

# New Jersey Conservation POSTER CONTEST



# 2026

Prizes for  
Statewide  
Competition

1st Place \$100  
2nd Place \$50  
3rd Place \$25



The New Jersey  
Conservation Poster  
Contest is open to all  
students in grades 2-12  
and students compete  
in grade categories.  
Local Soil Conservation  
District prizes may also  
be awarded!

## Contest Sponsors:

The NJ Department of Agriculture,  
the NJ Association of Conservation Districts, and  
your local Soil Conservation District

New Jersey Natural Resources  
Conservation Program



The Poster Contest is open to all students in grades 2-12 — public, private, home schooled and youth groups included.

## Why Participate?

Designing a poster and researching the theme can give you a voice in your community about important conservation issues. Good posters capture people's attention and deliver stories in a way that everyone can understand. A powerful graphic can inspire people to be concerned about conservation.

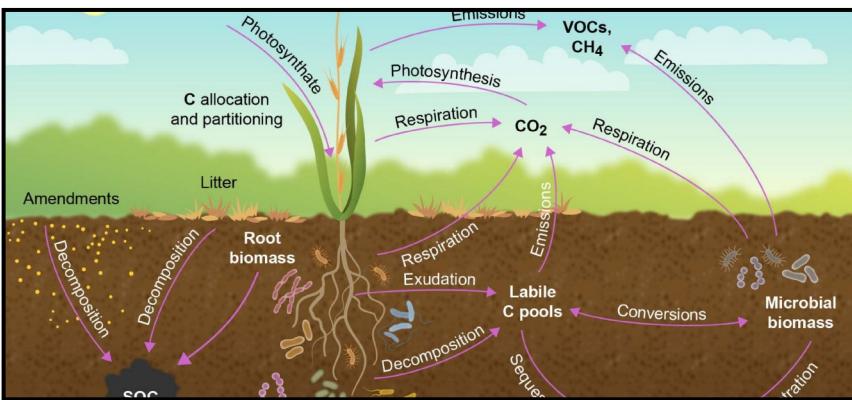
## Information Resources: *Soil. Where it all Begins*

You will want to learn all you can about the importance of healthy soil. Productive soils are the foundation of any healthy ecosystem. As the world's population grows and demand for food production increases, it's essential that we work together to protect and enhance our soils. Providing accurate information is essential. Find out about the soil in your area and see what your community is doing to help.

You can find resources at your school or public library, science books, local newspapers, nature centers and from the NACD website [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org) Stewardship & Education section. Get guidance from your teacher or parents to find information on the internet about soil.

### Web Resources:

- <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/>
- <https://www.nutrientsforlife.org/for-students>
- <http://www.soils4kids.org/about>
- <http://lifeunderyourfeet.org/en/soileco/intro/whatis.asp>
- <https://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-program/>
- <https://www.soils4teachers.org/soil-and-environment>
- <https://www.farmers.gov/conservation/soil-health>
- <https://www.soils.org/files/about-soils/soils-overview.pdf>
- <https://www.energy.gov/science/doe-explainssoil>
- <https://www.sare.org/resources/building-soils-for-better-crops/>
- <https://organiclandcare.rutgers.edu/guides/the-life-of-the-soil/>



## Online Tips for Creating an Effective Poster

The National Association of Conservation Districts at [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org) provides links to assist with creating posters. Click on the "Stewardship & Education" tab and find "Poster Contest" under "Contests" for an overview of the 2026 theme, and for tips on what makes a good poster and the National Visual Arts Standards.

## DID YOU KNOW.....

- There are 70,000 different types of soil in the U.S.
- 1 Tablespoon of soil has more organisms in it than there are people on earth.
- It takes 500 years to form one inch of topsoil
- There are 5,000 different types of bacteria in one gram of soil.
- 1,400,000 Earthworms that can be found in an acre of cropland.
- Soil is more than just one layer. It has multiple layers, just like a cake, that are called horizons.
- Only about 10% of Earth's land surface has suitable soil for producing our food supply, housing, cities, schools, hospitals, air to breath and more.
- 10 % of the world's carbon dioxide emissions are stored in soil.
- .01% of the earth's water is held in soil.



