

We all live in A Watershed!

2025-2026 Essay Contest



Participant Eligibility:

6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th-12th grade students are eligible to compete in the essay contest. Separate contests will be held for the District, Area and State levels.

Judging Criteria:

The NCASWCD has adopted a standard essay score sheet to be used at all contest levels. Essays will be judged on the following points

- Conservation Message 50%
- Writing Style 20%
- Organization 20%
- Neatness: 10%

Infractions

- Incorrect length - 5 points
- Current contest title not on essay - 5 points
- Wrong paper size - 2 points

Prize Money:

\$ 1st Place: \$50

\$ 2nd Place: \$35

\$ 3rd Place: \$25

1st place will compete at the Area Competition

Contact Information:

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Contest Procedure:

District first place winners in local contests will be eligible to enter the Area contest. Each Area first place winner will be eligible to enter the State contest. Each contest coordinator shall see that contestants and judges have a copy of the rules and shall urge them to study these rules, especially the sections on content, specifications, copyright and judging criteria.

All essays entered into District sponsored competition become the property of the respective District. These entities are entitled to use these essays for promotion of the Conservation District program.

For clarification an essay for this competition is defined 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.

Specifications:

- Teachers will ask students to prepare an essay on the current topic.
- According to the local District's guidelines, each school will select one or more winning essays to represent the school at the District's Annual Essay Contest
- Essays must be the work of the individual student and either handwritten or typed on the computer
- Essay must display the current topic on the essay its 'self
- Limited to 300-500 words. All words will be counted to make sure they meet the limit
- Standard 8 1/2" x 11" paper
- The essay should show a clear understanding of the topic and its importance as a natural resource
- The current topic should be expressed in a fresh innovative way with independent and creative expression
- Correct use of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and paragraph structure