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CONTEST THEMES FROM THE DIVISION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTEST YEAR</th>
<th>THEME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>The Living Soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>Wetlands are Wonderful</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020-2021</td>
<td>We all live in a Watershed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-2022</td>
<td>Soil &amp; Water….Yours for Life</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Conservation" -- the wise use and management of natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) to fulfill human needs now and in the future.

"Soil Conservation" -- to protect soil from erosion, to keep it productive and out of waterways: to use and manage soil wisely now to ensure a rich soil resource for future generations.

"Water Conservation" -- to protect water quality by keeping water clean from sediment, chemicals, oil and animal wastes; to protect water quantity by using smaller amounts of harmful elements; to use and manage water wisely now to ensure good water quality for future generations.

“Best Management Practices” (BMPs)– agricultural practices that are suitable for reducing or minimizing the amount of water pollution generated by non-point sources; an engineered structure or management activity, or combination of these, that eliminates or reduces adverse environmental effects of pollutants.
Cabarrus County students can participate in the following:

Contests:
1. Bookmark Contest *New (Grades PreK-2)
2. Poster Contest (Grades 3-6)
3. Essay Contest (Grade 6 only)
4. Computer Designed Slide Show (Grade 6 only)
5. Public Speaking Contest (Grades 7 & 8)
6. Computer Designed Poster (Grade 9)

Awards: Three winners will be selected at each grade level in each contest category.
- 1st Place - cash prize and a certificate
- 2nd Place - cash prize and a certificate
- 3rd Place - cash prize and a certificate

*Winners of the ‘Bookmark Contest’ will receive copies of their bookmark to give out to friends and a certificate.

Deadline: January 25, 2019 by 4:00

Submit Entry: Tammi Remsburg
Cabarrus Soil and Water Conservation District
715 Cabarrus Avenue West
Concord, NC 28027

Email digital entries to tremsburg@cabarruscounty.us

Annual Awards Banquet: Contest Winners will be recognized at the annual stewardship banquet (held in spring-date to be determined) and at a Cabarrus County Commissioner’s meeting (date tbd).
2018-2019 ENTRY FORM
CABARRUS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONTESTS

Contest: ____________________________________________________

School: ____________________________________________________

Grade: _____

Student Name______________________________________________

Parent/Guardian(s) Name(s)____________________________________

Parent/Guardian Mailing Address_______________________________

Parent/Guardian Home Telephone_______________________________

Parent/Guardian E-mail Address_______________________________

Administrator/Teacher & Subject ________________________________

Administrator/Teacher E-mail Address___________________________

Administrator/Teacher Work Address____________________________

How many students from your school participated in this contest in the grade listed above? _____

NOTE: For each contest, one student per grade from each school is eligible to enter. For the bookmark contest, poster contest and public speaking contest, we accept 3 students per grade from each school.

Form and entry is due January 25th, 2019 @ 4 pm

Essay, Computer Designed Slide Show, and Computer Designed Poster entries must be submitted electronically with this form as individual attachments to the email highlighted below. For the Public Speaking Contest, only this entry form is required, which must also be submitted electronically. Poster entry forms can be sent electronically, but the posters themselves must be turned in at the address listed below. A copy of this entry form must be additionally taped to the back of ALL posters to be eligible for the contest. Identifying information should not be included on the front of posters.

Cabarrus Soil & Water Conservation District, 715 Cabarrus Avenue West, Concord, NC 28027

704-920-3331; tremsburg@cabarruscounty.us
Grades Pre-K, K, 1st & 2nd

Bookmark Contest

Contest Deadline:

Contest Eligibility: Grades PreK-2

Contest Specifications:
- Bookmarks must be the original work of the individual student.
- Students should be made aware of the copyright protection.
- No computer drawings.
- Bookmarks should clearly convey contest theme.
- Entries must be clear and reproducible.
- Use the attached bookmark template for your entry.

