

2009 Defiance SWCD Poster Contest

Goal and Purpose:

1. To instill in our youth an appreciation for the environment and the need to protect our precious soil & water resources.
2. To provide a chance to feature the educational outreach efforts of conservation districts and their state association.
3. To provide kindergarten through twelfth grade students with an opportunity to share their thoughts about natural resource issues.

Categories by Grade Level:

Grade levels are broken down into five categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10 -12 or Computer designed for grades 10 - 12

Theme:

Students are encouraged to follow the National Association of Conservation Districts' stewardship and poster theme. The theme for 2009 is "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil". Basic topics to be covered in the 2009 theme materials include the minerals and nutrients we need for life, to nurture us, to help us grow, to give us energy and keep us healthy come from fields, gardens, trees and pastures. Every plant, vegetable, or fruit that we eat gets its nutrients from the soil in which it grows. Your home is built on soil and what type of soil is important.

More information on the theme is available at:

<http://nacdnet.org/education/contests/>, <http://forces.si.edu/soils/>, <http://www.soils.org/>, and <http://soils.usda.gov/education/>

Contest Rules:

1. **Posters must be on "11 X 17" which will be provided by the 1st week of November.**
2. Crayons, watercolors, magic markers or other methods of writing, printing, drawing or coloring may be used to create a flat or two-dimensional effect. Computer generated material, prints, or pictures of commercial origin are not permitted.
3. Students are encouraged to work individually. However, the success of the program depends upon the support and assistance from classroom teachers, art teachers, and local conservationists.
4. On the back of each poster, please print:
 - ◆ Student's name
 - ◆ Student's age and school grade
 - ◆ School's address and phone number with area code
 - ◆ Teacher's name
 - ◆ Defiance Soil & Water Conservation District
 - ◆ **On the back of this flier, you will find an information form that you may copy, cut, and paste onto each poster entry.**
5. Only one entry per student may be submitted.

Evaluation Criteria:

50%	Conservation message	30%	Visual effectiveness
10%	Originality	10%	Universal Appeal

Judges will also evaluate posters on the following criteria:

1. ***Has the theme been clearly addressed?***
2. ***Does the work demonstrate an understanding of the subject matter?***
3. ***Is the work neat, organized, and grammatically correct?***

Initial judging will be conducted at the county SWCD level. The winner of each age level will receive a nature prize and the best design from all will be printed on placemats that will be displayed in participating local restaurants in Defiance County during Soil and Water Stewardship Week the last week of April 2009. The SWCDs will forward the poster winners to their Area Program Specialist for area-level judging. Each area will in turn select a 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winner in each grade category and submit the 1st place posters to the OFSWCD Auxiliary. OFSWCD Auxiliary representatives will select 1st and 2nd place state-level winners in each grade category and submit the 1st place winners to the National Conservation Auxiliary for final judging in each category.

Due Date - The posters are due to the Soil & Water office by January 16, 2009. Please notify the DSWCD office (419.782.8751) for poster collection from your school.