



2026 CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST

The Conservation Poster Contest is an annual event sponsored by Soil and Water Conservation Districts nationwide. This contest provides young people with an avenue to gain a better appreciation for our environment and share this caring sentiment through artwork. Franklin Soil and Water is proud to host a local contest in conjunction with the national event.

2026 Poster Contest Theme: *Soil. Where It All Begins.*

This theme celebrates the incredible power of soil to support life in all its forms. Soil is not just the ground we walk on. It is the starting point for healthy food, clean water, thriving habitats, and resilient communities. From backyard gardens to forests and city parks, everything begins with what is beneath our feet. Soil does a lot more than grow plants. It holds water, cycles nutrients, and provides homes for billions of living organisms that help keep nature in balance. It keeps our roots in place, helps prevent flooding, and supports wildlife and people alike. The trees in our neighborhoods, the food on our tables, and the natural places we love all depend on healthy soils.

Soil.
Where it all Begins



Check out the National Association of Conservation Districts website with more resources for the 2026 Poster Contest.

Please note these important Franklin County Contest dates:

Contest will run from **January 12 – April 10, 2026**

Registration Deadline: **Friday, March 6, 2026** Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/zJRxBbSbGq8JL7rt5>

Google Drive Links Sent: **Friday, March 27, 2026**

Submission Deadline for Top Entries*: **Monday, April 13, 2026**

*Teachers, please submit no more than **5 total posters per category** (K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12 and 7-12 Digital).

Posters Judged by Franklin SWCD Staff: Week of April 13th.

Winners Announced: Week of April 20th.

County winners will be recognized at an Awards Ceremony in early May.

For additional information visit our website

Click here to register your class or youth group to participate in the contest

Questions: Contact Linda Pettit or Katie Bennett

Linda Pettit, Environmental Education Specialist
lpettit@franklinswcd.org 614-486-9613 ext. 115

Katie Bennett, Environmental Education Assistant
kbennett@franklinswcd.org 614-486-9613 ext. 122

2026 CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST

WHAT: Posters created by students that share an environmental message with the local community

WHEN: Contest runs Monday, January 12th - Friday, April 10th

Registration Deadline: Friday, March 6, 2026 Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/zJRxRbSbGq8JL7rt5>

WHO: Franklin County youth: school, scout groups, youth groups or homeschool students in grades K-12.

THEME: The 2026 theme is ***Soil. Where It All Begins.*** This theme celebrates the incredible power of soil to support life in all its forms. It is the starting point for healthy food, clean water, thriving habitats, and resilient communities. From backyard gardens to forests and city parks, everything begins with what is beneath our feet. Soil does a lot more than grow plants. It keeps our roots in place, helps prevent flooding, and supports wildlife and people alike. The trees in our neighborhoods, the food on our tables, and the natural places we love all depend on healthy soils.

RULES:

- **Students grades K-12** create a poster on any type of 8 1/2" x 11" paper, to further the conservation message you are encouraged to reuse paper that has been used on one side. Any form of coloring, writing, painting, drawing or collage may be used. No pictures of commercial origin are permitted.

Middle & High Students (Grades 7-12): In addition to the hand drawn competition, there will be a separate *Digital Contest* for those interested in creating an original poster, with original artwork, using a digital format/device. These posters will be judged using the same criteria outlined below.

Braille Poster Contest, inspired by a creative 6th-grade student from Tuscola Conservation District, Michigan. This inclusive competition invites blind and low-vision students in grades K-12 to participate, promoting accessibility and a fair experience. Contestants may use braille as well as written lettering and art to create posters that champion natural resource conservation, ensuring equal opportunities for all students, regardless of their visual abilities.

Additional Assist Contest is open to all students who may benefit from additional assistance in completing their posters. This contest promotes accessibility and embraces diversity by providing a platform for students of varying abilities to express their creativity and advocate for natural resource conservation.

- The theme: ***"Soil. Where It All Begins."*** must be included in the poster design.
- Include on the back of the poster: Student **name, grade, school/group, and teacher's/leader's name.**
- Posters may be submitted via mail, in person or Google Drive.

Mail/In-Person: Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
1404 Goodale Boulevard, Suite 100 Columbus, OH 43212

Google Drive: During registration, indicate if you would like to submit your posters electronically. A Google Drive link with instructions will be emailed to you on March 27th.
Student files should be saved/named: ***Student Name-Grade-School-Teacher Name.***

- Each teacher will select the top 5 posters per class/group/category to submit to the county-wide competition.
- The posters will be judged according to the following categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12 and 7-12 Digital
- Posters will be judged on the following criteria:
50% Conservation Message 30% Visual Effectiveness 10% Originality 10% Universal Appeal
- Winning posters may be copied and used in Franklin Soil and Water promotional materials/press releases.

AWARDS: County winners will receive certificates of recognition, prizes and an invitation to the Awards Ceremony. Winning posters may be displayed at county-wide events, municipal meetings and through electronic media displays.