

Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District 2016 Essay Contest



Trees are an important part of our daily lives. They absorb carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) and give us oxygen to breathe. Trees make our environment beautiful with their different colors, flowers and shapes and they provide us with shade and relief from the sun's heat and harmful rays. Trees help absorb the rain and help stabilize the weather. Trees are very important to us!

Open to 5th - 8th grade students

Essay Contest Rules:

- The essay topic for this year is “**We All Need Trees**”
- Contest is open to any Greenville County student in 5th – 8th grade or equivalent.
- Essay length:
 - 350-400 words for 5th & 6th graders
 - 600-750 words for 7th & 8th graders
- Essays must be typed or hand written (in ink) on one side of the paper
- **Punctuation and grammar count! Make sure your essay is double checked for errors!**
- You **MUST** have a **TITLE** page as your first page with the following information:
Student name; home mailing address; email address; name of school; name of teacher; and grade level
Please make certain that an up to date email is provided so that we can contact winners!
- **Essay may address ANY or ALL of the following:**
 - Why do we all need trees?
 - What would our lives be like without trees?
 - How do trees affect my life?
 - What are the parts of a tree?
 - What types of animals rely on trees?
 - What types of trees are native to Greenville County?
 - What can we do to help trees to thrive?
 - Tell us about an unusual tree fact
 - What is your favorite tree and why?

BE CREATIVE! The winners each year have shown a level of creativity and content over and above the average. Tell a personal story or anecdote to make your essay stand out in a crowd!

3 awards in each grade level- \$50 cash prize per student
Special “thank you” gifts for teachers of award winners

Deadline: 4:30 PM on Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Please mail or hand-deliver entries to:

Essay Contest
Greenville Soil & Water Conservation District
301 University Ridge, Ste. 4800
Greenville, SC 29601



Questions about the essay or contest?

Contact Lynn Pilewski at
864-467-2755 ext.103 or
lpilewski@greenvillecounty.org

Essay Contest Resources

Visit the websites below when researching information related to your essay. Check your local library for more resources on the importance of forests.

The Benefits of Trees:

U.S. Forestry Service

www.fs.fed.us/learn/trees

Grow Trees

http://www.grow-trees.com/why_trees/about_trees.aspx

TreePeople

<http://www.treepeople.org/resources/tree-benefits>

North Carolina State University

<http://www.ncsu.edu/project/treesofstrength/benefits.htm>

Earth Share

<http://www.earthshare.org/2013/07/treebenefits.html>

The Role of Trees in Carbon Sequestration:

Alabama Forestry Commission

http://www.forestry.alabama.gov/carbon_sequestration_faqs.aspx



NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/47481.html>

Youth Specific Sites:

EcoKids

http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/forests/benefits_of_trees.cfm

eSchool Today

<http://www.eschooltoday.com/forests/forest-preservation-tips-for-kids.html>

What makes a Tree a Tree:

American Forest Foundation

<http://www.forestfoundation.org/family-activities-in-nature>

KidZone Science

<http://www.kidzone.ws/plants/trees.htm>

Connecting Kids to Nature Project Learning Tree

<https://www.plt.org/-connecting-kids-to-nature>

Discover the Forest

<http://www.discovertheforest.org/>

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

USDA Forest Service

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/conservationeducation/materials>

For kids

<http://www.fs.fed.us/kids/>

USDA Agroforestry

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=agroforestry.html>

Tools

Interested in determining what the benefit of urban trees are? Use the i-Tree application to evaluate how the trees around you contribute to carbon sequestration, energy savings, improving air quality and storm water interception.

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc/tools/i-tree>

Tree Products

Trees not only provide us with oxygen to breathe, shade on a sunny day, or food products like fruits and nuts, but they are also used to make many of the products we use every day. From paper products to finished furniture, trees have many end uses. It is our responsibility to manage and monitor the number of trees we cut down to make these products. See a list of wood products here:

http://www.idahoforests.org/wood_you.htm

