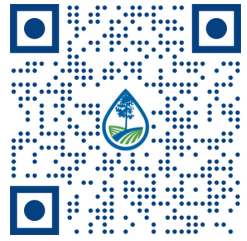




JACKSON  
COUNTY  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT



# 2026 POSTER & ESSAY CONTEST

## Soil.

Where it all Begins



NACD Stewardship Week 2026

### POSTER EVALUATION

Poster contest entries are reviewed and judged based on the following criteria:

- Conservation message/ use of correct theme: 50%
- Visual effectiveness: 30%
- Originality: 20%

Open to K-12<sup>th</sup> grades

### ESSAY EVALUATION

Essays should be between 300-500 words in length and are evaluated on subject matter, organization, composition, spelling, punctuation and neatness.

Open to 7th-12th grades

#### Who can participate?

The poster & essay contest is open to all public, private and homeschool students in Jackson County. The poster contest is for K-12th grade students. The essay contest is for 7th-12th grade students only.

#### PRIZES

The contest starts at the District/County level; 1<sup>st</sup> place winners continue to advance to the area (regional), state and national levels where they are eligible for additional prizes.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$100**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$50**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$25**

*(each category - see Entry Form)*

#### Why participate?

Posters & essays stress the importance of conservation and inspire, increase awareness and encourage us to work together to protect our natural resources for present and future generations.

## JACKSON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP POSTER & ESSAY CONTEST

The 2026 NACD Stewardship Week theme - 'Soil. Where It All Begins' - celebrates the incredible power of soil to support life in all its forms. Soil is not just the ground we walk on - It is the starting point for healthy food, clean water, thriving habitats, and resilient communities. From backyard gardens to forests and city parks, everything begins with what is beneath our feet.

# CONTEST RULES

- The 2026 Stewardship theme '**SOIL. Where it all Begins**' MUST be included on the front side of the poster submission to be eligible for entry. No information identifying the poster's/essay's creator (*such as name*) is to be displayed on the poster/essay other than securely taping the 'Entry Form' (below) to the back or last page of the submission. 'Entry Form' must be completely filled out. Incomplete 'Entry Forms' will disqualify the poster/essay. 'Entry Form' must be signed by parent or guardian.
- Poster must be created on white 11" x 17" cardstock or poster board cut to 11"x17". NO Fluorescent-colored posters will be accepted. *All other poster sizes or colors will not be considered.*
- Be creative! You can use any media including paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials, including attaching recycled items to create a 3D poster. Let your imagination run wild!
- NO staples, tacks or tape (other than to attach 'Entry Form' on back of submission) allowed.
- All posters must be created by an individual student. Group entries will not be accepted.
- Entry must be student's original creation and may not be traced from photographs or other artists' published work.

## ENTRY FORM: (Please Check Appropriate Category)

### STUDENT INFORMATION:

\_\_\_ K-1 Grade \_\_\_ 2-3 Grade \_\_\_ 4-6 Grade \_\_\_ 7-9 Grade \_\_\_ 10-12 Grade

Students Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark one below (use separate Entry Form for poster and essay submissions)

\_\_\_\_\_ Poster Entry (Poster is the original work of the student named above.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Essay Entry (Essay is the original work of the student named above.)

SCHOOL: (homeschool students eligible to enter also)

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## POSTERS & ESSAYS ARE DUE: THURSDAY, APRIL 30TH

*Late entries after April 30<sup>th</sup> will not be accepted.*

**Notify Jackson SWCD on Monday, April 27th if you have a poster to enter that you are unable to bring to our office.** Jackson SWCD will schedule pick up of your poster between 4/28 and 4/30. Drop off posters to our office at: 2345 S Broad St, Suite A, Scottsboro between the hours of 7:30a - 4:00p Monday thru Friday on any day **prior** to May 1<sup>st</sup>.



JACKSON  
COUNTY  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT



National Association of  
Conservation Districts

**Soil.**  
Where it all Begins

