



Charleston Soil and Water Conservation District

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January 14, 2014

Dear Principals and Teachers,



The Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District is currently administering a 319 Water quality grant in the Toogoodoo Creek Watershed (towns of Hollywood & Meggett) to reduce bacteria levels and to improve water quality. As part of our education outreach, we are promoting a Watershed Poster/Essay Contest to enable students to learn more about the Toogoodoo Watershed that they live in. **The Poster AND Essay Contest topic is:**

"Where does your Water Shed?" The **Poster contest** is open to all public and private schools in grades K-4th (including Special Education classes); the **Essay Contest** is open to 5-12th grades (including Special Education classes). **The deadline is April 18th 2014.** See the attached page below for more detailed information.

Where does your water shed? The amount of fresh water on earth is all we have. It is important to understand where the fresh water goes after a rain, after you empty the bathtub or use it to water your plants. We have to take care of our fresh water as it gets used over and over again. Everyone lives in a watershed. A **watershed** is an area of land that drains to a particular body of water such as a river or a lake. Rain or any type of precipitation that falls anywhere in that watershed eventually flows to a body of water. The water may travel over land as surface water or flow underground as groundwater. Look around your community or as you travel to see water traveling within a watershed. Everyone lives in a watershed. The name of your watershed may not be as familiar to you as the name of the city or town you live in, however; a healthy watershed is vital for a healthy community.



You're sitting in a watershed now

Homes, farms, ranches, forests, small towns, big cities and more can make up watersheds. Some cross county, state, and even international borders. Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. Some are millions of square miles; others are just a few acres. Just as creeks drain into rivers, watersheds are nearly always part of a larger watershed.

The purpose of this contest is for students to gain a better understanding of watersheds, where the water goes, and the impact that pollution has on it. **Essays require at least two of the topic guidelines listed below and the poster contest requires one poster per grade level where all students work together to create one poster.** All rules are provided below.

We look forward to working with you! The awards are the following: **Poster Contest:** Only one winning class per grade level will receive a \$25 award for the class. All participating classes will receive certificates of appreciation for entering the contest. **Essay Contest:** Only one winning student per grade level will receive a \$25 award. All participating students will receive certificates of appreciation for entering the contest.

Thank you,

Debbie

Debbie Eckard, Education Coordinator, Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District
727-4160 Ext. 3 / Fax: 727-4541 - debbie.eckard@sc.nacdnet.net Contest information can also be found on our website at www.charlestonconservationdistrict.com

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TOOGOODOO CREEK WATERSHED POSTER & ESSAY CONTEST



**Contest Deadline:
April 18, 2014**

Contact Debbie Eckard for more information at:

Debbie.eckard@sc.nacdn.net

843-727-4160 x 3

Watershed Poster/Essay Topic



TOPIC GUIDELINE OBJECTIVES

Students should be able to illustrate and/or describe:

Poster Contest – Students will create a watershed poster of their school neighborhood that shows where the water is going or “shedding”. 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).

Essay Contest – Students should address at least **two** of the guideline topics in their essay:

See essay contest rules below.

Poster and Essay Guideline Topics:

- What is a watershed and where does it shed?
- What watershed do you live in?
- What are ways that watersheds become polluted?
- List three reasons why it is important to protect their watershed and how can you keep your watershed healthy?

INTERNET RESOURCES - Ctrl +Click to follow link

Nutrient Pollution Outreach and Education Materials

<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/>

Find what watershed you are in

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>

Know Your Watershed

<http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/Know%20Your%20Watershed/>

Watershed Related Clip Art

<http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/outreach/outpixnonis.cfm>

Watershed Management Resources – EPA

<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/watershed/index.cfm>

USDA-NRCS – Water Page – Water landscape interactive and New Water Cycle Poster

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/water>

Contest sponsored by Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District

POSTER CONTEST RULES

1. The Poster contest is open to Kindergarten through 4th grades, including Special Education classes. Posters are a class/group effort and should be created by the whole class or group of students. Teachers may give ideas, etc., but the drawings should be done by the students. **Only one winning poster per grade level will be selected to receive awards.**
2. Each poster should illustrate contest **guideline topics**. **A brief description of your poster guidelines should be typed or handwritten and attached to the poster.**
3. Posters should be no larger than 36' x 48' and should be easy to transport. Oversized posters will not be judged. (One poster per class...**no individual posters**).
4. The following information must be written on the back of the poster: school, grade, teacher, school address, and names of students participating.

Each winning class will receive an appropriate \$25 award. All class participants will receive certificates of achievement.

ESSAY CONTEST RULES

1. The Essay Contest is open to 5-12th grades, including special Education classes. Essay should be 300 to 500 words in length. **Essays should address at least two topic guidelines.** Essays will be judged within each grade level. **Only one winning class per grade level will win awards.**
2. All essays must have the student's name, home mailing address, school, teacher's name, school telephone number, and grade level on a separate, but attached sheet of paper.
3. Essays must be legible! Typed or printed double spaced is preferred, but neatly handwritten is acceptable.
4. **We encourage creative writing!**

A winning essay winner from each grade level will receive an appropriate \$25 award and certificate of achievement. All participating students will receive certificates of appreciation.