

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND  
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

# CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST

A SCOUT PATCH PROGRAM

2026 THEME:  
“SOIL. WHERE IT ALL BEGINS.”

**Soil.**

Where it all Begins



NACD Stewardship Week 2026



**VA Association of Soil & Water  
Conservation Districts**

7308 Hanover Green Drive, Suite 100  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111  
[www.vaswcd.org](http://www.vaswcd.org)



**Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation  
District**

8600 Dixon Powers Drive  
Henrico, VA 23228  
[www.henrico.us/henricopolis](http://www.henrico.us/henricopolis)

The Conservation Poster Contest Patch Program was developed by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Soil and Water Conservation Districts..... | 5  |
| The Conservation Poster Contest.....       | 8  |
| Contest Categories.....                    | 9  |
| Earning the Patch.....                     | 10 |
| Poster Contest Rules.....                  | 11 |
| Steps to a Great Poster.....               | 12 |
| The Patch.....                             | 13 |
| Poster Entry Form.....                     | 14 |



# THE VASWCD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION MISSION

The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Educational Foundation is nonprofit and classified as a 501(c)(3) organization that was established in 1990. The VASWCD Educational Foundation provides and promotes leadership in the conservation of natural resources through stewardship and education programs.

Funding for activities such as Envirothon, Youth Conservation Camp, Youth Conservation Leadership Institute and the Conservation Poster Contest are provided through donations made by individuals, corporations, organizations and other foundations as well as fundraising efforts. Contributions to the VASWCD Educational Foundation are used to support educational efforts within the Commonwealth.

There are 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts serving localities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Governed by a board of directors of local citizens, districts work hand-in-hand with state, federal and county agencies, other conservation organizations, schools, and many community partners to achieve their conservation objectives.

Districts offer many educational programs which target a variety of audiences. Emphasis is on education programs based on the VA Standards of Learning. Resources include activities, games, models, videos, skits, and more. Many districts also have a variety of resources available to teachers and scout leaders.

Contact information for the Soil and Water Conservation District serving each county in Virginia can be found on pages 5, 6, and 7. If you can not find your Soil and Water Conservation District please reach out to Byron Minson - [byron.minson@vaswcd.org](mailto:byron.minson@vaswcd.org)

# LOCAL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS EDUCATION STAFF - JAN. 2026



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# SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

## LISTED BY COUNTY/CITY



| County/City          | SWCD                  |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Accomack Co.         | Eastern Shore SWCD    |
| Albemarle Co.        | Thomas Jefferson SWCD |
| Alleghany Co.        | Mountain SWCD         |
| Amelia Co.           | Piedmont SWCD         |
| Amherst Co.          | Robert E. Lee SWCD    |
| Appomattox Co.       | Robert E. Lee SWCD    |
| Augusta Co.          | Headwaters SWCD       |
| Bath Co.             | Mountain SWCD         |
| Bedford Co.          | Peaks of Otter SWCD   |
| Bedford, City of     | Peaks of Otter SWCD   |
| Bland Co.            | Big Walker SWCD       |
| Botetourt Co.        | Mountain Castles SWCD |
| Brunswick Co.        | Lake Country SWCD     |
| Buchanan Co.         | Big Sandy SWCD        |
| Buckingham Co.       | Peter Francisco SWCD  |
| Buena Vista, City of | Natural Bridge SWCD   |
| Campbell Co.         | Robert E. Lee SWCD    |
| Caroline Co.         | Hanover-Caroline SWCD |
| Carroll Co.          | New River SWCD        |
| Charles City Co.     | Colonial SWCD         |
| Charlotte Co.        | Southside SWCD        |
| Chesapeake, City of  | Virginia Dare SWCD    |
| Chesterfield Co.     | James River SWCD      |
| Clarke Co.           | Lord Fairfax SWCD     |
| Covington, City of   | Mountain SWCD         |
| Craig Co.            | Mountain Castles SWCD |
| Culpeper Co.         | Culpeper SWCD         |
| Cumberland Co.       | Peter Francisco SWCD  |
| Dickenson Co.        | Lonesome Pine SWCD    |
| Dinwiddie Co.        | Appomattox SWCD       |

