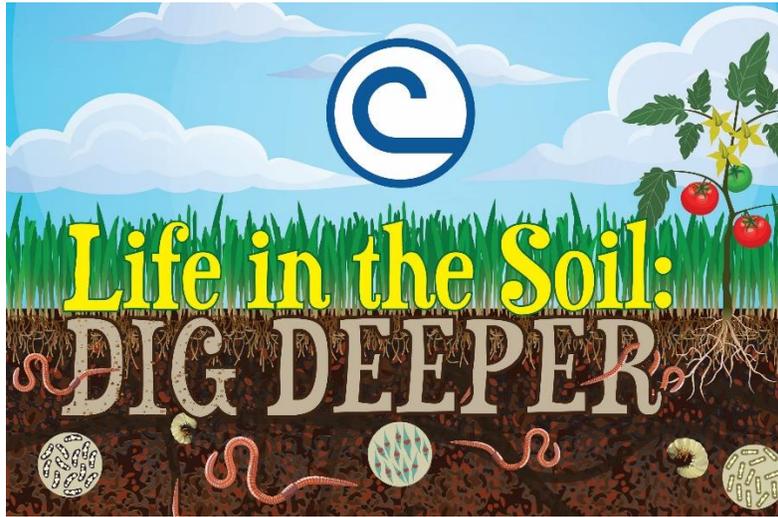


2019 IASCD POSTER CONTEST RULES



1. The poster contest is open to all 4th - 6th grade students. However, entries will be accepted from students completing a poster (within the appropriate grade level) during the timeframe from the release of the current NACD theme through the following fall IASCD division meetings.
2. The 2019 Stewardship theme **“Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper”** must be included on the front side of each poster submission to be eligible for the national poster contest.
3. Poster Size: We strongly encourage students to use 22” x 28” size poster board (posters smaller than 14” x 22” will not be accepted). Posters drawn on lined notebook paper, or regular copier/printer paper will not be accepted.
4. Any media may be used to create a flat or two-dimensional effect (paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, construction paper or other paste-on materials and/or computer-generated artwork).
5. IASCD encourages each student to do as much of the work as possible - posters must reflect the students work rather than a team of students.
6. Each District should hold their contest before the Fall Division Meeting. The first, second and third place winners of the District contests will go on to their Division meeting for the next stage of judging.
7. The first, second, and third place winners of the Division contest will go on to the state conference for further judging. It is the district responsibility to return non-winning posters to the district. Division officers are responsible to get the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd winning posters to the IASCD Conference for judging.
8. Only the first-place winner at the IASCD conference, reflecting the current NACD Stewardship theme, will go on to the NACD Annual meeting for further judging. Poster must reflect the national theme and may include soil, water, wildlife, forest or range themes as well.
10. Judging priorities:

