

2024 Poster Contest Winners "Native & Invasive"

Senior 1st Place Winner

Livia Corbitt, Chester County



1st Place - Livia Corbitt - Among the native species of wildlife in the state of Pennsylvania, there are oftentimes a plethora of invasive species competing with our native wildlife for necessary resources. This poster depicts some of the most problematic invasive species: the Spotted Lantern Fly and the Poison Hemlock. Many would be able to recognize the notorious spotted lantern fly, congregated in tight groups on the surface of tree trunks; however, the deadly poison hemlock often goes unrecognized by the average person as some may not know to watch out for the flat white flowers or the purplish tinged stems. The best way to control such invasive species is to diminish the population, which can be easily done by destroying lantern fly egg masses. Highly toxic invasive species, such as the poison hemlock, require careful removal by conservationists to avoid health risks. The next best thing would be to educate fellow outdoor enthusiasts so they can easily identify such poisonous species and report their presence to local conservation specialists.

3rd Place - Emma Dice - To interpret this theme, "Native & Invasive," I painted a spotted lantern fly, a harmful invasive species commonly found in PA. The lantern fly is covered in decorative blue details inspired by Ming dynasty era Chinese ceramics. Both the spotted lantern fly and the cobalt blue ceramics come from China. The bug stands out against a dark background to emphasize its lack of belonging. While the bug at first glance seems harmless and pretty, a closer look shows that it is invasive.

Senior 2nd Place Winner

Emma Stephens, Butler County



2nd Place - Emma Stephens - In order to embody the theme of "Native and Invasive" in my poster, I made the main focus a White-tailed Deer as they are both native and invasive species in Pennsylvania due to their over-population. It's split in half, one side meant to represent the positive aspects of native animals alive in their natural habitats, where they belong. The other side shows the deer's skeleton to portray a more negative connotation and illustrate the harm and destruction invasive species can cause in nature when displaced from their location of origin,

or in this case, in too great a number for the environment they occupy. I emphasized the difference between the two sides by putting the corresponding word in the deer's antlers. I took the theme even further by showing a wider variety of Pennsylvania's native species with the Fireflies and Mountain Laurels. In contrast, I used Spotted Lantern Flies and Giant Hogweed on the other side to depict more invasive species in Pennsylvania that pose a threat to our wildlife.

Senior 3rd Place Winner

Emma Dice, Lancaster County



2024 Junior Poster Contest Winners

"Native & Invasive"

1st

Junior 1st Place Winner
Rebekah Pardoe, Butler County



1st Place - Rebekah Pardoe - Starlings are considered invasive by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Starlings came from Europe and got here after an eccentric named Eugene Schieffelin released the species into New York City. He only did this because he wanted America to have all the bird species mentioned in William Shakespeare's plays. There were originally not many of these birds, but because they can easily adapt to new climates and food, they were able to reproduce and spread rapidly. These birds are notorious for eating large amounts of crops, spreading the seeds of weeds, and grouping in enormous flocks, which can interfere with natural aviation. The weight of their massive flock sizes can also disfigure trees and break branches. Not only that, these pests can transmit parasites like mites, fleas, and bedbugs, as well as potentially fatal diseases, including histoplasmosis, salmonellosis, toxoplasmosis, and chlamydiosis. Some observers have suggested that parasite female European starlings behave like some interspecific brood parasites. This means they will remove another bird's eggs to lay their own for the other bird to raise. While rare, this obviously hurts native bird populations. This is why starlings are an unhealthy invasive species to have around.

2nd

Junior 2nd Place Winner
Brooklyn Fraver, Lancaster County



2nd Place - Brooklyn Fraver - The enemy is out to kill, steal and destroy our lives. But with God, we are protected. Like how the tree is protected with traps from the Lantern Fly.

Junior 3rd Place Winner
Anabelle Rován, Butler County

3rd



3rd Place - Anabelle Rován - The Seven-Spotted Ladybug (*Coccinella septempunctata*) is one of the few well-behaved invasive species. Originally from Europe, it invaded the United States and is now present in Pennsylvania. This carnivorous insect helps save vegetation by devouring the pesky plant-eating aphids (*aphis gossypii*). pletes the circle of life.

