

# PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

The Public Speaking Contest is sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conversation Districts (NCASWCD), which also sets the rules.

## **Eligible Titles:**

A set of titles has been selected by the Association's Education Committee and adopted by the Association. The approval titles and their rotation schedule is as follows:

2008-2009	Soil & Water.....Yours for Life
2009-2010	The Living Soil
2010-2011	Water.....the Cycle of Life
2011-2012	Wetlands are Wonderful
2012-2013	We all Live in a Watershed
2013-2014	Soil & Water.....Yours for Life

## **Participant Eligibility:**

Seventh grade competition is open to 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. The eighth grade competition is open to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## **Contest Cycle:**

Runs concurrently with the school year and takes place in participating Districts.

## **Contest Procedure:**

Contest will be conducted on the District, Area and State levels. District First Place winners will be eligible to enter Area Contests, and Area First Place winners will be eligible to enter the State contest. Each contest coordinator shall see that contestants and judges have a copy of the rules and shall urge them to study these rules, especially the sections on contest and judging criteria.

The contents and videotapes made of all speeches entered into District sponsored competition become the property of the respective District, Area or the Association. These entities are entitled to use the contents and video of these speeches for promotion of the Conservation District program.

## **Time Limit:**

The speech is limited from 4 to 6 minutes. If any speech is under 4 minutes or over 6 minutes, then 5 points will be subtracted from the final score by the judges. An official timekeeper will be appointed for all contests (District, Area, State).

## **Judging Criteria:**

The NCASWCD adopted a standard score card to be used for all contest levels. Students will be judged on content and speaking skills as described on the score sheet. Visual aids may not be used. Contestants shall identify themselves by their assigned number only or not at all. Personal information such as name, school and hometown cannot be given.

## **Infractions:**

Points will be deducted for the following infractions:



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**JUDGE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE: 7 8**

\*Students and judges should be informed of the judging criteria before the contest begins.

\*Perfect Score = 100 points (Total of CONTENT + SPEAKING SKILLS)

\*Infractions: Outside the 4-6 minute time limit: minus 5 points

Use of visual aids: minus 5 points

Gives personal identification: minus 5 points

\*A timekeeper will inform the judges of the contestants' official time.

CONTENT CRITERIA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>A. COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT (20 Points)</b> <i>Good choice of material, makes sense, factual, accurate, quotes are correct and appropriate, shows understanding of material, relevant to Soil and Water Conservation Contest theme</i>								
<b>B. ORGANIZATION (15 Points)</b> <i>Presented in meaningful order, shows continuity of ideas, uses orderly flow of thoughts, uses good transitions between thoughts</i>								
<b>C. ORIGINALITY (5 Points)</b> <i>Creative approach and effective use of material</i>								
<b>D. SKILLFUL USE OF FACTS, EXAMPLES, DESCRIPTIONS AND ANALOGIES (10 Points)</b> <i>Elements of the speech flow together well and contribute to the quality of the presentation. Facts, examples, descriptions and analogies add to the quality of the presented message</i>								
<b>CONTENT SUB-TOTAL</b>								

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<b>SPEAKING SKILLS CRITERIA</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>A. VOICE AND DICTION (15 Points)</b> <i>Quality and variety (not monotone), inflection, enunciation, pronunciation, proper emphasis, projection and control, appropriate volume</i>								
<b>B. STYLE (20 Points)</b> <i>Rapport with the audience, word selection, no distracting vocal mannerisms, appealing presentation</i>								
<b>C. BODY LANGUAGE (15 Points)</b> <i>Eye contact, posture and poise, hand gestures used with restraint and good taste</i>								
<b>SPEAKING SKILLS SUB-TOTAL</b>								
<b>STUDENT'S OFFICIAL TIME (must be within 4-6 minutes)</b>								

FINAL SCORING SECTION								
<b>CONTENT SUB-TOTAL</b>								
<b>+ SPEAKING SKILLS SUB-TOTAL</b>								
<b>= TOTAL</b>								
<b>- INFRACTIONS (if any, subtract points)</b>								
<b>= FINAL TOTAL</b>								

Revised 6/2004



**OUR GOAL:** North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts sponsors a public speaking contest at District, Area and State levels in order to give seventh and eighth grade students an opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of soil and water conservation while developing leadership and speaking skills which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

**DO:**

- ☺ Become familiar with the judging criteria on the 'Public Speaking Contest' score sheet
- ☺ Memorize your speech. Use of note cards is acceptable for back up.
- ☺ Dress appropriately (no costumes, logos or anything that would identify your school, hometown or county).
- ☺ Arrive early so you can relax and become comfortable with the microphone and podium.
- ☺ Make eye contact with the audience during your speech.
- ☺ Speeches may be video taped at the state contest; and area and district contests may also be recorded for use in Soil and Water Conservation District educational programs. Your parent will be asked to sign a form giving permission for videotaping and/or photographing during the event.
- ☺ Be sure to stay in range of the podium microphone while making your speech.
- ☺ Contact your local SWCD office if you have any questions about participating in the speech contest.

**DON'T:**

- ☹ Don't go under or exceed the time limit of 4-6 minutes. If any speech is under 4 minutes or over 6 minutes, 5 points will be subtracted from the final score by the judges.
- ☹ Don't use visual aids. 5 points will be subtracted from the final score by the judges if visual aids are used. If you have questions about what constitutes a visual aid, please ask.

- ⊗ Don't give personal information: 5 points will be subtracted from final score by the judges if personal information is given.
- ⊗ Don't make physical contact with the judges and/or audience.