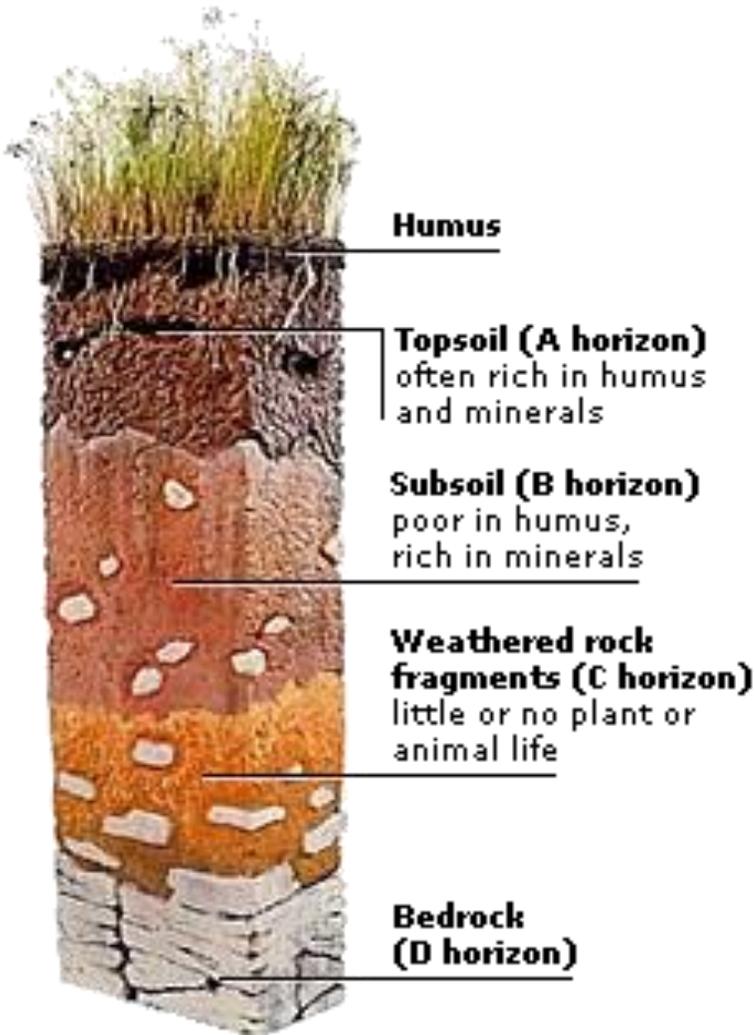
A. Conservation Message	50 points
B. Visual Effectiveness	30 points
C. Universal Appeal	10 points
D. Originality	10 points
11. The student’s name, school address/phone number/teacher’s name, and the Soil Conservation District and Division represented *must* be on the back of each poster.
12. Prizes are optional - district and division select their own prizes. At the state level, the first place winners will receive \$100 and a ribbon, second place winner will receive \$75 and a ribbon, and the third place winner will receive \$50 and a ribbon.

2019 Poster Contest

Thank you for your interest in the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) 2018 Poster Contest. This year's theme is "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper."

About 75% of Earth's surface is covered with water. Most of the remaining 25% is covered with soil and not all of that is fertile and suitable for farming. A soil profile can be a useful tool to determine how fertile a soil may be. There are many types of soils and their profiles can vary in colors, depth of horizons and many other ways. Soil comes in many colors just like our skin does. Organic matter, minerals, and the amount of moisture in soil are a few of the things that affect its color. For example, the mineral manganese oxide causes a black color in soil and the mineral glauconite makes soil look green.

A **soil profile** is a section of soil from the top layer at the surface down to the rock or sediment layer from which the soil was originally formed. The different layers from top to bottom and in between are called **horizons**. Not all soil profiles look alike!



We aren't the only ones who need soil. When you stand on soil, you are standing on something that is alive. Earthworms may not have a nose, but they still have to breathe! They breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide just like we do, but they breathe through their skin! It is important that we take care of our soil because it is home to many living things like earthworms. Have you ever picked up a rock that was lying on soil and looked under it? You might have seen spiders, beetles, centipedes, millipedes, and pill bugs scurry away. Most of the living things in soil are so tiny you cannot see them. Thousands of living organisms can be found in one square inch of soil! Soil is full of life that you **can** and **cannot** see.

Only about 10% of Earth's land surface has suitable soil for producing our food supply, housing, cities, schools, hospitals, air to breath and more! Our healthy life above ground depends upon healthy soil below our feet! It is vital that we practice good soil conservation. Soil can take thousands or even millions of years to form! This is why it is very important to take good care of the soil we have. Soil fertility is important to all of us as the world's population increases and the amount of available farm ground decreases. Remember...we can't survive without healthy soil! Taking good care of our soil is the best way to make sure that we have the soil we need for food, water, air, clothes and many other things.

There are many things you can do to protect your soil, like recycling and composting. It is very important to remember that we all need healthy soil. Plants and trees grow in soil. Houses are built on soil. The food we eat grows in and on soil. Soil helps clean the water we drink. Some of our clothes come from plants that grow in soil. We All Need Soil!

NACD Contest information can be found at:

<https://www.nacdn.org/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/contests/>