



2009 NACD Poster Contest Rules THEME: DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil



Eligibility

The National Conservation Poster Contest is open to kindergarten through twelfth grade students. Artwork entered into the national competition must have been judged in a local or area conservation district sponsored poster contest and a state conservation association or state auxiliary sponsored contest. Posters not sent by authorized state poster group will not be considered for judging.

There will be judging at the national level for all categories. To be eligible for national contest your state must have a state sponsor of the contest. Be sure what categories your state sponsor will be sponsoring before completing your poster. To find who in your state is in charge of the poster contest visit the NACD State Directory and contact your state association for conservation districts. Visit:

<http://www.nacdnet.org/about/districts/directory/index.phtml>

2009 Contest Theme

The National Poster Contest theme "DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil" based on the 2009 NACD Stewardship theme. Additional information can be found at www.nacdnet.org Stewardship & Education section. This theme is in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History and Soil Science Society of America with NACD. Links to our partners websites can be found in the background information section.

Posters for grades utilizing the DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil Theme

LEVELS for poster contest entries: K-1; 2-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12

**Special Category Posters: 4-6 & 10-12 (Information below)

The contest is open to public, private or home school students.

**Special additional categories (Optional)

NOTE: Will need to check to see if your state will be having a state wide contest for these special categories. Only posters that go through a state contest will be eligible for national contest. You can still host a local contest in the special categories if you wish. Feel free to send photos of your winners (or email computer poster winners to stewardship@nacdn.net) Information given to National Auxiliary members at NACD 2008 Reno Conference. Also to State Executives at their May 2008 conference and e-mail about new additions to contest to share with state sponsors.

(Special category posters are not judged against regular designed posters – judge against posters in same category only)

**4-6 DIG IT! Soil Poster painted with paint made from soil (Recipe Available link below)

http://soils.usda.gov/education/resources/k_12/lessons/painting/

The recipe calls for artist acrylic (clear gloss medium) you can substitute watered down white glue or liquid starch

**10-12 DIG IT! Theme Computer designed Poster

The 2 additional **categories are optional to add in to your local and state contest.

STATE SPONSOR: One poster from each state may be entered in each of the following grade categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12 & special category poster **Poster made with soil paint; grade 4-6 and posters designed with computer; grade 10-12. The special category posters are optional. Local contests can be held for any category even if your state does not sponsor a state contest. Only state winning posters in each category are eligible for the national contest.

The state conservation association or auxiliary selects a poster for entering in each of the grade divisions or special category and submits it to NACD. The state does not have to enter a poster for every grade level. The contest is open to public, private or home school students.

Please send with your state winning posters – the information sheet provided on the 2009 NACD Poster Contest website titled: State Poster Entries to National contest. Also please encourage your county or area contests to send you the form: County entry to area or state contest. We are working to gather how many participants are in the poster contest across the United States.

Contest Rules

The contest rules were created so as not to limit or revise the current rules of local and state conservation poster contests:

- 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) ***Special category entry -NOTE: verify your local or state is accepting these before developing – Grade **4-6 Posters made only with paint from soil Grade **10-12 Posters only made on computer*
- Poster size must be between 8.5" x 11" and 22" x 28".
- A completed entry form must be attached to the back of the poster to make it eligible for judging.
- Posters should be packaged so they remain flat when sent for judging.
- All posters must be created by an individual student rather than a team of students.
- The 2009 Stewardship title "DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil" must be on your poster. (Don't use any other title)
- Names on back of posters and must have entry signed entry form to be eligible for judging.
- Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, NACD encourages each student to do as much of the work as possible by him/herself. Entries completed by students in their handwriting and coloring will score better than those designed, drawn and colored by adult assistance.
- Each entry to state contest must have been judged at each conservation district's or area contest prior to the state evaluation/contest.
- Posters must be judged at the state level. Individual posters can not be sent for national judging by individuals. They must follow their state's contest rules and deadlines.
- Only official state poster contest sponsors can mail entries for national contest. Entries must be postmarked by December 1, 2009 and mailed to: (No onsite delivery – must arrive via mail or delivery company)

***NACD National Poster Contest
Susan Schultz, 968 East 600 North
Greenfield, IN 46140***

Each entry for the national contest must have the Entry form filled out and signed by guardian or parent to be judged. Forms are available at www.nacdnet.org Stewardship & Education, Contest section.

