



2025 Essay Contest

Rules:

The Essay Contest is open to any 5th – 8th grade student in Anderson County. Essays are the original work of the individual student and should be 500-750 words in length. Essays may be typed or neatly handwritten on the front side of the paper only. Only legible essays will be considered. Each essay should have the provided cover letter attached to the front, students' names **should not** appear on the essay itself. Each teacher must select **ONLY the three best essays** in his/her class for judging. If submitting essays from multiple classes of the same grade level, you are allowed to submit the 3 best essays from **each** class for judging.

Topic Guidelines:

This year's theme highlights the vital role native habitats play in sustaining biodiversity, storing carbon, and protecting soil and water resources. When animals, plants, and aquatic life have healthy habitats, it benefits us all by ensuring ecosystem stability, enhancing natural beauty, supporting clean air and water, and creating a resilient and sustainable environment.



Write an essay that focuses on this topic and helps to explain why habitats have such important roles in sustaining our planet. Be creative with your essay and if you need more resources on the topic, visit the NACD website [Stewardship Week - NACD \(nacdnet.org\)](http://Stewardship Week - NACD (nacdnet.org)).

Prizes: Winners from each grade level will be awarded certificates and monetary prizes.

1 st Place:	\$75
2 nd Place:	\$50
3 rd Place:	\$25

Deadline: Friday March 28, 2025

All essays should be received at the Anderson Soil & Water Conservation District office by the deadline. This can be via email or hard copies. Please contact Ann Marie Pauley if you have any questions or need further information.



2025 Essay Contest Cover Sheet

Student's Name: _____

School Name: _____

Grade: _____ Teacher's Name: _____

Teacher Email Address: _____

Student Home Address: _____

Checklist (all items must be met in order to be judged):

- Essay is my original work
- Essay is between 500 – 750 words in length
- Essay is typed or handwritten only on the front side of the paper
- My name only appears on the cover letter, not on/in the Essay