Contest Judging Criteria:
- Conservation Message - 50%
- Visual Effectiveness - 25%
- Universal Appeal - 10%
- Originality - 10%
- Hand-drawn Elements - 5%

Contest Awards: Each grade level will receive the following:
1st, 2nd and 3rd place: certificates and professionally printed bookmarks to give to friends and family.
Soil & Water Bookmark Contest

1. Draw your bookmark design inside the big box. Use any colors you want, but computer art is not allowed.

2. Theme: “The Living Soil”

3. Neatly fill in contact information:
   Name:__________________________
   School:__________________________
   Grade:__________________________

Attach to a CSWCD entry form and return your bookmark design (3 per school per grade level) to:
Cabarrus Soil and Water Conservation District
715 Cabarrus Avenue West, Room 301
Concord, NC 28027

All entries must be received by 1/15/19 at 4:00 p.m.

One entry per student.

A 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Winner will be chosen in each grade level:
- Pre-Kindergarten
- Kindergarten
- First Grade
- Second Grade

Questions? Tammi Remsburg
704-920-3331 or tremsburg@cabarruscounty.us

Guidelines: Bookmark design must be this year’s theme. “The Living Soil”

Specifications Contest is judged on originality, design, and reproducibility.
- Original work only - no tracing or use of copyrighted images.
- Created solely by the eligible contestant - no adult contributions.
- If you include words, check for correct spelling and make sure writing is clear and fits in the space provided.
- No computer generated art.
- Use this entry form or an exact photocopy of the same size.
- Do not enlarge or reduce the size.

All entries must be clear and reproducible.

Eligibility - Open to Cabarrus County public, private and home-school students grades PreK-2.
Winning bookmarks will be printed for each winner’s class.
Winning bookmarks will also be available at Cabarrus County Soil and Water events and booths.
BOOKMARK CONTEST
N.C. ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

GRADE LEVEL:  K,  1,  2,  3

JUDGE: ______________________

DATE: ______________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bookmark Entry Number:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONSERVATION MESSAGE:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message shows clear understanding of why this natural resource is important &amp; explains how people can &amp; should conserve this natural resource.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VISUAL EFFECTIVENESS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readability (use of white space, type choice, neatness); originality; effect on audience (which poster will you remember next year?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIVERSAL APPEAL:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easily understood by the general population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ORIGINALITY:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry expresses the contest theme in a fresh, inventive, or novel way of using independent thought and creative imagination, and using the unexpected to full advantage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAND-DRAWN ELEMENTS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easily understood by the general population.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
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<th>SUBTOTAL:</th>
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<tr>
<th>INFRINGEMENTS:</th>
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<tr>
<th>PERFECT SCORE: 100 points</th>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
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</table>

| INFRINGEMENTS: | Violates Copyright: 5 points | Exceeds size limit: 5 points |

(Adopted August 2016)
Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6

“The Living Soil” Poster Contest

Deadline: January 25, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Contest Specifications:

- Posters should be the original work of the individual student. Students should be made aware of the copyright protection. Hand-drawn pictures are preferred over computer-generated drawings.
- Posters should clearly convey contest theme.
- Posters should be no larger than 24 x 36 inches.
- Pictures or other materials may be mounted on the posters, if mounted securely. Mounted materials cannot stick out more than 1/8 of an inch from the paper.
- Posters should be submitted flat and not rolled.
- Posters must be properly identified on the back using the CSWCD entry Form (tape or staple).

Contest Judging Criteria:

- Conservation Message - 50%
- Visual Effectiveness - 25%
- Universal Appeal - 10%
- Originality - 10%
- Hand-drawn Elements - 5%
# POSTER CONTEST

