

We All Live in a Watershed

2025-26 Durham Soil and Water Essay Contest

Eligibility

Grade divisions for this contest are 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9-12th grade.

This contest is open to all public schools, private schools, homeschool students, and student clubs in Durham County.

Due Date

All contest entries are due to the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District office by **January 30, 2026, at 5 PM.**

You can drop off your entries at 201 E Main St, floor 5, Durham, NC 27701.

Essay Contest Details

Show off your creativity by participating in the 2025-26 Durham Soil and Water Conservation District's Conservation Creativity Contests!

This year's theme is: We All Live in a Watershed

While not everyone lives next to a lake, pond, or stream, we all live in a watershed. A watershed is an area of land that drains all the snow and rainfall to a common outlet, such as a lake.

Write an essay that explores watersheds. Use your creativity to explore the one you live in, tell others about watersheds, and more!

Students are encouraged to be original in their essay. The judges are looking for the entries that best convey the message to a viewer while being original and creative.

Official Rules

Essays must:

- Have NO NAMES ON THE FRONT. No exceptions!
- Bear the current title of the essay contest: "We All Live in a Watershed."
- Be limited to 300-500 words.
- Be presented on standard 8.5" x 11" paper.
- Be identified **on the back** using the entry form.
- Be the work of the individual student. No team entries are allowed.

Prizes

1st place: \$50, a certificate, and a yard sign.

2nd place: \$25, a certificate, and a yard sign.

Teachers: If your student wins 1st place, you will receive \$30!

Contact

Lisa Marochak
lmarochak@dconc.gov
919-560-0558.



Soil & Water

Official Rules - Essays: 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th - 12th Grades

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 - Bear the current title of the essay contest.
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 - Be presented on standard 8.5" x 11" paper.
 - Essays must be identified **on the back** using the attached entry form below.
 - Essays must be the work of the individual student. No team entries are allowed.
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Entry Form (attach to the back of essays)

2025-2026 ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM *(required)*

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student's Mailing Address: _____

Parent's Name and Email: _____

Educator's Name: _____

Educator's Phone #: _____

Educator's Email: _____

School Student Attends: _____

County: **DURHAM** District: **Durham Soil & Water**