individually tailored to meet your needs. The majority of programs focus on soil and water conservation issues in keeping with the mission of the Lancaster County Conservation District. If you do not see a topic in the guide that you would like offered, please get in touch with the District Education and Operations Coordinator to discuss the possibility of creating a program.

To Schedule a Program...

To schedule a program, contact the Education and Operations Coordinator. Unless special arrangements are made, programs are offered Monday through Friday, 8 AM – 4 PM. ***Before emailing or phoning, please have several dates and times in mind.*** Please notify us immediately to postpone or cancel the program.



Program Costs...

A nominal donation is requested to support program development.

Presented in the Classroom or outdoors: \$85/hr. Up to an hour.

Virtual Lesson: \$70/hr. Up to an hour.

\$10/hr. for each additional program hour.

Specific Materials Fee

Owl Pellets = \$4.50/ pellet

3 Programs for FREE: In the tradition of promoting soil and water stewardship, the following programs will remain at no cost – *Soils: Shake, Rattle, and Roll, Stream Study, and the Watershed Enviroscape.*

About this Guide...

The Lancaster County Conservation District Education and Operations Coordinator is a PA-certified teacher who provides educational experiences focused on our county's natural resources.

Animals in Winter

Indoor
Gr. K - Adult
40 – 60 min.
Hands-on

Animals survive winter by hibernating, migrating, or staying active. Learn their specific adaptations with study pelts and objects (antlers, skulls, etc.). Literature connections are included for elementary.

Awesome Owls

Indoor
Gr. 3 – Adult
45 - 60 min.
Hands-on

What makes owls so interesting? Learn their habits and behaviors. Take apart an owl pellet to discover the bones inside. Literature connections included for elementary. The cost per pellet is \$4.50. Students often work in pairs to investigate a pellet.



Biodiversity

Either
Gr. 2 - 12
40 – 60 min.
Simulation Game

Explore learning through understanding the importance of diversity within nature. Food pyramids, food webs, plant systems, and predator/prey relationships are incorporated into the lesson.

Watershed Enviroscape

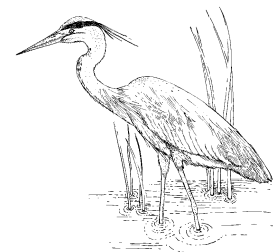
Either
Gr. 2 - Adult
30 - 45 min.
Hands-on/Model

The hands-on watershed model not only allows students to witness the effects of water pollution but also the importance of conservation practices. Students observe pollution's impact on a watershed as a whole and discuss possible solutions for cleaner water.

Ornithology

Either
Gr. 3 - Adult
30 - 40 min.
Activity

The scientific study of birds can tell us a lot about incredible bird adaptations. Activities investigate beaks, wings, and feet, along with food sources, nests, and migrations. Discover the power of birds that inspires action.



Befriend a Bat

Indoor
Gr. K - 6
40 - 60 min.
Slides/Activity

Learn why bats are our friends and why they are so important to the environment. They are a beneficial resource that we often take for granted. The bats of Pennsylvania will be highlighted. Find out the latest news on White-Nose Syndrome that could dramatically decrease the bat population in our state within 2-3 years. Form and function are demonstrated through a fun, interactive activity.

Stream in a Bucket

Either
Gr. 3 - 12
45 - 60 min.
Hands-on

If you can't get to a stream, we'll bring one to you. Students investigate leaf litter for critters, macroinvertebrates, and whatever may be hiding in the leaves or swimming in the water sample. (spring, summer, early fall)

Stream Study

Outdoor
Gr. 3 - Adult
45 - 60 min.
Hands-on

Do you have a stream near your schoolyard that we can explore? We bring the equipment; you supply the site. Investigate macroinvertebrates and determine the overall health of the waterway. (spring, summer, early fall)

Thirsty for a Mystery

Either
Gr. 4 - 8
45 min.
Simulation

Shh! Don't give the solution away to your students. Using a series of clues first discovered by English physician Dr. Snow, students solve a mystery to discover the source of a deadly illness in 19th-century London. Students will understand the importance of a clean water supply to public health.

Soils: Shake, Rattle, and Roll

Either
Gr. K - Adult
40 min.
Hands-on

Find out what's really going on under our feet. Through hands-on activities, students will investigate the many interesting properties and uses of different soils and discuss why soil is so vital for all life. Literature connections are included for elementary. (spring, summer, early fall)

The Water Cycle

Indoor
Gr. 2 - 12
40 - 60 min.
Simulation

Dive into the hydrologic cycle, commonly known as the water cycle, with an emphasis on how water pollution and water treatment can affect the cycle negatively and positively. Students explore memory tricks and simulations that illustrate a valuable resource trip around the world.



Wading into Wetlands

Either
Gr. 3 - Adult
40 min.
Exploration

Wetlands provide critical assistance to plants, animals, humans, and the overall environment. Activities bring these benefits to life and encourage an appreciation of the important role wetlands play.

Groundwater Model

Either
Gr. 4 - Adult
30 min.
Simulation

Pulled by gravity, groundwater is always on the move. The rate of movement varies from a few inches a year to several miles a day. The model defines groundwater, an aquifer, and karst formation. Pollution and water movement are demonstrated in varied rock formations. \$15 materials fee per session, no program fee.