**N.C. ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

**GRADE LEVEL:** 3, 4, 5, 6

**JUDGE:** ________________

**DATE:** ________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSTER Entry Number:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CONSERVATION MESSAGE:</strong></td>
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<td>Message shows clear understanding of why this natural resource is important &amp; explains how people can &amp; should conserve this natural resource.</td>
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<td><strong>VISUAL EFFECTIVENESS:</strong></td>
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<td>Readability (use of white space, type choice, neatness); originality; effect on audience (which poster will you remember next year?)</td>
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<td><strong>UNIVERSAL APPEAL:</strong></td>
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<td>Easily understood by the general population.</td>
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<td><strong>ORIGINALITY:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Entry expresses the contest theme in a fresh, inventive, or novel way of using independent thought and creative imagination, and using the unexpected to full advantage.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SUBTOTAL:**

**INFRACtIONS:**

**PERFECT SCORE:** 100 points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFRACTIONS:</th>
<th>Violates Copyright: 5 points</th>
<th>Exceeds size limit: 5 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(Adopted January 2016)
Grade 6

“The Living Soil” Essay Contest

Deadline: January 25, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Contest Specifications: Essay must:

- Be the original work of the individual student.
- Bear the current title of the essay contest.
- Be limited to 300-500 words. All words will be counted to reach the limit.
- Be presented on standard 8 1/2” x 11” paper.
- Submit as a word document or PDF or JPG. Email essay with entry form to tremsburg@cabarruscounty.us before deadline.

Contest Judging Criteria:

- Conservation Message & Originality - 50%
- Writing Style - 20%
- Organization - 20%
- Neatness - 10%
ESSAY CONTEST POINTERS

For clarification, the difference between an essay and a report, as applied to this contest, is as follows:

**Essay** - A short composition dealing with a single subject from a personal point of view; facts may be interwoven into the essay, which stimulates thinking.


**Judging Criteria** The Association has adopted a standard score sheet to be used for all contest levels. Essays will be judged on content and writing skills as described on the score sheet.
**ESSAY CONTEST**
N.C. ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

JUDGE: ___________________________  GRADE: 6

DATE: ___________________________

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<tr>
<th>Essay Entry Number:</th>
<th>1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONSERVATION MESSAGE &amp; ORIGINALITY:</strong></td>
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<td>50 points</td>
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<td>Message shows clear understanding of why this natural resource is important &amp; explains how people can &amp; should conserve this natural resource. Entry expresses the contest theme in a fresh, inventive, or novel way of using independent thought and creative imagination, and using the unexpected to full advantage.</td>
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<td><strong>WRITING STYLE:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovative style (keeps your interest); correct use of grammar, spelling, punctuation; readability (clear message, easily understood by reader).</td>
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<td><strong>ORGANIZATION:</strong></td>
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<td>20 points</td>
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<td>Proper paragraph transitions; opening-closing tie-in; sticks to theme.</td>
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<td><strong>NEATNESS:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PERFECT SCORE:</strong></td>
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**INFRACTIONS:**  INCORRECT LENGTH: 5 POINTS  CURRENT TITLE NOT USED: 5 POINTS  INCORRECT PAPER SIZE: 2 POINTS

(Adopted January 2014)
GRADE 6
COMPUTER SLIDE SHOW

Specifications:
Slide shows should be designed along the following specifications. See Slide Show Pointers for tips.

• The slide show shall contain no more than 15 slides of content. Fewer slides are allowed.
• The slide immediately following the slide show (slide number 16 if 15 slides are used) should be blank. The slide immediately following the blank slide (slide number 17 if 15 slides are used) should contain identifying information (see next page)
• Slide shows must be created so that they are viewable as a slide show on a PC computer in the soil & water conservation district office. If created in MS PowerPoint, files must be compatible with PowerPoint 2003.
• The use of audio (sound) is allowed.
• The use of slide animation is allowed.
• The use of video is prohibited. Slide shows using video will be disqualified.
• Slide shows shall not exceed a maximum of 5 minutes in length.
• The slide shows shall be submitted electronically.
• All slide shows will be judged electronically.
• Slide shows must be the original work of the individual student. Original work is created by the student and shows a fresh, new idea. Students should be made aware of copyright protection.
Computer Slide Shows must be identified by containing the following information on the final slide of the slide show (put a blank slide in between show and information slide):

Student's Name:
Grade:
Slide Show Title:
Slide Show File Name:
Student's Address:
Parents’ Email:
Phone:
Teacher's Name:
School:
County: Cabarrus
District: Cabarrus
Computer Slide Show Pointers

What makes a good slide show?

