

# 2024 STEWARDSHIP WEEK POSTER AND PHOTO CONTESTS



**The National Association of Conservation Districts  
will host the 68th Annual Stewardship Week  
April 28 to May 5, 2024**

The theme is  
“May the Forest be with You, Always”

**CONTEST CATEGORIES**

Hand Drawn Poster  
Braille Poster  
Additional Assist Poster  
Digital Poster (Graphic Arts)  
Photo

Visit our contests page for contest rules:  
[nacdnet.org/contests](http://nacdnet.org/contests)

*“If we are bold in our thinking, courageous in accepting new ideas, and willing to work with instead of against our land, we shall find in conservation farming an avenue to the greatest food production the world has ever known.”*

*~ Hugh Hammond Bennett*

Bennett was a champion of soil conservation and served as the first chief of the Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and is known as "The Father of Soil Conservation."



# "WITH THE FOREST, THE FUTURE IS."

Download Free Education Materials at:

<https://www.nacdnet.org/conservation-education-hub/curriculum-3/>



# What is Stewardship Week?

NACD Stewardship Week is one of the largest national programs to promote natural resource conservation. Celebrated annually since 1955 between the last Sunday in April and the first Sunday in May, NACD Stewardship Week reminds us of our individual responsibilities to care for natural resources. Conservation districts across the United States take part in the Stewardship Week Celebration through educational events, celebrations and contests.

## Poster and Photo Contests

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) joins your Conservation District to host the Annual Photo, Poster, and Digital Poster (Graphic Arts) Contests as part of its comprehensive effort to promote natural resource conservation education across the United States through local-level conservation districts, auxiliary or state conservation associations.

### What is the timeline for the contest?

- February 20 through December 1 annually.
- Release date for 2024 poster contest materials is November 15, 2023.
- Need materials earlier for 2025? Send us an email so we can assist you!

***Next, let's understand the benefits of contest participation a little better..***

## **Education and Awareness:**

- The contests encourage participants, especially students, to engage with the subject matter of natural resource conservation actively. By creating visual art, participants learn about the importance of conserving natural resources, such as soil, water, wildlife, and forests. This educational aspect fosters a deeper understanding of environmental issues and their relevance to daily life.

## **Community Involvement:**

- The contests provide an avenue for community engagement. Local conservation districts and state associations often organize and support these events, creating opportunities for communities to come together, share knowledge, and collaborate on conservation efforts. This fosters a sense of community ownership and responsibility for the environment.

## **Communication and Outreach:**

- Visual art is a powerful medium for communication. It can convey complex environmental concepts in a simple and compelling way. The contests enable participants to express their thoughts and ideas about conservation effectively, raising awareness about conservation issues among a broader audience.

## **Youth Involvement:**

- By targeting students and young artists, the contests nurture the next generation of environmental stewards. It instills a sense of responsibility and empowers young people to take an active role in protecting the environment. Engaging youth in conservation efforts is essential for ensuring a sustainable future.

## **Local-Level Impact:**

- Local conservation districts are at the forefront of conservation efforts, working directly with landowners and communities. The contests help these districts build relationships with their communities and engage them in conservation practices at the grassroots level. This local involvement is critical for the success of conservation initiatives.

## **Promotion of Creativity:**

- Artistic expression fosters creativity and innovation. Encouraging participants to create visual representations of conservation concepts allows for unique and imaginative approaches to the topic. This creativity can lead to novel solutions and ideas for addressing environmental challenges.

## National Recognition

Winning entries often receive national recognition, which can be a powerful motivator for participants. It showcases their talent and dedication to conservation on a larger stage, inspiring others to get involved. What are the other benefits of national recognition? Involvement in these contests bolsters scholarship and grant applications by:

- Skill Demonstration: Showcases creativity, artistry, and effective communication – qualities valued by scholarship committees.
- Leadership & Initiative: Signals initiative and proactive engagement, traits highly sought after.
- Standout Achievement: Sets applicants apart in competitive fields, giving an edge in selections.
- Relevance to Studies: Reflects dedication to their field, bolstering commitment and passion.
- Networking: Opens doors to industry connections and mentorship opportunities.
- Writing & Presentation Skills: Enhances application abilities for essays and statements.
- Confidence Boost: Positively influences interviews and grant presentations.
- Financial Support: May qualify for specialized awards in arts, sciences, or conservation.
- Merit Indicator: Demonstrates merit, a crucial factor in many scholarship assessments.
- Prestigious Recognition: Awards add prestige and memorability to applications.