Poster Evaluations

National Poster Contest entries are reviewed judges. The posters are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Conservation message (50 percent)
- Visual effectiveness (30 percent)
- Originality (10 percent) and
- Universal appeal (10 percent)
- Also taken into consideration is artwork completed on poster is that of participant (unless noted on entry form)

National Poster contest prizes:

Regular Poster Contest Winner prize sponsor: NACD Auxiliary First place winners receive \$100 and second place winners receive \$75.

Special category sponsor is the NACD Stewardship & Education Committee First and Second place winners in the special category national contest. First place winners receive \$100 and second place winners receive \$75.

Local and state contest awards and sponsors will differ from state to state.

Depending on the sponsoring state's conservation association, auxiliary or agency's preference, the national awards will be presented at a national, regional, state and/or local conservation ceremony. The winning posters will be featured at the NACD Annual Meeting.

Each state conservation association, auxiliary or agency contact will receive notification of the judging results, copies of the judges' comments and a news release announcing the winners. Posters not receiving national awards will be returned to the state contact in a timely manner following judging. Please fill out state form when submitting posters for the national contest, with information on number of participants at the area or local contest and to whom the posters are to be returned to at the state level. The National poster contest is not responsible for returning posters back to each individual poster winner.

Sponsors

The National Poster Contest program is sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the NACD Auxiliary. NACD, founded in 1946, is a nonprofit organization representing nearly 3,000 local conservation districts in the 50 states and U.S. Territories. The NACD Auxiliary assists NACD with informational and educational outreach efforts.

Questions? Contact Susan Schultz – NACD Stewardship and Education at stewardship@nacdnet.org or call 317-326-2952.

Background information:

SOIL

There is much to learn about soil. Almost all of 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. Soil is formed when rocks and minerals are weathered and broken down. Temperature and the amount rain that falls can either speed up or slow down chemical reactions. Warmer temperatures usually speed reactions up, cooler temperatures slow them down.

How much soil do we have on earth to depend on for the world's food supply? Look at the entire earth – 75% of the earth is covered with water in our oceans, lakes, rivers and streams. What is left represents land which is about 25%. Over half of that land is desert, polar or mountainous regions where it is too hot, too cold or too high to be productive. That leaves us with 12.5% which includes land that is limited by terrain, fertility or too much rainfall. It could be too rocky, steep, shallow or too wet to sustain food production. It leaves us with a very small fragment of the land area about 10% which represents the soil everyone depends on for the entire world's food supply. This small amount competes with all other soil needs such as, housing, cities, schools, hospitals, shopping centers, land fills and more. Soil is a precious natural resource.

When soil erodes, much of the displaced sediment - as well as pollutants that are mixed with it such as pesticides, oil, grease and excess nutrients wash into streams, rivers and eventually the ocean. This in turn effects water quality and disrupts the health of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. It can take up to 500 years to form 1" of topsoil.

Since the Dust Bowl of the 1930's the protection of Soil from erosion and degradation has greatly increased through the formation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and several state and federal agencies. These Conservation groups assist landowners and the general public through education and technical assistance as to the importance of the soil and how to properly manage soil which humans literally owe their very daily existence. <http://www.nacdnet.org/about/districts/directory/index.phtml>

Other soil resource sites:

<http://forces.si.edu/soils/> Smithsonian Institution – National Museum of Natural History

<http://www.soils.org> Soil Science Society of America

<http://soils.usda.gov/education/> USDA - NRCS

<http://soils.usda.gov/> USDA - NRCS

<http://soils.usda.gov/use/> USDA - NRCS

http://soils.usda.gov/gallery/state_soils/ USDA - NRCS

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/soil/> USDA – NRCS - IL

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schooladventures/soil/index.html> Discovery Education

NACD – National Association of Conservation Districts

Soil education material will be available for sale from NACD late summer 2008

www.nacdstore.org

Additional Soils education information will be available soon from the NACD website.

<http://www.nacdnet.org/stewardship&education/>

**DIG IT Education
Material Partners**



Smithsonian Institution



Soil Science
Society of America