Every Family Needs a Farmer

Either
Gr. 3 - Adult
40 min.
Hands-on

Healthy Soils + Healthy Sprouts = Healthy Diet. Agribusiness is Pennsylvania's largest industry, beginning with production to distribution. Explore conservation connections on the farm that lead to healthy diet choices and help the environment at the same time. Hands-on experience processing three food products.

Fish On

Either
Gr. 3-7
45 min.
Simulation

There are roughly 20,000 species of fish worldwide with a wide variety of characteristics and lifestyles. Activities connect students to fish behaviors, characteristics, and habitat needs. Cast a line to fishing regulations connected to population changes and water quality.

Wild Words and Sketchy Nature

Either
Gr. 3-Adults
40 - 60 min.
Hands-on

Observing and sketching the natural wonders of our world can strengthen both sides of the brain, regulate heart rate, and develop focus. Sketching is not about perfection but rather about noticing and wondering. Students are encouraged to practice observation steps to progress through sketching steps. Natural objects are included in in-class instruction.

Darkness Conservation

Indoors
Gr. 4 - Adults
40 min.
Simulation

This is an invitation to explore the biodiversity that waits for the moon to rise each day. Investigate barriers and issues that impact the creatures of Lancaster County who depend on darkness. Test some conservation practices to improve darkness. Can your students plan to 'light wisely'?

Additional Educational Programs

Guest Reader - \$45 for 30 minutes or \$80 for two 30-minute same-day sessions

Guest Reader programs include the Education Coordinator reading a favorite book relating to water, natural resources, land use, or agriculture, based on the teacher's request, and a short concept activity with a follow-up from the story. Grades K-6.

Lancaster County Envirothon

The Envirothon program is an academic contest that involves teams of students working together in a team of 5 to demonstrate their natural resource knowledge. Senior High Envirothon (grades 9-12) topics include wildlife, forestry, soils, aquatics, and a current issue topic that changes from year to year. Middle School Envirothon (grades 7-8) and Junior Envirothon (grades 3-6) focus on one of 4 ecosystems with species study materials about birds, mammals, trees, and plants, and an ecosystem focus. Many teachers find that free study materials and topics blend well with the classroom curriculum.

All study materials are provided. Please contact the Education Coordinator if you would like more information or visit the Education tab at www.lancasterconservation.org.

Lancaster County Youth Conservation School

Students who are looking for a summer adventure and a deep dive into natural resources and conservation. The Lancaster County Conservation District, in cooperation with Local Sportsmen's Clubs, offers an overnight rigorous field school for teens ages 14-16 interested in outdoor activities. The Youth Conservation School is held in a camp-like setting at the Northern Lancaster County Game and Fish Protection Association in West Cocalico Township during the last full week of July.

Up to 28 students are accepted each year. Topics include forestry, canoeing, wildlife management, archery, survival, stream restoration, and firearm safety. Teens will have the opportunity to meet professionals in various environmental-related fields and discuss career options with them. Applications open in January each year at www.lancasterconservation.org.

Teacher Professional Development

The Education and Operations Coordinator offers teacher workshops relating to water quality, watersheds, wetlands, and more. Within each workshop, there is a balance of content-specific learning with field studies, hands-on activities, and resources that can help you share what you learn with your students.

Resource Assistance: PA SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING, AND ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY & SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS (STEELS)

The Education and Operations Coordinator offers resource assistance, as she is able, advancing awareness and knowledge of natural resource conservation by building an ecologically literate and engaged public.

Lancaster County Conservation District's education programs address the PA STEELS Standards. Take a look... 	STEELS Standards addressed
Animals in Winter	3.1.3.A Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.
Awesome Owls	3.1.3.C Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organisms.
Groundwater Model	3.4.6-8.G Obtain and communicate information to describe how best resource management practices and environmental laws are designed to achieve environmental sustainability.
Ornithology	3.1.3.C Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organisms.
Biodiversity	3.5.3-5.BB Illustrate how, when parts of a system are missing, it may not work as planned.
Watershed Enviroscape	3.4.6-8.C Develop a model to describe how watersheds and wetlands function as systems, including the roles and functions they serve.
Befriend a Bat	3.1.3.B Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.
Every Family Needs a Family	3-5.AA Create representations of the tools people made, how they cultivated to provide food, made clothing, and built shelters to protect themselves.
Stream in a Bucket	3.4.6-8.E Collect, analyze, and interpret environmental data to describe a local environment.
Stream Study	3.4.6-8.E Collect, analyze, and interpret environmental data to describe a local environment.
Soils: Shake, Rattle, and Roll	3.4.6-8.G Obtain and communicate information to describe how best resource management practices and environmental laws are designed to achieve environmental sustainability.
The Water Cycle	3.5.3-5.BB Illustrate how, when parts of a system are missing, it may not work as planned.
Thirsty for a Mystery	3.5.3-5.O Describe requirements of designing or making a product or system.
Wading into Wetlands	3.4.6-8.C Develop a model to describe how watersheds and wetlands function as systems, including the roles and functions they serve.
Fish On	3.1.4.B Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways.
Wild Words and Sketchy Nature	3.1.5.B Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.
Darkness Conservation	3.3.5.F Generate and design possible solutions to a current environmental issue, threat, or concern.



Teachers Take Note...
The Watershed Enviroscape model is available to borrow for two weeks.

Contact at 717-299-5361 x.2516.

Before returning model, teachers are asked to wash and clean model and complete a supply checklist.