



2026 Photo Contest

Theme:

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 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. When we take care of soil, we are taking care of everything it supports. That is why soil is where it all begins.



Rules:

- Open to any 9th – 12th grade student in Anderson County.
- Photos must be the original work of the individual student.
- Photos should be taken in Anderson County and the photographer must reside in Anderson County.
- Each photo must contain the following information on a label on the back of the photo:
 - **Photographer's name, address, and phone number**
 - **Photographers school name and grade level**
 - **Name of each person(s) in photo, if any**
 - **Address where the photo was taken**
- **Color photos in 5" x 7" only** must be submitted. All photos submitted must be in hard copy and .jpg file form on CD, flash drive, google drive shared document or via email. Image files must have the first and last name of the person submitting it. *Framed or matted photos will not be accepted.*
- Each participant may enter only one photo.
- Photos will be judged on effectiveness of conveying theme, composition, and originality.
- Photo becomes the property of Anderson Soil & Water Conservation District; they reserve the right to use all photos in their publications and for conservation promotion purposes (with credit line given). Participants should keep extra prints of their photos.
- Any missing information not provided as listed above will be disqualified.

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

Deadline: Entries must be received by **March 27, 2026** at the Anderson Soil & Water Conservation District Office.