◊ Follow a logical order: start with a title/introductory slide; have the slides progress so that they build on previous slides; end the slide show with a conclusion slide.
◊ A catchy message; use one theme
◊ A slogan telling viewers to do something and making them want to do it
◊ Good use of colors and backgrounds to get and hold attention
◊ Letters large enough to be easily read and words separated enough to make them quickly grasped
◊ Good use of pictures and illustrations

Avoid these slide show faults:

◊ More than one theme
◊ Too busy -- too many and/or too scattered pictures or words
◊ Text too small to read easily
◊ Text is difficult to read due to not enough color contrast with background
◊ Material not relevant to topic
◊ Message becomes lost

Other tips to remember:

◊ Balance the placement of text and photos/illustrations on the slide
◊ Illustrations add emphasis and attract attention
◊ Small lettering is hard to read at a distance. Consider the following font sizes for readability from 20 feet:
  ◊ Easiest to read: 36 to 44 point font size (Good for titles)
  ◊ Easy to read: 28 to 34 point font size
  ◊ Fairly easy to read: 24 to 26 point font size
◊ **Boldness** makes a difference
◊ Plain lettering is more readable than fancy lettering
Computer Slide Show Judging Criteria:

The NCASWCD has adopted a standard slide show score sheet to be used at all contest levels. Slide shows will be judged on the following points (Refer to Slide Show Pointers and the score sheet for tips):

• Conservation Message 50%
• Visual Effectiveness 30%
• Universal Appeal 10%
• Originality 10%

Infractions:

Points will be deducted for the following infractions:

• Copyright violation - 5 points
• Exceeding the maximum number of slides (15) - 5 points
• Exceeding the maximum time limit (5 minutes) - 5 points
• Use of video - Disqualification

Copyright:

Copyright is a protection by U.S. laws for the authors and creators of original work. A copyright protects the particular manner of expression of ideas, but not the ideas themselves. Original work includes illustrations, computer-generated drawings, photographs, or other art work created solely by the individual submitting the work. Example: You can make a poster using cartoon characters that talk about soil and water conservation in comic-strip fashion if the ideas are yours (this main idea cannot be copyrighted). But if classmates recognize your cartoon characters as popular characters, then your work is copied from the original artists. Remember to use your imagination because your own ideas are the BEST!
# Computer Designed Slide Show Contest

**N.C. Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts**

**Grade Level:** 6

**Judge:** ________________

**Date:** ________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slide Show Entry Number:</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
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<th>5</th>
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<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conservation Message:</strong></td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Message shows clear understanding of why this natural resource is important &amp; explains how people can &amp; should conserve this natural resource.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Visual Effectiveness:</strong></td>
<td>30 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readability (use of white space, type choice, neatness); originality; effect on audience (which slide show will you remember next year?)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Universal Appeal:</strong></td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easily understood by the general population</td>
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<td><strong>Originality:</strong></td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entry expresses the contest theme in a fresh, inventive, or novel way of using independent thought and creative imagination, and using the unexpected to full advantage.</td>
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</table>

**Subtotal:**

**Infractions:**

Perfect Score: 100 points

Total:

Infractions: Violates Copyright: 5 points
Exceeds slide limit (15 slides max): 5 points
Exceeds time limit (5 minutes): 5 points
Uses video: Disqualification

*(Adopted January 2014)*
Grades 7 and 8

“The Living Soil” Public Speaking Contest

- The contest will take place January 31st at 6 p.m. at our office.
- The speech is limited from 4 to 6 minutes. Visual aids may not be used.
- Use of note cards is acceptable for back up.
- Contestants shall identify themselves by their assigned number only or not at all. Personal information such as name, school and hometown can’t be given.
- Teachers are asked to submit the names of participating students to the following email address by January 25th:
  
tremsburg@cabarruscounty.us

Contest Judging Criteria:
- Conservation Message - 20%
- Organization - 15%
- Originality - 5%
- Skillful Use of Facts, Examples, Descriptions and Analogies - 10%
- Voice and Diction - 15%
- Style - 20%
PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST POINTERS

