

We All Live in a Watershed

2025-26 Durham Soil and Water Public Speaking Contest

Eligibility

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

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

Due Date

Entry forms are due to the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District office by **January 30, 2026, at 5 PM.** Speech performances will be scheduled for the following week. We'll do our best to accommodate people's schedules.

Email your entry form to Lisa Marochak at lmrochak@dconc.gov.

Public Speaking 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 a speech 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 speech. The judges are looking for the entries that best convey the message to a viewer while being original and creative.

Official Rules

Speeches must be:

- 4 to 6 minutes long. Over or under the limit will be penalized.
- Be a reflection of the current topic: Wetlands are Wonderful.
- To ensure impartiality in judging, personal information such as name, school, etc. shall not be stated during the speech. Infractions will be taken during scoring for violation of this rule.
- No visual aids are allowed. Note cards should only be used as a backup.
- Complete scoring criteria and rubrics are available upon request before the event.

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
lmrochak@dconc.gov
919-560-0558.



Soil & Water

Official Rules - Public Speaking: 7th, 8th, and 9th - 12th Grades

Speeches must be

- 4 to 6 minutes long. Over or under the limit will be penalized.
- Be a reflection of the current topic: "We all live in a watershed."
- In order to ensure impartiality in judging, personal information such as name, school, etc. shall not be stated during speech. Infractions will be taken during scoring for violation of this rule.
- No visual aids are allowed. Note cards should only be used as a backup.
- Complete scoring criteria and rubric are available upon request before the event.
- Email your entry form to lmrochak@dmnc.gov by January 30, 2026 at 5 PM. Public speaking presentations will be scheduled after entry forms are received.

Entry Form

2025-2026 PUBLIC SPEAKING 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**