

Erie County Conservation District Educational Outreach Programs

Contact: Emily Pritchard, Environmental Education Coordinator
814-825-6403

emilypritchard@erieconservation.com

Who We Are:

As part of its mission, *Erie County Conservation District* strives to set an example and provide assistance to citizens in Erie County for the wise use, management and development of our natural resources by addressing conservation issues through implementation of best management practices, education and outreach.

Headwaters Park, located directly behind the Erie County Conservation District building, is a unique area creating the headwaters of Mill Creek. The 70-acres that make up the county park were donated by Erie County for the enjoyment of all local residents. The park is equipped with walking trails, an outdoor classroom, stream access and a public pavilion.

About the Programs:

The programs in this guide are available to all residents of Erie County including but not limited to school groups, scout troops, adult organizations/clubs, and 4-H. Unless otherwise noted, all programs can be offered at Headwaters Park or at your individual school/site. Each program is designed to address the PA Department of Education Environment & Ecology and Science & Technology Standards.

The majority of the programs focus on soil and water conservation as well as agriculture. If you would like a program for a topic that is not covered in the guide, please contact the environmental educator to discuss the possibility of creating a program or tailoring an existing one to meet your individual needs.

To Schedule a Program:

To schedule a program, contact the environmental educator. Before emailing or phoning please have several dates and times in mind. Please notify us immediately to postpone or cancel the program*.

Program Costs:

Nominal charges assist with program development and resource expenses**.

For programs at Headwaters Park:

\$45 plus \$1 per student (2 hours or less)

\$30 for every additional hour

For programs anywhere other than Headwaters Park (e.g. visiting your school)

\$30 per hour plus \$.40 per mile

**A cancellation fee of half the program price will be charged for programs cancelled 5 or less working days of the program.*

***Prices in effect as of fall 2009 and subject to change.*

PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION

From Farm to Fork
Grade K-12

Where does your food come from? Even though agri-business is PA's largest industry, the majority of people can not answer that question. Students will enjoy a vital lesson about local farming and how their food gets to their dinner tables.

Tree-mendous
K-Adult

This program is adaptable to the age group of your students. We will cover all things tree—including the identification of species, how they grow, and exploring just how many animal species use trees to survive, including humans! Offered only at Headwaters Park.

EnviroScape
Grade 1-Adult

We all live in a watershed—an area of land that drains rain and snow to a bigger body of water. This hands-on EnviroScape model demonstrates the workings of a watershed and allows students to witness the effects of pollution to our water. The students work together to first pollute and then clean and prevent future trouble in their watershed.

Stream Study
Grade 3-Adult

Do you have a stream near your schoolyard that we can explore? We bring the equipment -you supply the site. We'll talk about watersheds, investigate stream critters, and determine the overall health of the water (spring, summer, early fall).

Don't have a stream? Visit Headwaters Park and explore the water of Mill Creek.

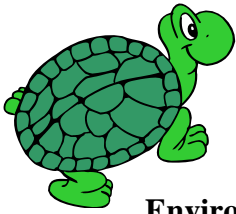
Bucket Biologist
Grade 3-12

If you can not get to a stream, we will bring one to you! Students learn all about the world of a biologist as they investigate leaf litter for critters, macroinvertebrates and whatever may be hiding in the leaves or swimming in the water sample (spring, summer, and fall).



Erie County Conservation District
& Headwaters Park
1927 Wager Road
Erie, PA 16509
P: 814-825-6403 F: 814-825-6033





ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Envirothon

Grade 9-12

The Erie County Envirothon is a unique and exciting program that combines hands-on outdoor experience with natural resource study.

Each spring, high school students interested in outdoor fun and environmental science gather to sharpen their conservation skills and test their knowledge against teams of students from other schools in Erie County.

The students compete to win the highest score in the Envirothon test categories of forestry, aquatics, wildlife, soils and a current environmental topic. County winners advance to the state level to compete at the PA State Envirothon; state champions proceed to the Canon International Envirothon.

Boy Scout Badge

Erie County Conservation Districts offers programs that cover some of the requirements for the following Boy Scout Badges: Soil and Water Conservation, Environmental Science, and Webelos Forester.

2.5 hour long programs are offered at Headwaters Park for groups ranging in size from 8-25 scouts. We do not supply patches. Price: \$50 plus \$1 per scout.

Brownie Try-Its

This program covers some of the requirements for three Try-It badges: Fun in the Forest, Outdoor Adventurer, and Water Everywhere.

2.5 hour long programs are offered at Headwaters Park for groups ranging in size from 8-25 scouts. We do not supply patches. Price: \$50 plus \$1 per scout

Grant Program

Every year, the Erie County Conservation District awards a small grant to a high school student/s that has excelled in environmental or agriculture related fields. The grant is meant for those wishing to continue their education at the college level in a conservation related field. Please contact our office for additional information.

Conservation Leadership School Scholarship

Conservation Leadership School (CLS) is a one-week residential program for high school students (ages 15-18) to learn about the world around them through exploration and hands-on activities. Located at the Penn State Stone Valley Recreation Area in Huntingdon County, it's your ideal school- where the classroom includes over 700 acres of forest, fields, wetlands, and streams. The Erie County Conservation District offers partial scholarships to participating students.

Teacher Workshops

Periodically, the Erie County Conservation District offers teacher workshops relating to agriculture, energy, and water quality. Each workshop consists of content-specific learning, field study, hands-on activities and resources that can assist you in teaching your students.

PA Department of Education Standard Guide to Erie County Conservation District's Environmental Education Programs

Environment & Ecology



PROGRAMS

	4.1 Watersheds & Wetlands	4.2 Renewable & Nonrenewable Resources	4.3 Environmental Health	4.4 Agriculture & Society	4.5 Integrated Pest Management	4.6 Ecosystems & their Interactions	4.7 Threatened, Endangered, & Extinct Species	4.8 Humans & their Environment	4.9 Environmental Laws & Regulations
From Farm to Fork			*	*				*	
Tree-Mendous		*		*				*	*
Enviroscape	*	*	*	*		*		*	
Stream Study	*		*				*	*	
Bucket Biologist	*		*				*	*	

Science & Technology



PROGRAMS

	3.1 Unifying Themes	3.2 Inquiry & Design	3.3 Biological Sciences	3.4 Physical Sciences, Chemistry and Physics	3.5 Earth Science	3.6 Technology Education	3.7 Technological Devices	3.8 Science Technology and Human Endeavors
From Farm to Fork						*		*
Tree-Mendous			*	*				
Enviroscape								
Stream Study	*		*	*	*			
Bucket Biologist			*		*			