

CONTEST RULES

- A completed entry form must be attached to the back of the poster/essay.
- Poster size must be 14" x 22" (half size poster).
All other poster sizes will not be considered.
- The 2026 Stewardship theme "SOIL: Where it all Begins" MUST be included on the front side of the poster submission to be eligible for the contest.
- Be creative! You can use any media including paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials.
- NO staples, tacks or tape. NO fluorescent colored poster paper.
- All posters must be created by an individual student, rather than a team of students.
- Entry must be student's original creation and may not be traced from photographs or other artists' published work.
- The entry form must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian.



Please Check Appropriate Category:

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

Students Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

Poster Entry (This poster is the original work of the student named above.
Poster is 14"x22")

Essay Entry (This essay is the original work of this student.)

SCHOOL

School Name: _____ Phone: _____

Teacher/Contact: _____ Email Address: _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent Guardian Phone: _____ Email _____

POSTERS & ESSAYS ARE DUE:
THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH, 2026

Russell SWCD will accept applications at
1001 B 25th AVE. Phenix City, AL 36869.

Questions:

334-298-6925 EXT.3

russell.county.swcd@gmail.com



RUSSELL
COUNTY
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT



2026 POSTER & ESSAY CONTEST

Soil.
Where it all Begins



POSTER EVALUATION

Poster contest entries are reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Conservation message/poster uses correct theme: 50%
- Visual effectiveness-30%
- Originality-10%
- Universal appeal-10%

1st Place - \$50
2nd Place - \$30
3rd Place - \$25

Teachers: \$50/each student winner

ESSAY EVALUATION

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

1st Place - \$75
2nd Place - \$50
3rd Place - \$25

Teachers: \$50/each student winner



**RUSSELL
COUNTY
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

Who can participate?

The poster & essay contest is open to all public, private and home school students in Russell County. The poster contest is for kindergarten-12th grade students. The essay contest is for 7th-12th grade students only.

Why participate?

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

PRIZES

The contest starts at the District/County level; 1st place winners continue to advance to the area, state and national levels where they are eligible for additional prizes. Prizes will be given out for each category.

RUSSELL 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.