

## IDEAS FOR CONSERVATION OR STEWARDSHIP THEME ESSAY OR SPEECH CONTESTS

Information provided by National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)  
Stewardship & Education [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org)

**Section 1:** Ideas & websites from other conservation districts

a. send additional ideas or websites to:

[stewardship@nacdnet.org](mailto:stewardship@nacdnet.org)

**Section 2:** Essay template

**Section 3:** Speech Contest brochure sample

**Section 1**

Speech and essay contests are held locally and at the state level in some states. There currently is not a national contest for speech and essay through NACD. We supply information through the Stewardship program that provide resource information for these 2 contests.

Examples of contests held in other states are:

**Essay contest examples at the websites below:**

<http://www.co.catawba.nc.us/depts/soilwater/essay.pdf>

<http://www.poncacitynews.com/templates/104475787818567.bsp>

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/contentimages/essaycontest2006.pdf>

*See Essay Template – Page 2*

Speech and Essay contests often use the Stewardship theme. Resource information can be found at: <http://www.nacdnet.org/stewardship&education/>

NACD and the auxiliary sponsor a poster contest using the NACD Stewardship theme. Many states participate and districts hold contests at a county or area level and then send them on to a state contest where the state winners are then eligible for the national contest. Contest information can be found at the above website.

**Speech and or public speaking contest example at websites below:**

[http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/contentimages/2007\\_Pub\\_Speak\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/contentimages/2007_Pub_Speak_Guide.pdf)

<http://www.iascd.state.id.us/SpeechContestRules2007.pdf>

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/publicspeaking>

*See Sample Brochure – Page 4*

## Section 2

### ESSAY CONTEST TEMPLATE (modify to fit your local contest)

Essay Topic for \_\_\_\_\_ County Conservation District

TOPIC: \_\_\_\_\_

#### How do I submit my essay and when are they due?

All essays will need to be turned into \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

They will need to be mailed **on or before** \_\_\_\_\_ to:

(Not responsible for essays lost in the mail)

ADDRESS TO MAIL:

\_\_\_\_\_

#### How many times may I enter the contest?

We will accept one (1) entry per student in **grades** \_\_\_\_\_ who attend a \_\_\_\_\_ County School or is home schooled.

#### How long should entries be?

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ words

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ words

#### What are the prizes?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Information on each essay:

Student name:

School:

Teacher:

Parent permission signature & date signed for the \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation district to use the information in the essay.

#### Where do I start?

Resources:

#### How will essays be used?

The \_\_\_\_\_ County Conservation District will use the information from the essays for promotion, website, publications; or ads to help promote conservation across our county, state and nation.

#### Judging Criteria

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER IDEAS:**

- 1)** Talk with the principal before announcing contest for permission and or support.
- 2)** Talk with teachers at each grade level to assist in promotion
- 3)** If you are going to collect the essays from the teachers, provide a large envelope to collect the essays in. One that opens and closes easily and is brightly colored so it does not get lost on their desk.
- 4)** News releases for local paper
- 5)** Post a library
- 6)** See if local newspaper will co-sponsor and help judge or local service organization

If you will publish any of the essays and the students are under 18-

Require parent signature – or check if it is a school project –

They may have one on file from registration.

Students under 18 must have their parent’s permission and signature attached to the essay.

I give my permission for \_\_\_\_\_ (PRINT NAME) to enter the \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation District Essay Contest.

I understand that the district may use all or part of the essay to promote conservation at the county, state and national level.

Parent or Guardian of above student.

\_\_\_\_\_ - signature

\_\_\_\_\_ -printed name

\_\_\_\_\_ date

### Contest Theme

## Our drinking water: Where does it come from, and where does it go?

Water. It is found in great abundance in Indiana, but other parts of the United States and the world view this resource as a scarce and precious commodity.

Our very lives depend on a clean, reliable source of water. Ironically, our way of life can damage this very resource that sustains us. Our good health depends on it. Wars could be fought over it. And terrorists could target it. A priceless resource, yet so thoughtlessly squandered.