# **CONTEST CATEGORIES**

**Hand Drawn Poster**

**Braille Poster**

**Additional Assist Poster**

**Digital Poster (Graphic Arts)**

**Photo**

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# *Expanding to Serve: Empowering All Voices*

**NACD is committed to fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity within our programs. We recognize the importance of welcoming students from diverse backgrounds and varying abilities. Our goal is to ensure that every student, regardless of their unique challenges or abilities, has the opportunity to engage, learn, and contribute meaningfully to our conservation efforts.**

## **Braille Poster Contest**

New to 2024! Introducing the NACD Braille Poster Contest, a new addition 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, using braille to create posters that champion natural resource conservation.

## **Additional Assist Poster Contest**

Introducing the NACD Inclusive Poster Contest, 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. Participants are encouraged to create posters that celebrate inclusivity and the beauty of our environment.

## **Hand Drawn Poster**

- NACD invites artistic expression for students of all abilities in grades K-12th. Participants use traditional hand-drawn techniques to craft visually captivating posters that convey the NACD contest theme. Originality is key, and all artwork must be entirely created by individual students.

## **Digital Poster (Graphic Arts)**

- NACD's Digital Poster Contest for 7th-12th graders welcomes digital artistry. Use graphic arts programs to create posters featuring the NACD contest theme, but remember, no copyrighted content outside of the NACD logo.

## **Photo**

- The annual Photo Contest, open to all amateur photographers who reside in the U.S. or its territories. Contestants are allowed to enter as many as five photos each year that each fit into one of the following four categories:

**Conservation Practices**

**Close-up Conservation**

**Conservation in Action**

**Agriculture and Conservation Across America**

# How do I submit my posters?

1. All entries at the local and state-level contest must be submitted with a **Local to State Form** along with a **Contest Entry Form** by the due dates set by your local conservation district.
2. Find contact information for your local conservation district on NACD's Conservation District Directory.
3. All poster submissions must be sponsored by a local conservation district.
4. Posters for the national contest will only be accepted from state poster contest organizers.
5. All State to National entries must be submitted through:  
[https://nacd.formstack.com/forms/2023\\_nacd\\_poster\\_contest\\_submission\\_form](https://nacd.formstack.com/forms/2023_nacd_poster_contest_submission_form).
6. Please note that although you do not need to include the original contest entry form with the national submission, you will need to attest that you have obtained the written permission of the student's parent/legal guardian for the poster to be used for educational/promotional purposes.
7. Only electronic submissions are accepted – photos or scanned copies of the hand-drawn posters.
8. The electronic submission should capture the original poster without editing, and images should be clear (not blurry), well-lit and well-framed.
9. Name the JPG/PDF file for the poster submitted in the following format: State\_Category\_FirstLastName of the winner (Ex: Maryland\_10-12\_JoPerson).

**Find all forms and additional information here:**  
**<https://www.nacdnet.org/contests/>**

# How do I submit my photos?

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2. Conservation Practices, Close-up Conservation, Conservation in Action, Agriculture and Conservation Across America
3. Photos are judged on technical merit and composition.
4. One winner will be selected for each category and age division (adults are 19 and older as of December 1, 2024.)
5. ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS: Complete and submit this entry form for each photo you would like to enter into the contest. Photo submissions should be uploaded through the form. Photos must be in a JPG, PNG or TIFF file format. Please note, that although you do not need to submit a photo release form or subject and model release form along with your photo, you will need to attest that these forms have been completed.
6. Minor digital enhancements for cropping, red-eye removal, filters and corrective functions are permitted; however, an image judged to be significantly altered may be disqualified.
7. Contestants are not permitted to place borders, frames or backgrounds around their images or to place watermarks, dates, signatures or copyright images onto photos.
8. Previously published photos are not eligible for the NACD Photo Contest.
9. All emailed photo files must be named by category, age division, last name, state and photo number. If you are submitting only one photo in a category, your photo number is "1." Additional photos in the same category should be numbered consecutively.

