

Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District presents the 2026 Essay Contest titled...

We All Live In A Watershed

For students in grades 6-8

QUESTIONS ? Contact Amelia Harold at 336-593-2490 or email aharold@co.stokes.nc.us

THEME

We All Live In A Watershed

CONTEST DATE

Thursday, February 12, 2026

ENTRY DEADLINE

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

LOCATION

Call or email Amelia Harold to pick up essays or you can scan and email essays to aharold@co.stokes.nc.us. If scanning be sure to include a page with student information for each entry. Contest will be held at Central Office in Danbury.

AWARDS – (COUNTY LEVEL)

1st Place 6th Grade Poster – \$50
1st Place 7th Grade Poster – \$50
1st Place 8th Grade Poster – \$50

2nd Place 6th Grade Poster – \$30
2nd Place 7th Grade Poster – \$30
2nd Place 8th Grade Poster – \$30

Awards given at Soil & Water Banquet in May

REQUIREMENTS

On the back of each essay submitted please put the student's name, grade, home address, parent's names, teacher's name, and school name. See following pages for a template to use on back of entries...

contest rules & entry form template on the following page...

ESSAY CONTEST RULES

The Essay Contest is sponsored by the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts which also sets the rules.

THEME: A set of titles has been selected by the Association's Education Committee and adopted by the Association. Essays must bear the current title of this essay contest. The approved theme and rotation schedule is as follows:

2022-2023	Water . . . the Cycle of Life
2023-2024	The Living Soil
2024-2025	Wetlands are Wonderful
2025-2026	We all live in a Watershed
2026-2027	Soil & Water...Yours for Life

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY: Separate contests will be held for 6-8 grades at the District (County), Area (13 Counties in Northwest NC) and State level.

CONTEST PROCEDURE: Contests will be conducted on the Conservation District, Area and State levels. All essays entered into District sponsored competitions become the property of the respective District. These entities are entitled to use these essays for promotion of the conservation district program. *For clarification, the difference between an essay and a report, as applied to this contest, is 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.

Report – A formal presentation of facts in a report style.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Essays MUST be the **work of the individual student**;

Essays may be either **handwritten or typed on the computer**,

Essays MUST bear the current title of this essay contest;

Essay MUST be limited to **300-500 WORDS**

Essay MUST be **presented on 8 1/2" x 11" paper**;

Essay MUST be **properly identified on the back** with student's name, student's address, parent's name, teacher's name, grade and school (see next page for essay identification slips).

JUDGING CRITERIA: Essays will be judged on the following points: Conservation Message & Originality – 50 points, Writing Style – 20 points, Organization – 20 points, Neatness – 10 points.

INFRACTIONS: POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR THE FOLLOWING INFRACTIONS:

Incorrect Length Limit – minus 5 points,

Incorrect Title – minus 5 points,

Incorrect Paper Size – minus 2 points.

AWARDS: *District Level (County)* – 1st Place \$50, 2nd Place \$30 (1st Place will advance to Area Competition),

Area Level (13 Counties in Northwest NC) – 1st Place \$75, 2nd Place \$35, 3rd Place \$25 (1st place will advance to State Competition),

State Level – 1st Place \$200, 2nd Place \$100

STUDENT NAME: _____

STUDENT ADDRESS: _____

TEACHER'S NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____ GRADE: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____

STUDENT ADDRESS: _____

TEACHER'S NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____ GRADE: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____

STUDENT ADDRESS: _____

TEACHER'S NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____ GRADE: _____