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“Water...the Cycle of Life”

DATE: September 18, 2017

SUBJECT: **ANNUAL CONSERVATION ESSAY AND POSTER CONTEST**

TO: ALL **SIXTH GRADE** SUPERVISORS AND TEACHERS IN
DAVIDSON COUNTY, LEXINGTON CITY, THOMASVILLE CITY,
PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND HOME SCHOOLS

FROM: DAVIDSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Davidson Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce the annual Conservation Essay and Poster Contest for all **Sixth Grade** students in Davidson County. Both contests are designed to supplement the instructions on natural resources as given in the classroom and to meet the NC Department of Education Standard Course of Study. The topic for this year's contest is **“Water...The Cycle of Life.”**

OUR STAFF IS AVAILABLE TO PRESENT INFORMATION RELATING TO THE CONTEST TOPIC FOR YOUR STUDENTS. PLEASE CONTACT THIS OFFICE AT 336-242-2075 TO SCHEDULE A TIME FOR A PRESENTATION DURING THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER. Your cooperation in teaching our young people conservation and your willingness to participate in our Essay and Poster Contest is greatly appreciated.

District winners in both contests will be entered in the Area VIII Essay and Poster Contests. Area VIII is made up of twelve counties in the Southern Piedmont. Area VIII winners will be entered in the North Carolina State Competition.

The 2017/2018 Conservation Essay and Poster Contests will run from **October 2nd** through **December 8th, 2017**. Students may compete in both contests. All entries will be picked up **December 8, 2017** at the offices of the respective city school, county school, or private school. Home school entrants should contact the District Office at 336-242-2075 to arrange for pick up. Each school will be notified of the winners by **December 15, 2017**. All certificates and awards will be presented at the awards day held at each school at the end of the school year or as arranged by the school.

The county winners and teachers of the county winners will be rewarded with a monetary gift.



PRIZES

<u>Students:</u> A Trophy for 1 st Place Essay in each school. A Trophy for 1 st Place Poster in each school. A Plaque and \$25.00 for 1 st Place Essay in the County. A Plaque and \$25.00 for 1 st Place Poster in the County.	<u>Teachers:</u> \$25.00 will be awarded to the <u>teacher</u> of the County Winners in each Contest.
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TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE:

Essays and posters representing the County Schools, City and Private Schools are to be in their respective school office by **December 8, 2017**, as entries will be picked up that day for judging. Home schools should call the District Office (336-242-2075) to arrange for pickup.

Judges will be secured by the district supervisors for the final judging. All of the essays and posters will be judged on an equal basis together without separate division competition in county, city, and private/home schools.

The winning entries in the County competition will be entered in the Area VIII competition by April 1, 2018. Area VIII is made up of twelve counties. Area VIII prizes will be determined by the Area Chairman. Winners in the Area VIII contest will be entered in the State Soil and Water Conservation Essay and Poster Contest, which will be held by May 16, 2018.

State prizes for both contests are:

First prize \$200.00
Second prize \$100.00

Enclosed are detailed instructions for each contest for the sixth grade teacher's use along with a list of websites that may be helpful for securing more information. Additional literature may be obtained as long as the supply lasts by calling our office at 242-2075.

2017-18 Poster and Essay Contest Time Line	
Contests in schools	October 2 nd through December 8 th , 2017
Entries to be picked up by Soil & Water Personnel	December 8, 2017
Schools notified of County Winners	December 15, 2017
Area VIII Competition	By April 1, 2018
State Competition	By May 16, 2018
Presentation of Awards	School's Awards Assembly

“Water...the Cycle of Life”

RULES FOR ESSAY CONTEST:

1. Each sixth grade student is asked to write an essay on the above subject as a part of their classroom education. Essays must bear the current title of the essay.
2. Essays must bear the correct title – “Water...The Cycle of Life”.
3. The essay is to be 300 to 500 words. All essays are to be the work of the individual student on 8½ x 11 inch standard paper. Essays may either be handwritten in ink or typed on a computer. Please pay attention to the copyright rule as stated below:

COPYRIGHT: A protection by United States laws to the authors or creators of original work. A copyright protects the PARTICULAR MANNER of expression of ideas, but not the ideas themselves.

4. Essays must be identified on the **back** with:
 - (1) Name of student
 - (2) Address of student
 - (3) Name of teacher
 - (4) Name of school
 - (5) Grade
 - (6) Name of County
5. Essays shall be judged on the following basis:

50%	Content
20%	Writing Style
20%	Organization
10%	Neatness

Infractions-

Incorrect length	-5 Points
Incorrect title	-5 Points
Incorrect paper size	-2 Points

6. Each sixth grade teacher is to select one essay to represent their class in the school contest.
7. Each participating school may select one or more of these essays to represent the school in the District’s Annual Essay Contest.

“Water...the Cycle of Life”

RULES FOR POSTER CONTEST:

1. Each sixth grade student is asked to design a poster on the above subject as a part of their classroom education. The title does **not** have to be on the poster.
2. Posters must be no larger than 24 x 36 inches. Any coloring materials available to students, suitable for poster work, may be used. Only materials that are flat or create a two dimensional effect may be attached. Posters must be “original work” of the student and show a fresh, new idea. Hand drawn pictures are looked upon more favorably than computer generated drawings. Students should be aware of “Copyright Protection” as stated below.

COPYRIGHT: A protection by US laws to the authors or creators of original work. A copyright protects the PARTICULAR MANNER of expression of ideas, but not the ideas themselves.

EXAMPLE: You can make a poster using cartoon characters that talk about soil and water conservation in comic-strip fashion if the ideas are yours. But if classmates recognize the cartoon characters as popular characters, then your work is copied from the original artists.

3. Posters should be submitted flat and not rolled.
4. Posters must be identified on the **back** with:
 - (1) Name of student
 - (2) Address of student
 - (3) Name of teacher
 - (4) Name of school
 - (5) Grade
 - (6) Name of County
5. Posters shall be judged on the following basis:

50%	Conservation Message
30%	Visual Effectiveness
10%	Universal Appeal
10%	Originality
6. **Infractions** –

Copyright violation	– 5 points
Exceeding the size limit	– 5 points
7. Each sixth grade teacher is to select one poster to represent their class in the school contest.
8. Each participating school may select one or more posters to represent the school in the District’s Poster Contest.

“Water...the Cycle of Life”

Websites for 2017-2018 Essay and Poster Contest

<https://pmm.nasa.gov/education/water-cycle> - NASA Site with information on the water cycle and links to additional information

<https://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle.html> - US Geological Survey Site with basic and advanced information on the water cycle – Includes links to additional information

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/water-cycle/> -National Geographic Society Site with basic water cycle information

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=al-do-HGulk> – 7 minute video from the National Science Foundation covering the water cycle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oaDkph9yQBs> – 6 minute video from NASA covering the water cycle

“The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value”.

Theodore Roosevelt, 1907

