



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.