- Don’t go under 4 minutes or over 6 minutes in time.
- Don’t reveal your name, school or any such identification.
- Become familiar with the judging criteria on the Public Speaking Contest Score Sheet.
- Memorize your speech. Use of note cards is acceptable for back up. No visual aids may be used.
- Dress appropriately-no costumes, logos or anything that would identify your school, hometown, or county.
- Arrive early so that you can relax and be comfortable in the contest surroundings.
- Make eye contact with your audience during your speech.
- Be sure to stay in range of the microphone on the podium.
- Speeches will be videotaped and may be put on the county, area or state’s online media. Your parent will be asked to sign a permission form for this purpose.
PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST  
N.C. ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

JUDGE: ____________________________  TITLE: ____________________________

DATE: ____________________________  GRADE: 7 8

* Students and judges should be informed of the judging criteria before the contest begins.
* A timekeeper will inform the judges of the contestants' official time
* Perfect Score = 100 points (Total of CONTENT + SPEAKING SKILLS)
  * Infractions: Outside the 4-6 minute time limit: minus 5 points
  * Use of visual aids: minus 5 points
  * Gives personal identification: minus 5 points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENT CRITERIA</th>
<th>1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT:</strong></td>
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<td>Good choice of material, makes sense, factual, accurate, quotes are correct and appropriate, shows understanding of material, relevant to Soil and Water Conservation Contest theme</td>
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<td><strong>B. ORGANIZATION:</strong></td>
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<td>Presented in meaningful order, shows continuity of ideas, uses orderly flow of thoughts, uses good transitions between thoughts</td>
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<td><strong>C. ORIGINALITY:</strong></td>
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<td>Creative approach and effective use of material</td>
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<td><strong>D. SKILLFUL USE OF FACTS, EXAMPLES, DESCRIPTIONS AND ANALOGIES</strong></td>
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<td>Elements of the speech flow together well and contribute to the quality of the presentation. Facts, examples, descriptions and analogies add to the quality of the presented message</td>
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CONTENT SUB-TOTAL

(Adopted January 2014)
* Students and judges should be informed of the judging criteria before the contest begins.
* A timekeeper will inform the judges of the contestants' official time
* Perfect Score = 100 points (Total of CONTENT + SPEAKING SKILLS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infractions:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outside the 4-6 minute time limit: minus 5 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use of visual aids: minus 5 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gives personal identification: minus 5 points</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPEAKING SKILLS CRITERIA</th>
<th>1</th>
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<th>6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. VOICE AND DICTION:</td>
<td>15 points</td>
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<td>Quality and variety (not monotone), inflection, enunciation, pronunciation, proper emphasis, projection and control, appropriate volume</td>
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<td>B. STYLE:</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<td>Rapport with the audience, word selection, no distracting vocal mannerisms, appealing presentation</td>
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<td>C. BODY LANGUAGE:</td>
<td>15 points</td>
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<td>Eye contact, posture and poise, hand gestures used with restraint and good taste</td>
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<tr>
<th>SPEAKING SKILLS SUB-TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT'S OFFICIAL TIME (must be within 4-6 minutes)</td>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FINAL SCORING SECTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONTENT SUB-TOTAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ SPEAKING SKILLS SUB-TOTAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>= TOTAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>- INFRACTIONS (if any, subtract points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>= FINAL TOTAL</td>
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(Adopted January 2014)
Grade 9

