



Soil & Water



2023 - 2024 Poster Contest

3rd - 5th Grade

This year's theme is: **The Living Soil**

Did you know that a teaspoon of healthy soil contains more living microorganisms than there are people on our planet? While you may not think much of it, the ground beneath our feet is filled with life. These organisms, like worms and bacteria, contribute to the soil's health, which directly impacts our food and water. Students are invited to explore concepts related to soil organisms, enhancing soil health through best management practices, and more!

We're looking for your creative interpretation of what it means when we say: "**The Living Soil.**"

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 conveys the message to a viewer while also being original and creative.

For additional information call 919-560-0558, email Lmarochak@dconc.gov, or visit www.dconc.gov/swcd.

Deadline

All contest entries are due to the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District office by **February 15, 2024 at 5 PM**. You can drop off your entries at 201 E Main St, floor 5, Durham, NC 27701.

Eligibility

This contest is open to all public schools, private schools, homeschool students, and student clubs in Durham County. Students entering the poster contest must be in 3rd - 5th grade.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place in each grade category:

1st place: \$50, a certificate, and a yard sign.

2nd place: \$25, a certificate, and a yard sign.

Teachers: If one of your students wins 1st place, you will receive \$30! *Parents, Scout Leaders, Children/Youth Leaders, and other educators are eligible for the \$30.*

Official Rules - Posters: 3rd - 5th grades

- NO NAMES ON THE FRONT. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- Posters should be **no larger than 24x36 inches**. No exceptions!
- Posters must have the current theme incorporated into the poster, **preferably as the header/poster title**.
- Pictures or other materials may be mounted on the poster if mounted securely. Only materials that are flat or create a 2D effect may be used.
- Poster should be colored (any coloring materials may be used).
- Poster must be the original work of the student. Original work is created by the student and shows a fresh, new idea. Hand drawn pictures are preferred over computer generated.
- Posters should be submitted flat and not rolled.
- Posters must be identified on the back **using the official registration form** (see below).

Entry Form (attach to the back of posters)

2023-2024 POSTER CONTEST ENTRY FORM *(required)*

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student's Mailing Address: _____

Parent's Name and Email: _____

Educator's Name: _____

Educator's Phone #: _____

Educator's Email: _____

School Student Attends: _____

County: **DURHAM** District: **Durham Soil & Water**



Soil & Water



2023 - 2024 Essay Contest

6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th - 12th Grade

This year's theme is: **The Living Soil**

Did you know that a teaspoon of healthy soil contains more living microorganisms than there are people on our planet? While you may not think much of it, the ground beneath our feet is filled with life. These organisms, like worms and bacteria, contribute to the soil's health, which directly impacts our food and water. Students are invited to explore concepts related to soil organisms, enhancing soil health through best management practices, and more!

We're looking for your creative interpretation of what it means when we say: "**The Living Soil.**"

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 essay. The judges will be looking for the entries that best conveys the message to a viewer while also being original and creative.

For additional information call 919-560-0558, email Lmarochak@dconc.gov, or visit www.dconc.gov/swcd.

Deadline

All contest entries are due to the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District office by **February 15, 2024 at 5 PM**. You can drop off your entries at 201 E Main St, floor 5, Durham, NC 27701.

Eligibility

This contest is open to all public schools, private schools, homeschool students, and student clubs in Durham County. Students entering the poster contest must be in 6th, 7th, 8th, or 9th - 12th grade.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place in each grade category:

1st place: \$50, a certificate, and a yard sign.

2nd place: \$25, a certificate, and a yard sign.

Teachers: If one of your students wins 1st place, you will receive \$30! *Parents, Scout Leaders, Children/Youth Leaders, and other educators are eligible for the \$30.*

Official Rules - Essays: 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th - 12th Grades

- 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 8.5" x 11" paper.
- Essays must be identified **on the back** using the attached entry form below.
- Essays must be the work of the individual student. No team entries are allowed.

Entry Form (attach to the back of essays)

2023-2024 ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM *(required)*

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student's Mailing Address: _____

Parent's Name and Email: _____

Educator's Name: _____

Educator's Phone #: _____

Educator's Email: _____

School Student Attends: _____

County: **DURHAM** District: **Durham Soil & Water**



Soil & Water



2023-24 Public Speaking Contest

7th, 8th, and 9th - 12th Grade

This year's theme is: **The Living Soil**

Did you know that a teaspoon of healthy soil contains more living microorganisms than there are people on our planet? While you may not think much of it, the ground beneath our feet is filled with life. These organisms, like worms and bacteria, contribute to the soil's health, which directly impacts our food and water. Students are invited to explore concepts related to soil organisms, enhancing soil health through best management practices, and more!

