

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:

2005 - 2006	Water.....the Cycle of Life
2006 - 2007	Wetlands are Wonderful
2007 - 2008	We all Live in a Watershed
2008 - 2009	Soil & Water.....Yours for Life
2009 - 2010	The Living Soil
2010 - 2011	Water----the Cycle of Life

Participant Eligibility:

Seventh grade competition is open to 7th grade students. The eighth grade competition is open to 8th 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.