“The Living Soil” Computer Designed Poster Contest

Specifications:
• Posters should be designed along the following specifications. See Poster Pointers for tips.
• Posters shall be designed so that if they were to be printed on paper they would be no larger than 24 X 36 inches.
• Poster orientation may be portrait or landscape.
• Posters may be created using any software of the student’s choice.
• The poster should be submitted electronically ONLY in one of the following approved file formats.
  GIF Graphics Interchange Format
  JPEG File Interchange Format
  PDF Adobe Acrobat File
  PNG Portable Network Graphics Format
  PPT Microsoft PowerPoint File
  PUB Microsoft Publisher File
  TIFF Tag Image File Format
  ◊ All posters will be judged electronically. There is no requirement for them to be printed.
• Posters must be the original work of the individual student. Original work is created by the student and shows a fresh, new idea. Students should be made aware of copyright protection.
  (See Copyright section.)
Computer Designed Poster Contest (cont.)

Posters must be identified by submitting the following information on the second page of the poster document:

Student's Name:
Grade:
Poster Title:
Poster File Name:
Student's Address:
Parents' Email:
Phone:
Teacher's Name:
School:
County: Cabarrus
District: Cabarrus

Judging Criteria:
The NCASWCD has adopted a standard poster score sheet to be used at all contest levels. Posters will be judged on the following points (Refer to Poster Pointers and the score sheet for tips):

• Conservation Message 50%
• Visual Effectiveness 30%
• Universal Appeal 10%
• Originality 10%

Infractions:
Points will be deducted for the following infractions:

• Copyright violation - 5 points
• Exceeding the 24” X 36” size limit - 5 points
Copyright:

Copyright is a protection by U.S. laws for the authors and creators of original work. A copyright protects the particular manner of expression of ideas, but not the ideas themselves. Original work includes illustrations, computer-generated drawings, photographs, or other art work created solely by the individual submitting the work. Example: You can make a poster using cartoon characters that talk about soil and water conservation in comic-strip fashion if the ideas are yours (this main idea cannot be copyrighted). But if classmates recognize your cartoon characters as popular characters, then your work is copied from the original artists. Remember to use your imagination because your own ideas are the BEST!

When using images from online, make sure that they are used with the proper permission. Check out https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/online-images/ for more information.

Poster pointers -- how to make your conservation message into a design more readable and attractive

What makes a good poster?

• A brief, catchy message; one theme that can be read in 10 seconds or less
• A slogan telling viewers to do something and making them want to do it
• Use of colors and white space to get and hold attention
• Letters large enough to be easily read and words separated enough to make them quickly grasped

Other tips to remember:

• Margins should be larger at the bottom and equal on the other three sides
• Illustrations add emphasis and attract attention
• Small lettering is hard to read at a distance. Consider the following font sizes for readability from 10 feet:

  Easiest to read: 1 inch (font size 115 or greater)
  Easy to read: 3/4 inch (font size 88)
  Fairly easy to read: ½ inch (font size 60)
  Possible to read: 1/4 inch (font size 26)
  Cannot be read: 3/16 inch (font size 18)

• Boldness makes a difference
• Plain lettering is more readable than fancy lettering
**COMPUTER DESIGNED POSTER CONTEST**  
**N.C. ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

JUDGE: ____________________  GRADE: 9  

DATE: ____________________

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Computer Poster Entry Number:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CONSERVATION MESSAGE:</strong></td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<td>Message shows clear understanding of why this natural resource is important &amp; explains how people can &amp; should conserve this natural resource.</td>
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<td><strong>VISUAL EFFECTIVENESS:</strong></td>
<td>30 points</td>
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<td>Readability (use of white space, type Choice, neatness); originality; effect on Audience (which poster will you remember next year?)</td>
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<td><strong>UNIVERSAL APPEAL:</strong></td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<td>Easily understood by the general Population</td>
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<td><strong>ORIGINALITY:</strong></td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<td>Entry expresses the contest theme in a fresh, inventive, or novel way of using independent thought and creative imagination, and using the unexpected to full advantage.</td>
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**SUBTOTAL:**  

**INFRACTIONS:**  

**PERFECT SCORE:** 100 points  

**TOTAL:**  

**INFRACTIONS:**  

- Copyright violation: 5 POINTS  
- Exceeding the 24" X 36" size limits: 5 POINTS

*Adopted January 2014*
RESOURCES CONSERVATION WORKSHOP (RCW)

(For High School Rising Juniors and Seniors)

The Resource Conservation Workshop is sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in conjunction with the Division of Soil & Water Conservation and the Soil Science Department of NC State University. For detailed information visit the website http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/RCW.html.