**NJ Soil Conservation Districts (SCD)** are special purpose subdivisions of the State. In cooperation with the State Soil Conservation Committee, they are empowered to conserve and manage soil and water resources and address stormwater, soil erosion and sedimentation problems that result from land disturbance activities. There are 13 Soil Conservation Districts in New Jersey. (See back page for list.)

In response to growing public concern for water quality, NJ conservation districts have become the primary local governmental agencies responsible for monitoring nonpoint sources of pollution associated with agriculture, construction and mining. The technical services of the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service and other resource agencies are made available through the districts.

# New Jersey Rules

These rules must be followed for your poster to be accepted by your local Soil Conservation District. Entries that do not conform to the rules will not be judged.

**Please review and follow your local Soil District rules for the deadline!**

1. Clearly print your name and information on the entry form AND tape the completed entry form to the back of your poster.
2. Tape a 1-3 sentence explanation of your poster, neatly written on a 3" x 5" or 4" x 6" index card, to the back of the poster. Be sure to write your name and county on the index card.
3. **Contest theme "Soil. Where it all Begins" must appear somewhere in your poster.** Leave a 1 inch border of white space at the edges of the poster; lettering should not run on to the edges.
4. The poster must be flat, no 3-D objects.
5. Poster size must be Poster size must be between 8.5" x 11" and 22" x 28".
6. Any medium may be used including paint, crayons, colored pencils, charcoal , paper or other materials. No collage or montage.
7. One poster per student.
8. The poster must be the original artwork of the student.
9. **ENTRY DEADLINE: See Local District Rules**
10. Decisions of the judges are final and all entries become the property of the contest sponsors.

## Poster Evaluations

Posters will be judged on the following criteria: Relevance to contest theme: **"Soil. Where it all Begins"**

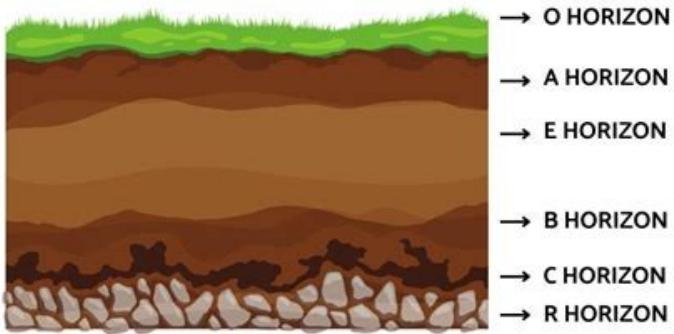
- Conservation message
- Visual effectiveness
- Originality
- Overall appeal

**CASH PRIZES** for the New Jersey Statewide competition are awarded by the:

New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts

First - \$100      Second - \$50      Third - \$25

## SOIL HORIZON LAYERS STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION



thecoolECO

## Local District Rules & Prizes

Contact your local district to verify participation (Page 4)

1. The teacher of each class/group participating in the contest is responsible for selecting one or two winning posters per class. Please do not send in posters from an entire class. (If you teach multiple classes you may submit posters from each class period.)
2. **Follow ALL the rules to the left.** The contest theme **"Soil. Where it all Begins"** must appear on the poster.
3. An entry form should be taped to the back of each poster along with a brief explanation of the poster written on an index card (also taped to the back of poster).

### Freehold SCD Prizes for Each Grade Category\*

1st Place	\$100
2nd Place	\$75
3rd Place	\$50

(Grade Categories are: 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12)

All first place winning entries are submitted to a State level competition.