| County/City             | SWCD                   |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Essex Co.               | Three Rivers SWCD      |
| Fairfax Co.             | Northern Virginia SWCD |
| Fauquier Co.            | John Marshall SWCD     |
| Floyd Co.               | Skyline SWCD           |
| Fluvanna Co.            | Thomas Jefferson SWCD  |
| Franklin Co.            | Blue Ridge SWCD        |
| Frederick Co.           | Lord Fairfax SWCD      |
| Fredericksburg, City of | Tri-County/City SWCD   |
| Galax, City of          | New River SWCD         |
| Giles Co.               | Skyline SWCD           |
| Gloucester Co.          | Tidewater SWCD         |
| Goochland Co.           | Monacan SWCD           |
| Grayson Co.             | New River SWCD         |
| Greene Co.              | Culpeper SWCD          |
| Greenville Co.          | Chowan Basin SWCD      |
| Halifax Co.             | Halifax SWCD           |
| Hanover Co.             | Hanover-Caroline SWCD  |
| Harrisonburg, City of   | Shenandoah Valley SWCD |
| Henrico Co.             | Henricopolis SWCD      |
| Henry Co.               | Blue Ridge SWCD        |
| Highland Co.            | Mountain SWCD          |
| Isle of Wight Co.       | Peanut SWCD            |
| James City Co.          | Colonial SWCD          |
| King George Co.         | Tri-County City SWCD   |
| King & Queen Co.        | Three Rivers SWCD      |
| King Williams Co.       | Three Rivers SWCD      |
| Lancaster Co.           | Northern Neck SWCD     |
| Lee Co.                 | Daniel Boone SWCD      |
| Lexington, City of      | Natural Bridge SWCD    |

# SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

## LISTED BY COUNTY/CITY



| County/City         | SWCD                   |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Loudoun Co.         | Loudoun SWCD           |
| Louisa Co.          | Thomas Jefferson SWD   |
| Lunenburg Co.       | Southside SWCD         |
| Lynchburg, City of  | Robert E. Lee SWCD     |
| Madison Co.         | Culpeper SWCD          |
| Mathews Co.         | Tidewater SWCD         |
| Mecklenburg Co.     | Lake Country SWCD      |
| Middlesex Co.       | Tidewater SWCD         |
| Montgomery Co.      | Skyline SWCD           |
| Nelson Co.          | Thomas Jefferson SWCD  |
| New Kent Co.        | Colonial SWCD          |
| Northampton Co.     | Eastern Shore SWCD     |
| Northumberland Co.  | Northern Neck SWCD     |
| Nottoway Co.        | Piedmont SWCD          |
| Orange Co.          | Culpeper SWCD          |
| Page Co.            | Shenandoah Valley SWCD |
| Patrick Co.         | Patrick SWCD           |
| Petersburg, City of | Appomattox River SWCD  |
| Pittsylvania Co.    | Pittsylvania SWCD      |
| Powhatan Co.        | Monacan SWCD           |
| Prince Edward Co.   | Piedmont SWCD          |
| Prince George Co.   | James River SWCD       |
| Prince William Co.  | Prince William SWCD    |
| Pulaski Co.         | Skyline SWCD           |
| Rappahannock Co.    | Culpeper SWCD          |
| Richmond Co.        | Northern Neck SWCD     |
| Roanoke, City of    | Blue Ridge SWCD        |
| Roanoke Co.         | Blue Ridge SWCD        |
| Rockbridge Co.      | Natural Bridge SWCD    |

| County/City             | SWCD                   |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Rockingham Co.          | Shenandoah Valley SWCD |
| Russell Co.             | Clinch Valley SWCD     |
| Scott Co.               | Scott County SWCD      |
| Shenandoah Co.          | Lord Fairfax SWCD      |
| Smyth Co.               | Evergreen SWCD         |
| Southampton Co.         | Chowan Basin SWCD      |
| Spotsylvania Co.        | Tri-County/City SWCD   |
| Stafford Co.            | Tri-County/City SWCD   |
| Staunton, City of       | Headwaters SWCD        |
| Suffolk, City of        | Peanut SWCD            |
| Surry Co.               | Peanut SWCD            |
| Sussex Co.              | Chowan Basin SWCD      |
| Tazewell Co.            | Tazewell SWCD          |
| Virginia Beach, City of | Virginia Dare SWCD     |
| Warren Co.              | Lord Fairfax SWCD      |
| Washington Co.          | Holston River SWCD     |
| Waynesboro, City of     | Headwaters SWCD        |
| Westmoreland Co.        | Northern Neck SWCD     |
| Williamsburg, City of   | Colonial SWCD          |
| Winchester, City of     | Lord Fairfax SWCD      |
| Wise Co.                | Lonesome Pine SWCD     |
| Wythe Co.               | Big Walker SWCD        |
| York Co.                | Colonial SWCD          |

# THE CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST

The annual Conservation Poster Contest provides K-12th grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about conservation topics and issues through art. It also highlights the educational outreach efforts of SWCD districts and their state associations and agencies. The poster contest theme follows the annual National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Stewardship theme. The contest is open to public, private, and home school students, Scout troops, 4H Clubs, etc. Individuals and teachers with questions regarding district contests should contact their local district.

