



2024 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 theme underscores the critical interplay between soil and water conservation and the resilience of our forests. Forests play multifaceted roles in sustaining our planet, serving as sources of oxygen, carbon storage, and vibrant hubs of biodiversity. They function as steadfast protectors of soil and water resources, preventing erosion, purifying contaminants, and nurturing healthy watersheds. In today's context, marked by environmental challenges, resilient forests are indispensable in fostering a sustainable world. The phrase "[May the Forest Be with You, Always](#)" signifies our commitment to responsible forest stewardship, emphasizing their enduring strength and adaptability.



Write an essay that focuses on this topic and helps to explain why forests are such an important part of the multifaceted 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://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 22nd, 2024

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 Anaston Porter if you have any questions or need further information.



2024 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