

FFA Leadership Development Program

2009 Soil Stewardship Week Theme:



To prepare for the public speaking contest, students are to consult with their Ag Science teacher and use the Guidelines Packet accessible on the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board's website. The student is also to work with their soil and water conservation district (SWCD) as a local resource. A statement signed by an SWCD representative must be attached to the submitted speech.

If the student needs help finding information on how to locate and contact their soil and water conservation district, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board will be happy to provide students with the name and address of the SWCD that serves the local school district.

This program is a partnership between the Texas FFA, the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

For more information contact:

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
P.O. Box 658
Temple, TX 76503
(254) 773-2250 or 800-792-3485
<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us>



Scholarships Available

There are ten \$500.00 scholarships that will be presented by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts. One \$500 scholarship will be awarded to the first place winner in each respective FFA Area. The second place winner in each area is not eligible for an area scholarship; however the second place winner is eligible, along with the 10 first place area winners to compete on the state level for the scholarship awarded at that stratum.

One \$1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the winner in the state contest. Scholarship money must be used to defray costs of a winner's education at a technical institution, college or university of the winner's choice. All scholarships will be awarded directly to a winner's chosen technical school, college or university in the student's name upon proof of registration as a full-time student at the institution of higher learning.

Expense Paid Trips: The state winner and his or her advisor will receive two expense paid trips under State of Texas travel guidelines to the annual FFA State Convention and the annual meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors.

To Access the Guidelines Packet

1. Click on the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board website: www.tsswcb.state.tx.us
2. Go to Program Quick Links and click on “SWCD Information & Education.”
3. Go to Soil & Water Stewardship Public Speaking Contest and click on “Learn More”.
4. Click on “Program Guidelines Packet”.

To Get the Student Started

Using the prompt statements or questions noted in the speech outline on page four, the student is to focus his/her speech on soil related issues in their community. The student must address the “*Dig It! The Secrets of Soil*” theme from personal knowledge gained as a result of research and personal consultation with the local soil and water conservation district. It is further recommended that the student consult the listed resources to gain a well rounded view of the theme topic. Other resources may also be consulted in addition to the listed references.

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/soil/>

<http://soils.usda.gov/education/>

<http://soils.usda.gov/>

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

www.soils.org

<http://forces.si.edu/soils/>

Soil Terms

Glossary at:

<https://www.soils.org/sssagloss/>

Worm your way through these questions.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/education/squirm/skQstns.html>

Soils resources:

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

GLOBE:

http://www.globe.gov/fsl/html/templ.cgi?EG_soil&lang=en&nav=1

<http://www.globe.gov/fsl/educorn/assessment/soils/soilshome.html>

<http://www.globe.gov/tctg/globetg.jsp?rg=n&lang=en>

Soil Science Society of America

<https://www.soils.org/education/>

Smithsonian Site
<http://forces.si.edu/soils/>

Soil Facts
<http://www.epa.gov/gmpo/edresources/soil.html>

Soil –
What is it?
<http://www.mo15.nrcs.usda.gov/features/wissoil/index.html>

USDA Soils Education Materials
Educational Materials Related to Soil
<http://www.mo15.nrcs.usda.gov/features/education.html>

Soil Profile Gallery
<http://www.mo15.nrcs.usda.gov/features/gallery/gallery.html>

State Soils
http://soils.usda.gov/gallery/state_soils/

In the time it took to make one inch of topsoil (timeline)
<http://soil.gsfc.nasa.gov/inch/soiltime.htm>

Our Good Earth Published Sept. 2008 by Charles Mann
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/print/2008/09/soil/mann-text>

A Dirty Word by National Geographic Staff
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/geopedia/Soil>

Name that Soil
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/geopedia/Soil#Name%20That%20Soil>

Specific Instructions: The speech must be between *six and eight minutes in length*. For specific rules and requirements relating to the contest, consult the Degree Check Guidelines.

Objective of Speech

The objective of the speech is to point out that soil nurtures life and death; under girds cities, forests and oceans; and feeds all terrestrial life on Earth. It is a substance that few people understand and most take for granted. It is arguably one of the Earth's most critical natural resources.

Speech Outline

Introduction

- Introduce the theme “Dig it! The Secrets of Soil.”
- Discuss briefly your visit to you local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to learn about the variety of soil types that can be found in your county or community. Why the difference?
- Discuss the purposes of the local SWCD and how its mission relates to the conservation of soil and related natural resources.

Body of Speech

- State some facts about the current and projected status of soil conservation practices in Texas.
- Describe the county in which you live and the significance of soil conservation practices in your area.
- How is the conservation of soil and related resources important to your community?
- What is your local SWCD’s role to insure good soil conservation practices in your community?
- Imagine dividing the earth into a geological pie. How much of the earth’s surface is available in productive soils on which humanity depends for its food and fiber?
- What agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs), if any, are being used in your county that benefits the conservation of soil resources?

Conclusion

- What does the theme, “Dig it! The Secrets of Soil” mean to you?

Soil and Water Conservation District Consultation Affidavit

I certify that _____ consulted with
the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District
in preparation for the 2009 Soil and Water Stewardship Public Speaking Contest.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(SWCD Representative Signature)

(Date)

(This form should be submitted along with speech.)