2025 Theme

Things Pennsylvania State Parks Protect

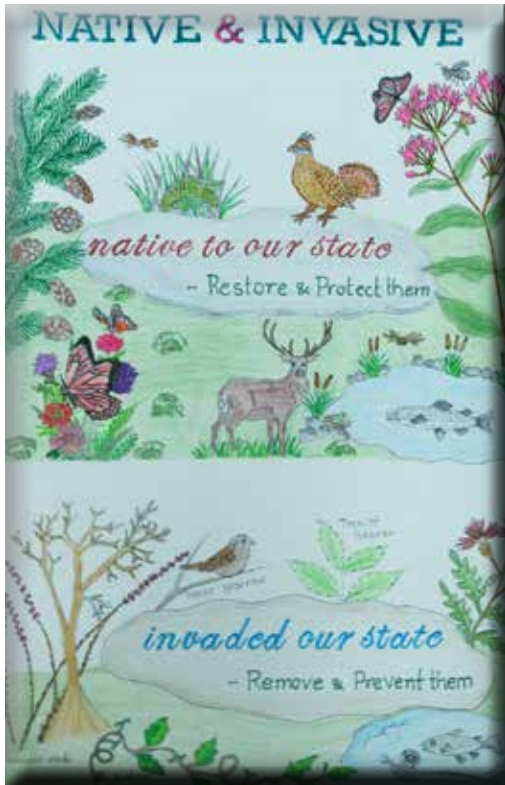
Pennsylvania State Parks protect man made wonders, maintain historical sites, and harbor important habitats. Pennsylvania has a history as varied as the species found in the different kinds of habitats here.

Get Excited, Get Involved, Get Outside! - Visit a state park! Maybe there is a state park close to where you live, or you've driven across Pennsylvania to see the sites in another park. Think back to the parks you've visited or parks you'd like to see and the sites, landmarks, or habitats that make them special. Use your artwork to showcase one of Pennsylvania's State Parks and the things it protects.

2024 Sub-Junior Poster Contest Winner

"Native & Invasive"

Sub-Junior 1st Place Winner
Alekhya Doddapaneni, Butler County



1st Place - Alekhya (Alex) Doddapaneni

- Our native species, which occur naturally without our intervention and are an integral part of our ecosystem, are at great risk from invasive species (which someone has accidentally or deliberately brought into our area). The invasives hinder and prevent the survival of our native species and badly affect our natural resources.

Invasive species live everywhere, on land and in water,

and they harm our environment, cultural resources, infrastructure, economy, safety and health, and the health of our plants and animals.

Native species are so important to keeping our ecosystem running, for pollination, quality air and water and overall, for the health of all living things on earth. We need to restore and save our native species, and at the same time, we also need to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Sub-Junior 2nd Place Winner
Sayge Lalli – Huntington County



2nd Place - Sayge Lalli

- **Silent But Deadly:** Pine tree strangled by a mass of English Ivy. An invasive species native to Europe, Western Asia, and Northern Africa, English Ivy was brought to the US by colonial settlers for cultivation in 1727. It is commonly used as a low-maintenance ground cover, but when not taken care of, it can spread until it overtakes everything in its path, creating "ivy forests" where nothing else can grow.

Some English ivy was planted around my grandmother's house as part of the landscaping. As some construction work was done, the dirt containing the ivy was moved to the edge of the woods. In only a short matter of time, it overtook the entire area.

Some ways to remove English ivy and keep it from spreading are digging it up by the roots, making sure you get every last one, or, a more hassle-free way, creating a solution of 80% water and 20% white vinegar. Just be sure you don't spray anything else!

Sub-Junior 3rd Place Winner
Marcus Hayes – Jefferson County



3rd Place - Marcus Hayes - My poster shows 6 aquatic invasive species. 1. The red-eared slider: from the mid-western part of the USA to Mexico. It invaded PA because people let them go from pets. It eats vegetation. 2. The rusty crayfish: from the Ohio River Basin. Its range is expanding and displacing native crayfish. 3. The zebra mussel: from southern Russia and Ukraine. 4. The New Zealand mud snail: from New Zealand. Its population can become dense. 5. The lamprey fish: from the Northern Atlantic and Western Atlantic. It made its way to Lake Erie and is now eating fish in the Great Lakes. 6. The Chinese mystery snail: its native habitat is East Asia.

2024 Photo Contest Winners "Native & Invasive"

Senior 1st Place
Skylar Anderson
Lawrence County



As shown in the picture, Elk lived throughout the state, with concentrations in the northcentral and Pocono Mountains. Pennsylvania is now home to the largest free-roaming elk herd in the northeast United States. Benezette, PA, is now one of the most popular viewing spots.

Senior 2nd Place
Leanne Hunt
Lawrence County



For the prompt "Native and Invasive Species," I chose humans as my invasive species. I chose this for the prompt because humans are an invasive species that overthrew the natural population because there are 8 billion people on planet Earth.

Senior 3rd Place
Amy Christley
Lawrence County



For my picture, I chose the native species of pine trees because they are common in Pennsylvania. People may not know that pinecones can only come from pine trees.

Junior 1st Place Winner
Peyton Milcic, Lawrence County



The brown marmorated stink bug, an invasive species, originally emerged from areas such as China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. In September 1998, stink bugs moved from Asia to the Americas. The first sightings of these pests occurred in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Stink bugs most likely arrived via traveling crates from China or various types of machinery.

The Asian Lady Beetle is an invasive species. If you go look around your house, you can find at least one ladybug. They come in in winter most of the time. This is why the Asian Lady Beetle is invasive.



Junior 2nd Place Winner
Georgia Christou, Lawrence County