**ENTRY DEADLINE** (Post-marked by): **March 31st, 2026**

Mail or deliver entries to:  
Freehold Soil Conservation District  
4000 Kozloski Road  
Monmouth County Agriculture Building  
Freehold, NJ 07728

**Questions?** Please contact Holly Reynolds at 732.683.8500 or email [hreynolds@freeholdscd.org](mailto:hreynolds@freeholdscd.org).  
Visit our website at [www.freeholdsoil.org](http://www.freeholdsoil.org) for additional information.

**New Jersey Association  
of  
Conservation  
Districts**

<http://www.njacd.org/>



# NEW JERSEY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

*Please contact your local SCD to verify their participation!*

**Bergen County SCD**

700 Kinderkamack Rd. Ste 103  
Oradell, NJ 07649  
(201) 261-4407  
[www.bergenscd.org](http://www.bergenscd.org)

**Burlington County SCD**

1971 Jacksonville Jobstown Rd.  
Columbus, NJ 08022  
(609) 267-7410  
[www.bscd.org](http://www.bscd.org)

**DelAtlantic SCD**

(Cape, Atlantic & Camden Counties)  
*Mays Landing Office Bldg.*  
6260 Old Harding Highway  
Mays Landing, NJ 08330  
(609) 625-3144  
*West Berlin Office Bldg.*  
408 Commerce Lane  
W. Berlin, NJ 08091  
(856) 767-6299  
[www.delatlantic.org](http://www.delatlantic.org)

**Cumberland-Salem SCD**

P. O. Box 68  
1516 Route 77  
Deerfield, NJ 08313  
(856) 451-2422  
<https://cumberlandsalem.org/>

**Freehold SCD**

(Monmouth & Middlesex Counties)  
4000 Kozloski Rd., Suite 5  
Freehold, NJ 07728  
(732) 683-8500  
[www.freeholdsoil.org](http://www.freeholdsoil.org)  
[info@freeholdscd.org](mailto:info@freeholdscd.org)

**Gloucester County SCD**

14 Parke Place, Suite B  
Sewell, NJ 08080  
(856) 589-5250  
[gloucester@glocesterscd.org](mailto:gloucester@glocesterscd.org)  
[www.glocesterscd.org](http://www.glocesterscd.org)

**Hudson, Essex, Passaic SCD**

80 Orchard St  
Bloomfield, NJ 07003  
(862) 333-4505  
<https://hepsoilnj.org/>

**Hunterdon County SCD**

687 Pittstown Road  
Frenchtown, NJ 08825  
(908) 788-9466  
<https://hcscd.weebly.com/>

**Mercer County SCD**

590 Hughes Drive  
Hamilton Square, NJ 08690  
(609) 586-9603  
[www.mercerscd.org](http://www.mercerscd.org)

**Morris County SCD**

P.O. Box 900, 30 Schuyler Place  
Morristown, NJ 07960-0900  
(973) 285-2953  
[www.mcsd.org](http://www.mcsd.org)

**Ocean County SCD**

714 Lacey Road  
Forked River, NJ 08731  
(609) 971-7002  
[www.soildistrict.org](http://www.soildistrict.org)

**Somerset-Union SCD**

**Somerset County**  
308 Milltown Road 4-H Bldg.  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
(908) 526-2701  
[soilconservation@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:soilconservation@co.somerset.nj.us)

**Upper Delaware SCD**

(Warren & Sussex Counties)  
P.O. Box 198  
51 Main Street, Suite B  
Blairstown, NJ 07825  
(908) 852-2579  
[www.upperdelawarescd-nj.com](http://www.upperdelawarescd-nj.com)



## 2026 Poster Contest Entry Form

*Attach this form to back of each poster*



Circle Your Grade Category: 2nd—3rd   4th—6th   7th—9th   10th—12th

Your County Soil Conservation District: (see above) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ NJ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Winners will be notified by email, if possible. Please neatly print a suitable email address:**

If your poster was created through a school project or assignment please complete teacher & school information.

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ NJ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I certify that this poster is the original artwork of the student named above. Parent OR Teacher Must Sign.**

Signature  Parent       OR Teacher

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_