



Soil & Water

Durham Soil & Water Conservation District 2016-2017

Student Public Speaking Contest

7th & 8th Grade

Soil & Water...Yours for Life



We don't typically give the soil under our feet much thought, but it plays a big role in our lives. Bigger than most realize. It is more than just 'dirt'... it is life. One tablespoon of soil has more organisms in it than there are people on earth. In fact, it is the 2nd largest ecosystem on Earth. Similarly, water plays a critical role in our very survival. Our planet is about 71% water and our bodies 60%. More than 90 % of the planet's living biomass are found in the oceans. We need both Soil AND Water to grow the food to feed the world's population of over 7 billion!

Soil takes centuries to millions of years to form, yet can be harmed or lost in a matter of minutes by careless human actions. And although water is continuously being recycled, the quality of it can be greatly impacted by everyday human actions. There is still 11% of the world's population that do not have access to clean drinking water. Soil and Water are two of the four most fundamental and basic natural resources—soil, water, air and sunlight—that sustain life on Earth. **We are looking for creative interpretations of just what it means when we say "Soil & Water...Yours for Life"**

We are eager for students to :



Open to all public schools, private schools, homeschool students and student clubs in Durham County.

◇ Public Speaking Contest: 7th & 8th grade

Learn more about
Soil & Water at
<http://dconc.gov/swcd-eco>

This contest theme, '**Soil & Water...Yours for Life**' can be incorporated &/or enhance NC DPI Standard Course of Study, Essential Standards for Science for each grade level in the following

Units:

7th grade - Earth Systems, Structures & Processes

8th grade - Earth Systems, Structures & Processes and Ecosystems

Each grade level correlation with the NC DPI Standard Course of Study are available upon request.

**Contest entries
due on :
Friday, February 24th**

***Important Notice
Teachers!!!***

***If one of your students
wins 1st Place in one of
the Conservation
Contests...you will also
receive an award of \$50!***

Theme - Soil & Water...Yours for Life

All entries should reflect the theme's content and be a representation of what the student feels best exemplifies this topic. Students are encouraged to be original in their speech. The judges will be looking for the entries that best conveys the message to an audience while at the same time being original and creative.

Possible poster ideas can include, but are not limited to:

- Why is Soil so important for life?
- Interaction of Soil and Water
- Soil Erosion prevention
- Water Quality
- How does Soil affect the planet's Ecosystems?
- The Soil Food Web
- or more....



Official Rules - Public Speaking, 7th & 8th grades

Speeches must:

- Be 4 to 6 minutes long. Over or under limit will be penalized.
- Be a reflection of the current topic, **'Soil & Water...Yours for Life'**
- In order to insure impartiality in judging, personal information such as name, school, etc... shall not be stated during speech. Infractions will be taken during scoring for violation of this rule.
- No visual aids are allowed. Note cards should only be used as a backup only.
- Complete scoring criteria and rubric are available upon request before the event.

Contest Registration

Participants must be registered with the Durham SWCD by 5pm on **February 24, 2017** to be eligible. The Public Speaking event judging will take place in February 2017 (*TBA*). Register, by calling 919-560-0558 or emailing jbrooks@dconc.gov with the following information:

- ⇒ Students name
- ⇒ Grade level
- ⇒ School Name
- ⇒ Educator's email & Contact #
- ⇒ Student/Parent's email & Contact #

**Once registered, the contest coordinator will make every possible attempt to work with participants schedules when arranging the judging event in February.*