



Soil & Water

DEADLINE

All contest entries are due to the Durham SWCD office by **5:00 pm February 25, 2022**

Durham Soil & Water Conservation District
2021-2022

ESSAY Contest

6th 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 is 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 your creative interpretations of just what it means when we say "Soil & Water... Yours for Life"**

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

Contests & Grade Eligibilities

ESSAY Contest: 6th grade

There will be a 1st and 2nd place award given for each grade category:

- ♦ **1st place winners** - will receive \$50, a certificate, and a yard sign.
- ♦ **2nd place winners**- will receive \$25, a certificate, and a yard sign.

Important Notice Teachers!!!

Educators who have a 1st place winning student in any category will receive \$30 to use towards school supplies (*Parents, Scout Leaders, Children/Youth Leaders and other Educators are eligible for the \$30*)

Learn more about Durham Soil and Water at <http://dconc.gov/swcd>

Contest Questions: email Lisa Marochak lmrochak@dconc.gov or call 984-260-5757



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 poster. The judges will be looking for the entries that best convey the message to a viewer, while at the same time being original and creative.

Possible essay 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 - ESSAY for 6th grades

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- NO NAMES ON THE FRONT, NO EXCEPTIONS!
- Bear the current title of the essay contest
- Be limited to 300 – 500 words.
- Be presented on standard 8 ½” X 11” paper.
- Essays must be identified on the back using the attached entry form below
- Essays must be the work of individual student, no team entries are allowed.



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Identification Information (Attach to the back of Essay)

ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Student's First and Last Name: _____ Grade: 6th

Student's Address: _____

Educator's Name: _____

Educator's Phone #: _____

Educator's Email: _____ *(Required)*

School: _____

County: DURHAM District: Durham Soil & Water