

SOIL
STEWARDSHIP
PUBLIC
SPEAKING
CONTEST

2024



GUIDELINES

To prepare for the Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest, students are to consult with their Ag Science teacher, use this Guidelines Packet and reference the SDE Handbook. The student is also to work with their Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) as a local resource. A signed SWCD affidavit included on the last page of this packet must be submitted along with the speech for contests.

The Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest is a partnership between the Texas FFA Association, the Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD).

Speech Objective:

The 2024 theme is "Rooted in Conservation," the theme celebrates the crucial role of soil and water conservation in the state of Texas. The state of Texas is known for its vast and diverse landscapes, is home to a rich tapestry of ecosystems, agricultural practices, and natural resources. Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts aim to raise awareness about the importance of preserving and protecting these invaluable assets for current and future generations. We hope that this theme serves as a reminder that every Texan can play a role in preserving the state's natural beauty and resources. By working together with organizations like the TSSWCB, ATSWCD and SWCDs, individuals, communities, and businesses can help ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for Texas while protecting its unique environment.

To locate your local SWCD:

1. Visit: <https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/swcds/locatormap>
2. Click on the region number in which your county is located.
3. Find the name of your county and click on it. There you will find the name of your SWCD, and information on how to contact the district, or the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Field Representative who assists the district.

For more information:

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
1497 Country View Lane
Temple, TX 76504-8806
(254) 773-2250
www.tsswcb.texas.gov

QUESTIONS?

Please send any questions or concerns to
youthdevelopment@tsswcb.texas.gov

SWCD AFFIDAVIT

My name is _____ and I am currently a member of the _____
FFA Chapter affiliated with _____ High School in _____
Texas. I hereby state that that the information stated is both accurate and complete and
that I have consulted with the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District
in preparation for the 2024 Soil and Water Stewardship Public Speaking Contest, "Rooted
in Conservation."

Contestant Signature

Date

Advisor Signature

Date

SWCD Representative Signature

SWCD Rep. Job Title

Date

*** This form is a requirement for SDE competition.*

QUESTIONS?

Please send any questions or concerns to
youthdevelopment@tsswcb.texas.gov

SCHOLARSHIPS

Three scholarships will be awarded by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts to the top three individuals of the state contest.

- **\$4,000 scholarship to the 1st place contestant**
- **\$3,000 scholarship to the 2nd place contestant**
- **\$2,000 scholarship to the 3rd place contestant**

Scholarship money must be used to defray costs of the recipient's education at a technical institution, college, or university of the recipient's choice. Scholarship funds will be transmitted directly to a public speaking contest winner's chosen technical school, college, or university in the student's name upon proof of registration as a full-time student at a single institution of higher learning.

Expense Paid Trip:

The 1st place winner in the state contest and his/her advisor will receive an expense paid trip under the State of Texas travel guidelines to the Annual Meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. The 1st place winner in the state contest is required to present their speech at the aforementioned meeting.

Thank You Notes:

We ask that the winners of the scholarship money from the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts consider sending a thank you note.

Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
1497 Country View Lane
Temple, Texas 76504

QUESTIONS?

Please send any questions or concerns to
youthdevelopment@tsswcb.texas.gov