

We all live in A Watershed!

2025-2026 Poster Contest



Participant Eligibility:

Separate contests will be held for **3rd, 4th, and 5th grades** at District, Area and State levels.

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

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

Infractions:

- Identifiable information on the front of poster - 5 points
- Copyright violation - 5 points
- Exceeding the size limit - 5 points

Prize Money:

\$ 1st Place: \$50

\$ 2nd Place: \$35

\$ 3rd Place: \$25

1st place will compete at the Area Competition

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Contest Procedure:

Contests will be conducted on the District, Area and State levels. District First Place winners will be eligible to enter the Area contests, and Area First Place winners 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 posters entered into District sponsored competition become the property of the respective District. These entities are entitled to use these posters for promotion of the Conservation District program.

Specifications:

- Posters should be no larger than 24" X 36"
- Pictures or other materials may be used on the posters; if mounted securely/flat to create a two-dimensional effect
- Mounted materials cannot stick out further than 1/8" inch off the paper
- Any coloring materials available to students and suitable for poster work may be used
- Posters must be the original work of the individual student. Original work is created by the student and shows a fresh and new idea
- Hand drawn pictures qualify for extra judging points
- Students should be made aware of copyright protection
- Posters should be submitted flat; not rolled or folded
- The NACD theme may be written on the poster if that theme may be linked convincingly to the annual approved theme for this contest
- Information should display relevant content to the nature of conservation (i.e. Soil Conservation, Water Conservation, and Best Management Practices)
- Posters must be identified on the **BACK** (not the front please!)

Quick Tips:

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

Avoid these poster faults:

- More than one theme
- Too busy - too many and/or scattered pictures or words (the message will become lost)
- Material not relevant to topic
- Small lettering is hard to read at a distance
- Boldness makes a difference
- Plain lettering is easier to read compared to fancy lettering