**Workshop Description:**

The Resource Conservation Workshop is a weeklong and involves study and hands on participation in a wide range of conservation topics. Students are housed at NC State University campus dormitories under the guidance of live-in counselors. In order to achieve success, students should come prepared to meet the primary objective of the workshop -- learning about natural resources and their management in today's global environment. Awards and scholarships can be won and are presented to students under several awards programs.

**Workshop Dates:**

The Resource Conservation Workshop is usually held during one of the last two weeks in June. The Resource Conservation Workshop Planning Committee will issue the upcoming workshop dates and registration materials no later than October 1st of the year. **Student registration opens November 1st.**

**Participants:**

The Resource Conservation Workshop is designed to accommodate up to 104 students. The student slots will be filled on a first come first served basis as registrations with specific student’s names are received.

**Participant Eligibility:**

Students who have demonstrated an interest in natural resource conservation and are nominated by their local soil and water conservation districts are eligible. **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND.** The District will give priority to rising juniors and seniors. Students may participate only one time in this workshop.

If a student wishes to participate in this wonderful opportunity, have them send their application as soon as possible to Tammi Remsburg at remsburg@cabarruscounty.us
CLASSROOM GRANT

The Auxiliary – Classroom Grant is sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Auxiliary. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding to classroom teachers for projects to enhance learning using conservation and environmental practices. Grants of up to $500 are awarded.

RULES FOR PROCEDURES

• Eligible educators include teachers and principals in North Carolina schools serving grades K-12.
• Applications will be accepted for specific projects to enhance learning, using conservation and environmental practices.
• Application limit: One proposal per educator. An applicant for an individual grant may not apply as the leader for the project, and vice versa. However, an applicant for an individual grant may be part of a team project for which another educator is applying.
• Grants will not be awarded for educator salaries, time or expenses.
• Proposals may be approved for partial funding when the applicant’s budget summary includes a figure for the minimum grant required to conduct the project on a smaller scale.

SELECTION CRITERIA

PROJECT MUST:

• Directly involve students.
• Use innovative and creative teaching methods.
• Seek to achieve clearly defined goals and learning objectives.
• Provide ongoing benefits to students.
• Be completed during the current school year.
• Feature measurable results that can be evaluated upon completion.
• Use the grant as a supplement to state and local funding.
• Be unavailable to students without funding from private sources.
• Be in keeping with schools overall objectives.

HOW TO APPLY

Visit the NCASWCD website, Auxiliary page, to obtain an application form and instructions; the direct link to the Auxiliary page is: http://ncaswcd.org/?page_id=516

Deadline

The application is due by December 1st to the Auxiliary President. It may be mailed either by local Soil and Water Conservation District offices or by the schools.
ENVIROTHON PROGRAM

See the website www.ncenvirothon.org

The Envirothon program is sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. There is both a State middle school and a State high school competition.

Participant Eligibility:
Open to teams of students in grades 9 – 12 for high school and in grades 5-8 for middle schools. Teams consist of five members. Each team must have an adult advisor and the team may have alternates. It is important for high school teams to have at least two alternates if you feel that your team may have a chance to win first place at the state competition. See website www.ncenvirothon.org for official rules.

Public schools, private schools, home school groups, school clubs, FFA groups, etc. are all eligible to participate in the Envirothon Program.

Team Sponsorship:
Teams must be sponsored by a Soil and Water Conservation District. teams if Districts can’t or do not wish to be sponsors.

Contest Cycle:
The Envirothon begins at the start of the new school year. There are eight Area Envirothons in the spring. A team must qualify at an Area Envirothon to advance to the State Envirothon. By August 31, the State Envirothon Committee will set the date for the State Competition.

