

Is Proud to Sponsor the

2024 Poster Contest: “MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU ALWAYS”



Under the theme "May the Forest Be with You, Always," this poster guide seeks to emphasize the interconnectedness between forests, conservation, and our collective responsibility to safeguard these vital ecosystems. As conservation districts, we play a crucial role in educating the public about the importance of forest conservation.

The Education Guide provides comprehensive lessons and resources, enabling conservation districts to deliver impactful education on forest conservation. It covers a wide range of topics, including the importance of forests, forest ecosystems and biodiversity, sustainable forestry practices, and the challenges faced by our forests. With this guide, we aim to inspire the next generation to appreciate and actively participate in the conservation of our forests. By equipping educators

with the necessary tools, we can empower students to become informed advocates for sustainable land management and the preservation of our natural resources.

The theme carries a message of respect, appreciation, and harmony with nature, specifically highlighting the forest environment. It suggests that we should recognize the value of forests and the benefits they provide to us and for our future generations. By saying "May the forest be with you, always," it's a way of expressing a desire for people to be mindful of forests and to maintain a strong connection with nature. It encourages us to protect and preserve these important natural resources so that they can continue to thrive and benefit us in the long run.

Forests are vital ecosystems that support diverse plant and animal life. They provide clean air and water, give us food, fuel, and other forest products, as well as help combat climate change by absorbing/capturing carbon dioxide. They offer recreational opportunities, serve as habitats for wildlife, and contribute to the overall well-being of the planet.



Indian River Soil and Water CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1800 27th Street, Building B (2nd Floor) Vero Beach, Florida 32960
Phones: (772) 226-4397 FAX: (772) 226-1740

CONTEST RULES

Eligibility:

The Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Poster Contest is open to all Indian River County Students in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. Students attending public, private, or home school, 4-H, or other Organizations may participate. (**Individual Posters only accepted.**)

Details and Requirements:

- **Poster size must be 11" x 17" (NEW SIZE).** Any other size will not be submitted to the State or National contest, and therefore will not be accepted for the local competition. Artwork entered into State Competition must be judged at an Area Meeting poster contest.
- Turn poster in on time for judging. The local entry **Submission deadline: On or before Friday, March 15, 2024 – 4:00 P.M.**
- Securely attach by tape the "Poster Entry Form" on the back of each poster and be sure it is signed by a parent or guardian and **that EVERY part of the Entry Form is completed.**
- Any media may be used to create a flat poster: paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper, or other materials.
- All posters must be created by an individual student, rather than a team of students. Entry must be contestant's original creation and may not be traced from photographs or other artists' published works
- **The 2024 Stewardship theme "May the Forest Be With You Always" must be included on the front side of each poster submission to be eligible.**
- Only official state poster contest sponsors can submit entries for the national contest.
- **Three Contest Categories:** K - 1st Grade; 2nd – 3rd Grade; 4th – 5th Grade
- **District Level Awards:** Gift Cards will be awarded per Category:
First Place - \$75.00 Second Place - \$50.00 Third Place – \$25.00
- **2024 Teacher Award:** The Teacher that submits the most **eligible** posters will receive a \$50.00 Gift Card.





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What Makes a Good Poster?

- Attracts attention
- Is simple and concise
- Uses colors and white space effectively
- Text is large enough to be easily read

Where to Start:

- Research the topic of the theme
- Brainstorm ideas and make a list
- Use the theme as your title: **“May the Forest Be With You Always”**
- Look around your community for ideas.
- Talk to professionals in the industry.
- Research Forests online and use the information found on your poster.



What makes a Poster ineligible for competition? What should I avoid?

- Ineligible: **Posters smaller than 11” x 17” will not be considered for competition.**
- Ineligible: Missing signature, not complete registration form.
- Ineligible: Posters that do not include the topic title – **“May the Forest Be With You Always”**
- Ineligible: Staples, tacks, or tape make winning posters very difficult to mail - please do not use these materials.
- Ineligible: Fluorescent-colored poster board.
- Ineligible: Your parent or others drawing your poster for you to color in (all submissions must be entirely completed by the student!).
- Ineligible: Submission after the deadline of March 15, 2024 – 4:00 P.M.
- Avoid: trying to include too many ideas. A single message – clearly illustrated – is most effective.

Judging Criteria

- Conservation message – 50 percent (Poster uses correct theme)
- Visual effectiveness – 30 percent
- Originality – 10 percent
- Universal appeal – 10 percent

*Additional information and resources may be found at:
<https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/stewardship-week/>



Deliver to the Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Office

Deadline: Received on or before Friday, March 15, 2024 – 4:00 P.M.

For any questions, please contact Linda Caggiano (772) 226-4397; lcaggiano@indianriver.gov visiting our website: www.indianriverswcd.org