



Charleston Soil and Water Conservation District

2070 Northbrook Blvd., Ste. A-8 - N. Charleston, SC 29406 -9253 - Phone (843) 727-4160 ext. 3 - fax (843) 727-4541 - debbie.eckard@sc.nacdnet.net



2016 ESSAY CONTEST
“We All Need Trees”
Deadline: April 15, 2016

February 3, 2016

Dear Principals and Teachers,

The Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District is once again asking for your participation in our environmental Poster/Essay Contest. This contest correlates to the SC State Science Standards. **The Essay Contest topic for 2016 is “We All Need Trees.”** The contest is open to all classes **in 5-9th grades and special education in public and private schools in Charleston County. The deadline is Friday, April 15, 2016.**

Charleston has beautiful trees, let's celebrate them with “We All Need Trees” essays!

Did You Know?

Trees are essential for the survival of humans and other living organisms. Through photosynthesis, trees convert the Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) that mammals exhale into Oxygen (O₂) that we then breathe in. Although all plants perform photosynthesis, trees convert the most CO₂ to O₂ due to their large size.

National Association

100 trees remove 53 tons of carbon dioxide and 430 pounds of other air pollutants per year. One hundred mature trees catch about 139,000 gallons of rainwater per year.

Source: U.S. Forest Service: www.fs.fed.us/learn/trees

Learning Objective: Students will identify structural components of a tree, be able to explain how these components help a tree grow and function, describe the process of photosynthesis, and reflect on the benefits trees provide to the environment. Students should write a great essay that explains why we need trees!

The purpose of this contest is for students to gain a better understanding of trees and their value to the environment. Students will write an essay that addresses at **least two of the topic guideline objectives** listed on the attached sheet.

We would love to have at least one teacher from each of your grade levels participate.

The prizes are the following: \$25 cash award for the student, certificate of achievements for teacher and students and subscription to the SC Wildlife Magazine for the teacher of the winning class. Our office is located off Rivers Avenue at North Rivers Business Center, 2070 Northbrook Blvd., Ste. A-8, North Charleston, SC 29406.

I look forward to hearing back from you! Please see below attachment for rules and details.

Thank you,

: *Debbie*

Debbie Eckard, Education Coordinator

Debbie.eckard@sc.nacdnet.net

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**Contest Deadline:
Friday, April 15, 2016**

Contact Debbie Eckard for more information at:

Debbie.eckard@sc.nacdn.net

843-727-4160 x 3

2016 Poster/Essay Topic

"We All Need Trees."



TOPIC GUIDELINE OBJECTIVES

Students should be able to illustrate and/or describe:

Poster Contest: Students will create a poster that reflects their understanding of how trees grow, function, and benefit the environment. Any media may be used to create a flat or two-dimensional effect (paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials on regular posters (no computer only special category) **Poster Guidelines are the same topics listed below for the essay contest. See contest rules below.**

Essay Contest: Students will address listed guideline topics in their essay: *See essay contest rules below.*

- Why are trees important?
- What are the benefits of trees?
- What is harming our trees?
- Identify the structural components of a tree, how they help a tree grow and function, and illustrate the process of photosynthesis.
- Relate the water and carbon cycles to tree functions

INTERNET RESOURCES - Ctrl +Click to follow link

- www.fs.fed.us/learn/kids
- <http://www.kidzone.ws/plants/trees.htm>
- http://www.grow-trees.com/why_trees/about_trees.aspx
- <http://www.kidzone.ws/plants/trees.htm>
- <http://www.discovertheforest.org/>
- <https://www.forestfoundation.org/family-activities-in-nature>
- <http://www.eschooltoday.com/forests/forest-preservation-tips-for-kids.html>

POSTER CONTEST RULES

1. The Poster contest is open to Kindergarten through 4th grades – including Special Education K-4th. Posters are a class/group effort and should be created by the whole class or group of students. Teachers may give ideas, etc., but the drawings should be done by the students.
2. Each poster should illustrate two of the guideline topics. A brief description of your poster guidelines should be typed or handwritten and attached to the poster.
3. Posters should be no larger than 36' x 48' and should be easy to transport. Oversized posters will not be judged. (One poster per class...**no individual posters**).
4. The following information must be written on the back of the poster: school, grade, teacher, school address, and names of students participating.

Winners from each grade level will receive the following: Winning Class: \$25 cash award and certificate of achievement; Teacher: certificate of achievement, a subscription to SC Wildlife Magazine.

ESSAY CONTEST RULES

1. The Essay Contest is open to 5-9th grades-public and private schools. Essay should be 300 to 500 words in length. Essay will be judged within each grade level.
2. All essays must have the student's name, home mailing address, school, teacher's name, school telephone number, and grade level on a separate, but attached sheet of paper.
3. Essays must be legible! Typed or printed double spaced is preferred, but neatly handwritten is acceptable.
4. **We encourage creative writing!**

Winners from each grade level will receive the following: Winning Student: \$25 cash award and certificate of achievement; Teacher: certificate of achievement, a subscription to SC Wildlife Magazine.