## Contest Submission Flow Chart





# CONTEST CATEGORIES



## Hand-drawn

Entries are divided by grade level with one winner per category. Any media may be used, including paint, crayons, colored pencils, charcoal, stickers, paper, or other materials. Each student is encouraged to do their own work.

**K-1st, 2nd-3rd, 4th-6th, 7th-9th, & 10th-12th**



## Digital

Entries are divided by grade level with one winner per category. The posters must be a digital design and can be created on any platform used for digital projects such as Canva, PicMonkey, Google Slides, Photoshop, InDesign, etc.

**7th-9th & 10th-12th**



## Braille

Any media may be used for tactile elements, including Braille, raised textures, and other materials.

**K-12th grade students who are blind or have low vision and require Braille or tactile assistance to participate.**

## Additional Assist

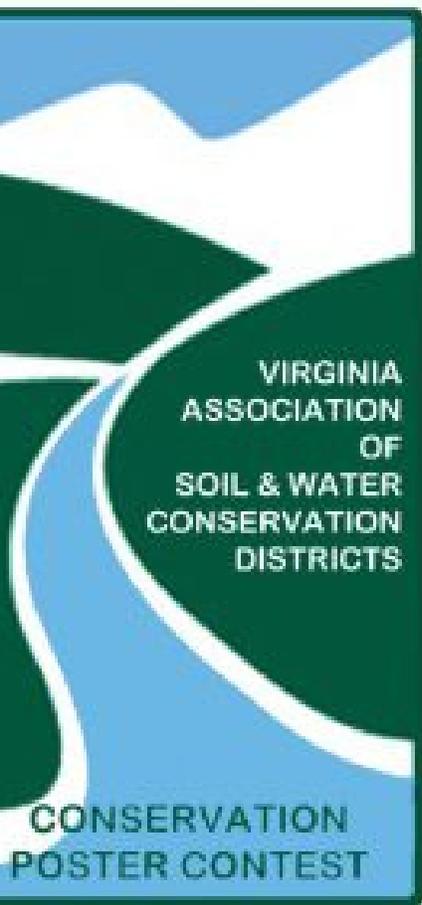
Any media may be used. An adult may assist, with active participation from student, in creating the poster.

**K-12th grade students who require additional assistance with completing a poster.**

# EARNING THE PATCH

The VASWCD conservation poster contest is open to all Scouts. Scouts must complete all 5 activities to earn the patch.

## PATCH ACTIVITIES



1. Look at pages 6-7 of this booklet for the name of the soil and water conservation district serving your area.

2. Find out what soil and water conservation districts do. Google the district, find out what programs they offer, etc.

3. Visit the VASWCD website (<http://vaswcd.org/poster-contest>) for the current poster contest theme, rules, and resources.

4. Invite your local SWCD to visit your troop and talk about the current poster contest theme. Contact information can be found on page 5. You may also complete this step by researching the topic on your own using the resources on **pages 10-11**.

5. Create a poster reflecting the contest theme and submit it to your local SWCD. Winners at the local level will advance to a state competition. Winners of the state competition are sent to the National Association of Conservation Districts for a national competition. **GOOD LUCK!**



# CONTEST RULES

1.

Entries should be submitted to your local Soil and Water Conservation District office via scanned poster, physical poster, or pdf. Contact your local district office to determine local deadlines and size requirements.

2.

All posters must be created by an individual student rather than a team of students.

3.

The 2026 Stewardship title “Soil. Where it all begins” must be on your poster. This is the only title eligible for the national poster contest.

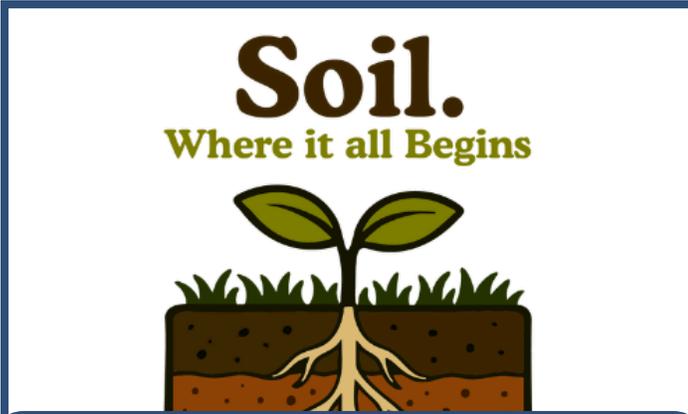
4.

Each entry must have a signed entry form completed and signed by a parent or guardian to be eligible for judging. Entry forms are available from your local SWCD.

5.

Each student is encouraged to do as much of the work as possible by themselves. Entries completed by students in their handwriting and coloring will score better than those with adult assistance. See “Additional Assist” category if student needs greater adult assistance with poster.