Contest Procedure:
Currently the State Envirothon is held on a Friday and Saturday. Friday is a training day with teams registering and picking up their registration packets. Friday is also the day of the high school oral presentation. The oral presentation is conducted during the station rotation on Friday afternoon.

On Friday afternoon, there are seven high school resource stations set up. One for each of the five subject areas and one for each of the oral preparation and presentations components. The teams rotate from station to station and attend training sessions held by resource professionals at each station. Resource professionals may include some of the material presented Friday at their station on the state exam the next day.
ENVIROTHON PROGRAM (cont.)

The contest consists of five subject area resource stations:

- **Wildlife** - challenges teams on habitat knowledge, identification, foods, rules & regulations, birdcalls, diseases, management, animal signs.

- **Aquatic ecology** - ecology of water, non-point sources of pollution, wetlands, stream buffers, water chemistry, plants & animals living in or around water, pollution, conservation, macro invertebrate id, erosion problems.

- **Forestry** - tree identification, improvement of timber stands, forest ecology, insects, diseases, forest management, forest measurements, functions of trees.

- **Soils/land use** - classification, erosion, soil surveys, site suitability, current issues, profiles, soil characteristics, Best Management Practices, erosion.

- **Current Environmental Issues** - any current or newsworthy environmental issue.

Teams will visit each resource station and be given a written test. Questions are answered as a team. After finishing one station, and at a set time, teams will rotate to the next station.

Test answers are graded and scores tallied to select the winner. The high school team with the highest score will be declared the state winner and will be eligible to compete in the North American Envirothon competition.

The teams must prepare a write up of their project and give a fifteen-minute oral presentation to a public body. They must film this presentation and send it with the written report to the State Envirothon Coordinator by March 1. See the website www.ncenvirothon.org for more information.
Competition Preparation:
Once a team has pre-registered for the Area Envirothon, information will be sent by the sponsoring District to each advisor listing the source of materials that will be needed for study. The resource study materials can be found on the Envirothon web site (www.ncenvirothon.org). Questions will be developed from resource materials or from information supplied during the events’ station trainings.

Area Competitions:
Each of the eight Areas of the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts holds an Area Envirothon competition. This is to give the teachers an opportunity to evaluate the progress of their team’s study efforts and to get a feel as to how the state Envirothon operates. These Area Envirothons are also qualifying events. The top seven scoring teams from the Area Envirothons, in both the middle school division and the high school division, are eligible to attend the State Envirothon Competition. The highest scoring Area FFA high school team is also eligible to go to the state Envirothon Competition, even if they are not part of the top seven teams. The FFA uses the NC Envirothon as the state qualifying event for the national FFA Environmental Awareness event. All competing FFA teams must have FFA in their team name.

Community Service Learning Projects
The State Envirothon Committee sponsors a voluntary Community Service Learning Project competition for the teams. This project can be a data sharing project, a physical project or a service project. The project is a team project, is voluntary and a great opportunity for the Envirothon team to show what they have learned about our natural resources from studying the Envirothon resource.

District Support
For teachers interested in starting a team, there is a week-long training in June that will be paid for by the district. There are supplies to check out and experts can be arranged to visit the teams or field trips arranged for preparation. Contact Tammi Remsburg at tremsburg@cabarruscounty.us to arrange.
Classroom Education Classes

Cabarrus Soil and Water Conservation District provides free classes to all grade levels, Pre-K to 12th.

Topics are on a nature/conservation theme, and incorporate NC Science and NC Social Studies Essential Standards in all classes, and including 21st Century Learner and ELA and Math standards in some classes. We can come to your school or meet you at an area park to do the program.

We also provide curriculum training in Project Learning Tree, Project Wet and Project Food, Land & People upon request for a group of educators.

Contact Tammi Remsburg at 704-920-3331 or tremsburg@cabarruscounty.us to explore the ways that we can collaborate.