**Find all forms and additional information here:**  
**<https://www.nacdnet.org/contests/>**

# Helpful Links



Natural Resources Conservation Service

**NRCS**



**National Association  
Conservation District**



**Forest Service**



**Project  
Learning Tree**



**NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE FORESTERS**



**Tree  
Foundation**



SFI-00001

**SUSTAINABLE  
FORESTRY INITIATIVE**

**Arbor Day  
Foundation**



**US Fish and  
Wildlife Service**



# What's new in 2024?

- Education and Lesson Plan Guide (25 lesson plans)
- Activity Pages (11 x 17 inch)
- Coloring pages, Bookmark, rack cards, banner
- Personalized service on printed materials. (add your logo! FREE!)
- Many new catalog items!
- Free embroidery with each item on marketplace! (Clothing)

**FOREST HABITATS**

**DESIGNING AND CONSTRUCTING THE HABITAT:**

- Provide students with additional materials brought from home or provided in the classroom (e.g., craft paper, cardboard, fabric, cotton balls) to complement their natural materials.
- Encourage students to plan and design their habitat, considering the specific needs and characteristics of their assigned animal.
- Assist students as needed in cutting, shaping, and assembling the materials to create the habitat.

**INCORPORATING ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS:**

Instruct students to ensure their habitat includes the necessary elements for their animal to survive, such as food sources (e.g., leaves, flowers, nuts), water sources (e.g., small bowls or puddles), hiding spots, and appropriate camouflage.

**Habitats Presentations Today!**

Habitats have:

- 1) Space
- 2) Shelter from elements
- 3) Food and water
- 4) Camouflage for protection

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:**

- Give students the chance to present their habitat.
- Encourage each student to share how their habitat meets their assigned animal's needs.
- Allow time for questions and discussion.
- Engage students in a class discussion on the importance of habitats for animals and the environment.

**MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU ALWAYS**

**GRADES K-8**

2024 EDUCATION AND LESSON PLANS GUIDE

**The Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Forestry Conservation**

**PRIMARY Kindergarten - 2nd**  
Duration: 45 Minutes

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Students will be able to define the three R's of reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Students will be able to identify examples of how to reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Students will be able to explain the importance of forestry conservation.

**COLLECTION TO STANDARDS:**

- Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
  - 1-ESS1-1: Ask questions about the natural world.
  - 2-ESS1-1: Make observations and measurements to gather information about the natural world.
- Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
  - CC.ELA.LITERACY.W.1.4: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and related information, and analyze a subject and issue, when appropriate.

**Introduction:** Use the three R's Presentation provided to introduce the concept of forestry conservation. Discuss how the three R's can be applied to forestry conservation.

**Instructors' PPT Presentation:**

"Hello, everyone. Today, I'm going to talk about how the forestry conservation can be applied to the three R's of reduce, reuse, and recycle can be applied to forestry conservation."

- Forests are important for many reasons. They provide us with oxygen, clean water, and a place to prevent erosion. Unfortunately, forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate.
- This is due to a number of factors, including deforestation, wildfires, and climate change.
- We can all do our part to help conserve forests.
- One way to do this is by following the "THREE R's".

**PROJECT: UNCLEYED WALKING OR HIKING STICK**

**Find the pieces of wood that you want to use for walking sticks.**

- Look for fallen branches. This is the most common way to find wood for a walking stick. You can find fallen branches in parks, forests, or even your back yard.
- Check with your local outdoor recreation manager or park department if they have any rules for you. You also ask your local forestry department if they have any rules for you.
- Avoid using wood from trees that are near power lines or other structures.
- An alternative to using a pre-made walking stick is to use a branch from a tree that has fallen.

**Creating the Stick:**

1. Cut the wood to the desired length. The length should be just above the shoulder.
2. Sand the wood to smooth it out. Use a sandpaper to smooth the wood. You can use a hand saw to cut the wood into the desired length.
3. Whittle the stick into the desired shape. You can use a hand saw to cut the wood into the desired length.
4. Paint the stick with a natural paint. You can use a hand saw to cut the wood into the desired length.
5. Let the stick dry for a few days.

**FOREST CONSERVATION: EMPOWERING ACTIONS**

Have conservation matters to your local community, even if you are not a member?

**Find Visual Presentation:**

Use the sample posters created by previous Stewardship Week contest winners by following the QR code or use this link: <https://www.nacodist.org/contests/stewardship-week/2023/2023090555>

**National Association of Conservation Districts helps our conservation district educate students through this contest. The poster you will create is not about being the best at it, it's all about using your creativity to raise awareness about conservation and the incredible work of conservation districts in our communities.**

Conservation districts help protect our forests, wildlife, and natural resources, and they play a crucial role in making sure our environment stays healthy and vibrant for future generations.