We're looking for your creative interpretation of what it means when we say: "**The Living Soil.**"

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 a viewer while also being original and creative.

For additional information call 919-560-0558, email Lmarochak@dconc.gov, or visit www.dconc.gov/swcd.

Deadline

All contest entries are due to the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District office by **February 15, 2024 at 5 PM**. You can drop off your entries at 201 E Main St, floor 5, Durham, NC 27701.

Eligibility

This contest is open to all public schools, private schools, homeschool students, and student clubs in Durham County. Students entering the poster contest must be in 7th - 12th grade.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place in each grade category:

1st place: \$50, a certificate, and a yard sign.

2nd place: \$25, a certificate, and a yard sign.

Teachers: If one of your students wins 1st place, you will receive \$30! *Parents, Scout Leaders, Children/Youth Leaders, and other educators are eligible for the \$30.*

Official Rules - Public Speaking: 7th, 8th, and 9th - 12th Grades

Speeches must be

- 4 to 6 minutes long. Over or under the limit will be penalized.
- Be a reflection of the current topic: "The Living Soil."
- 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.
- Complete scoring criteria and rubric are available upon request before the event.

Entry Form

2023-2024 PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST ENTRY FORM *(required)*

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student's Mailing Address: _____

Parent's Name and Email: _____

Educator's Name: _____

Educator's Phone #: _____

Educator's Email: _____

School Student Attends: _____

County: **DURHAM** District: **Durham Soil & Water**



Soil & Water



2023 - 2024 Slide Show Contest

6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th - 12th Grade

This year's theme is: **The Living Soil**

Did you know that a teaspoon of healthy soil contains more living microorganisms than there are people on our planet? While you may not think much of it, the ground beneath our feet is filled with life. These organisms, like worms and bacteria, contribute to the soil's health, which directly impacts our food and water. Students are invited to explore concepts related to soil organisms, enhancing soil health through best management practices, and more!

We're looking for your creative interpretation of what it means when we say: "**The Living Soil.**"

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 slide show. The judges will be looking for the entries that best conveys the message to a viewer while also being original and creative.

For additional information call 919-560-0558, email Lmarochak@dconc.gov, or visit www.dconc.gov/swcd.

Deadline

All contest entries are due to the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District office by **February 15, 2024 at 5 PM**. Slide show entries must be emailed to Lmarochak@dconc.gov.

Eligibility

This contest is open to all public schools, private schools, homeschool students, and student clubs in Durham County. Students entering the poster contest must be in 6th - 12th grade.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place in each grade category:

1st place: \$50, a certificate, and a yard sign.

2nd place: \$25, a certificate, and a yard sign.

Teachers: If one of your students wins 1st place, you will receive \$30! *Parents, Scout Leaders, Children/Youth Leaders, and other educators are eligible for the \$30.*

Official Rules - Slide Show: 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th - 12th Grades

- Max amount of slides allowed = 15 slides of content. Fewer slides are allowed.
- No identifying information (names, school info, etc.) should be located in the body of the slide show in order to ensure impartiality in judging.
- 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 show (slide number 17 if 15 slides are used) should contain identifying information (detailed below). For example, the correct order for the slide show should be:
 - Slide show (up to 15 slides)
 - Blank slide (#16)
 - Entry Form Slide (#17)
- Slide shows must be created using Microsoft PowerPoint software. Files shall be saved so that they are compatible with PowerPoint 2003 (ppt file). Do not save as a pptx file.
- The use of audio is allowed
- The use of slide animation is allowed
- The use of video is prohibited. Shows using video will be disqualified.
- Slide shows shall not exceed a maximum of 5 minutes in length.
- Slide shows must be submitted electronically to Lmarochak@dconc.gov by the February 15, 2024 deadline.
- All slide shows will be judged electronically.

Entry Form (post on the last slide of your entry)

2023-2024 SLIDE SHOW CONTEST ENTRY FORM *(required)*

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student's Mailing Address: _____

Parent's Name and Email: _____

Educator's Name: _____

Educator's Phone #: _____

Educator's Email: _____

School Student Attends: _____

County: **DURHAM** District: **Durham Soil & Water**