To encourage high school students to become more aware of the natural envi-

ronment around them, especially the soil and water resources, the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a public speaking contest.

Contestants will develop and present a speech between 5 to 8 minutes in length featuring the contest theme. Local professionals will judge the speeches, and the winning contestant will be invited to present their speech at the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting on January 30, 2007.

Potential sources for information:

Environmental Protection Agency  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

(Put drinking water into the search)  
[www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo/index.html)

[www.ecn.purdue.edu/SafeWater/drinkinfo/](http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/SafeWater/drinkinfo/)

Indiana Department of Health  
[www.in.gov/isdh](http://www.in.gov/isdh)

American Water Works  
[www.awwa.org/Advocacy/dww/](http://www.awwa.org/Advocacy/dww/)

Public Broadcasting System  
[www.pbs.org/newshour/backgrounders/drinking\\_water.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/backgrounders/drinking_water.html)  
[www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/education/hotzones.html](http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/education/hotzones.html)  
[www.pbs.org/wgbh/rxforsurvival/series/diseases/diarrheal\\_diseases.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/rxforsurvival/series/diseases/diarrheal_diseases.html)

[www.drinktap.org/consumerdnn/](http://www.drinktap.org/consumerdnn/)

[www.nsf.org/consumer/drinking\\_water/index.asp?program=WaterTre](http://www.nsf.org/consumer/drinking_water/index.asp?program=WaterTre)

Dubois County Health Department  
(812) 481-7050

City of Jasper Water Filtration Plant  
(812) 482-2010

City of Jasper Wastewater Facilities  
(812) 482-3277

Keep thinking and researching other sources!



Dubois County  
Soil and Water Conservation District

## Public Speaking Contest

Monday, January 22, 2007

6:00 PM



Phone: (812) 482-1171 Ext. 3

# Contest Rules

- All Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors enrolled in Dubois County High Schools are eligible to participate. Home schooled students in these grade levels are also eligible.

- Contestants should register with the SWCD office by phone or e-mail by 4 PM Friday, January 12 to be eligible to compete.

- Speeches should be no less than 5 minutes in length, and no longer than 8 minutes.

- The contest theme of "Our Drinking Water: Where Does it Come From and Where Does it Go" should be the topic of the speech.



- Contestants will be randomly scheduled for their presentation time, and assigned a number. They will be introduced by their number rather than by name.

- Contestants will wait outside room prior to presenting their speech.

- Contestant will be escorted to place where they will give their speech.

- After speech is complete, contestant can have a seat in the audience and listen to the rest of the speeches.

- The use of notes is permitted, but the contestant should know the speech well enough that the use of notes is kept to a minimum.

- Audio visual/transparencies will be permitted to enhance the presentation, but cannot take the place of the actual speech.

- The contestants will be judged on Content and Organization, 50 points, and Presentation, 50 points. Content and Organization includes appropriateness of topic, content originality, accuracy, and sequence of thought. Presentation includes appearance, vocal quality, poise, expressiveness, persuasiveness, originality, and overall impact. Points will be deducted for each 10 second over 8 minutes, or under 5 minutes.

- After all contestants have presented their speech, the judges will be escorted from the room to tally their scorecards. The judges will select a first and second place winner only.

- The Judges decision will be final.

- First and Second place winners will be awarded savings bonds. All participants receive participation recognition.

- First place speech contestant will be invited to present their speech at the SWCD annual meeting on January 30, 2007. Up to four complementary meal tickets will be provided to the contestant and his or her family or guests.

- All contestants are free to discuss their presentations with the judges once the awards ceremony is complete. Score sheets will be available one week after the contest to those contestants who request a copy.

# Contest Sponsors

Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District

Local civic organizations will sponsor savings bonds: first prize, \$200 Savings Bond; second prize, \$100 Savings Bond.

Consultant: Rock Emmert, Educator, Forest Park High School



**DUBOIS COUNTY  
SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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