- Show the contest guidelines and rules on a slide or poster.
- "For this contest, you get to create your own posters with eye-catching designs and powerful messages about the importance of conservation. You can use colors, drawings, and even words to share your ideas! You'll have the chance to express what you've learned about forests and conservation in a fun and artistic way."
- "I've set up a poster-making station right here in our classroom! You'll have access to various art supplies to help you bring your ideas to life. Feel free to let your imagination run wild!"
- Emphasize the contest timeline and submission process.
- "Remember, the deadline for submissions is (insert date here). Once you've finished your masterpiece, we'll collect all the posters and send them to our local participating district for the contest. There's a chance your artwork could be recognized and shared with people from all over the country!"
- Conclude with encouragement and motivation.
- "I'm so excited to see what incredible posters you'll create."

**What is Stewardship Week?**  
NACD Stewardship Week is one of the largest national programs to promote natural resource conservation. Celebrated annually since 1955, conservation districts across the country participate between the last Sunday in April and the first Sunday in May. NACD Stewardship Week results in a wide range of educational and conservation activities for natural resources.

**Why Stewardship Week?**  
Each spring, NACD and resource districts host outreach events to raise awareness about natural resource conservation. Stewardship Week sees local districts and state associations educating the public on soil health, water quality, pollinator habitat, and more through classroom activities, field visits, and community events.

**NATURAL RESOURCES PARTNERSHIPS FOR CONSERVATION**

**PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION:**

- Provide each group with a problem-solving worksheet.
- Assign students to brainstorm and identify a specific forest conservation challenge they want to address.
- Encourage creativity and emphasize the importance of identifying a problem they can realistically solve within their classroom context.
- Remind students to consider the roles and responsibilities of their assigned partner when proposing a solution.
- Encourage students to identify potential challenges and ensure they are able to address them.
- Encourage students to come up with practical solutions that can be implemented within their school or community.

**ACTION PLANNING:**

- Guide students to develop an action plan to address the identified problem.
- Have students identify and assign roles to each member of their group.
- Encourage collaboration and remind students to consider the roles and responsibilities of their assigned partner.
- Have students identify and assign roles to each member of their group.
- Encourage students to identify potential challenges and ensure they are able to address them.
- Encourage students to come up with practical solutions that can be implemented within their school or community.

**CONCLUSION:**

- Assign students to prepare their presentations.
- Encourage students to identify potential challenges and ensure they are able to address them.
- Encourage students to come up with practical solutions that can be implemented within their school or community.

**MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU ALWAYS**

**POSTER, PHOTO AND DIGITAL PHOTO CONTEST 2024**

**GRADES K-12**

Find out more: [www.nacodist.org/contests/](http://www.nacodist.org/contests/)

**MINI MATCH-UP FOREST ACTIVITY CARDS**

Includes a QR code to scan and a dog illustration.

**MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU ALWAYS**

The phrase 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 future generations.

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 carbon dioxide. They offer recreational opportunities, serve as habitats for wildlife, and contribute to the overall well-being of the planet.

By saying "May the forest be with you always," it's a way of expressing a desire to protect and preserve these important natural resources so that they can continue to thrive and benefit us in the long run.

Forests are invaluable for conserving natural resources; they prevent soil erosion, filter and purify water, and provide critical habitat for many species. May the forest be with you always is a reminder of the importance of protecting and conserving these vital resources to ensure a sustainable future for all.

National Association of Conservation Districts Stewardship Week 2024

**NACD logo are the most visible assets we have as an organization. Their simple design is memorable and classic, and foundational to our brand identity. Help us maintain the effectiveness of NACD’s Conservation “C” and full logo by using them consistently and correctly, as laid out in the guidelines below.**

**You can also review the webinar on the branding guidelines by clicking [here](#).**

**PLEASE DO NOT:**

**Recreate either logo.**

**Stretch, compress, or distort either logo.**

**Use a screenshot of either logo for a print publication.**

**Enlarge either logo until it becomes “grainy” or distorted.**

**Add elements or lines to either logo.**

**Modify either logo’s colors.**

**If you have questions about appropriate applications for NACD logos, please contact the NACD Communications Team: [info@nacdnet.org](mailto:info@nacdnet.org)**



**National Association of  
Conservation Districts**