# STEPS TO A GREAT POSTER



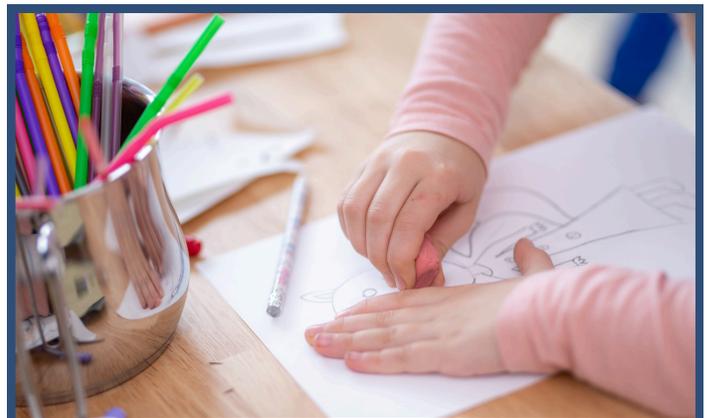
Research the theme topic



Sketch out your idea



Create guidelines for lettering



Clean up poster and erase



Do not trace or copy other work

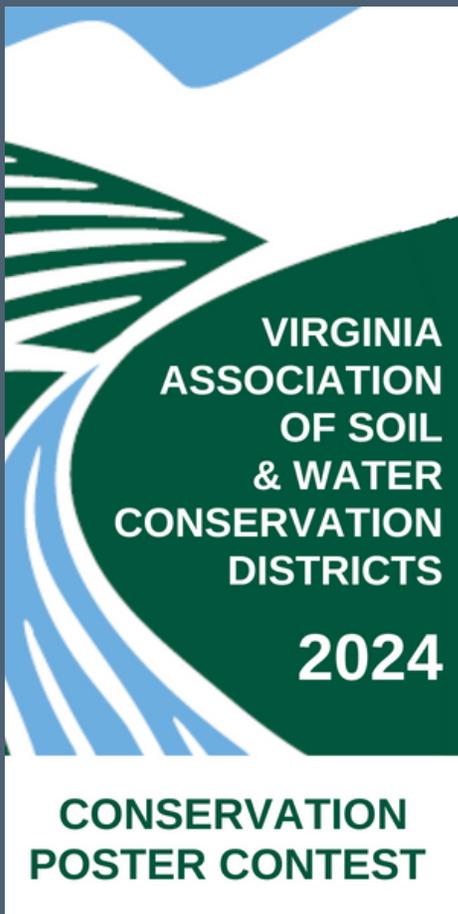


Be creative and have fun!

# THE PATCH

Those Scouts who have submitted a poster by the local SWCD deadline and adhere to the rules and activities listed on page six and seven of this Leaders' Guide are eligible to receive the VASWCD Conservation Poster Patch. Scouts or Troop Leaders will receive their patch through their local Soil and Water Conservation District in a timely manner once posters have been submitted and processed. Patches are provided free of charge to

Scouts completing the poster program per the enclosed guidelines. This Patch Program is sponsored by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Educational Foundation



**EXAMPLE PATCH  
(2026 PATCH WILL  
LOOK DIFFERENT!)**

# Find entry form at [vaswcd.org/poster-contest/](http://vaswcd.org/poster-contest/)

2026 NACD/VASWCD  
Poster Contest  
**Local Entry Form**



**Please Check Appropriate Category:**  
 Hand-drawn  Digital  Braille  Additional Assist

**Please Check Appropriate Grade Level:**  
 K-1  2-3  4-6  7-9  10-12

Check the box below if this poster is being submitted to earn the Conservation Poster Scout Patch

National Association of Conservation Districts

**Submit this entry to your local Soil & Water Conservation District**

Not familiar with your local SWCD? Find yours [here](#)

or Visit [www.vaswcd.org](http://www.vaswcd.org) for information.

**Local deadlines may vary.**

**PLEASE PLACE THIS DOCUMENT/FORM ON THE BACK OF THE POSTER**

**STUDENT**

Name First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Students Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade level: \_\_\_\_\_

(Address Optional – used to ship certificate/prize to winner)

Please circle one:

Yes or No: This poster is the original work of the student named above.

Yes or No: The student received assistance from another person or materials/ideas from another source. If answered "yes," please include a brief explanation. Please answer regardless of entry category.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIANS SIGNATURE  \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name of parent or guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardians signature will allow the NACD/the Conservation District listed below to utilize poster submission for educational or promotional purposes.

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL/GROUP/ORGANIZATION**

Please choose:  Public School  Private School  Home School  Organization  Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions?**

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Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

<http://vaswcd.org/poster-contest>