

2025 Poster Contest Local Rules

Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SVSWCD)

Theme: “Home is Where the Habitat is”

Grade Level: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12

Categories: Hand Drawn, Digital (grades 7-12 only), Braille, Additional Assist

Awards

- Each first-place winner (one per category) will receive a conservation kit. The first place posters will also be submitted to the state poster contest for consideration.
- Each second-place winner (one per category) will receive a conservation kit.
- Each third-place winner (one per category) will receive a conservation kit.
- All participants will receive a ribbon of participation.
- Participants who are Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts can receive a patch for participating in the contest. Interested students must request the patch on their completed entry forms.

Deadline: All posters must be submitted to the SVSWCD (1934 Deyerle Ave. Suite B Harrisonburg, VA 22801) by April 4, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Hand Drawn Contest Rules:

- The contest is open to public, private, or home-school students.
- Any media may be used – paint, crayons, colored pencils, charcoal, stickers, paper, or any other typical poster material.
- **Poster size must be between 8.5” x 11” (Letter Size Paper) and 22” x 28.” (Poster Board Size Paper)**
- Posters must be created by **individual** students rather than teams of students. Posters with multiple student names will not be judged.
- The 2025 theme, “Home is Where the Habitat is,” must be on the poster. Posters without the theme will not be judged.
- **Each entry must have an official entry form signed by a parent/guardian to be eligible for judging.** Entries can be submitted by teachers, but forms must have parent/guardian signature.
- Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, students are encouraged to do as much of the work as possible. Entries completed by students in their own handwriting and coloring will typically score better than those designed, drawn, and colored with adult assistance.
- **Poster Evaluations**
The posters will be evaluated on the following criteria:
 - Conservation message: Poster uses correct theme. (50 points)
 - Visual effectiveness (30 points)
 - Originality (10 points)
 - Universal appeal (10 points)

Digital Contest Rules:

- The contest is open to public, private, or home-school students in grades 7-12.
- Posters must be a digital design and can be created in any platform used for digital projects, such as Canva, PicMonkey, Google Slides, Photoshop, and InDesign. Digital posters must be original art and must not include any copyrighted, trademarked, or branded marks, images, or phrases besides the NACD 2025 -themed logo, which may be used if desired.
- **Digital poster size must be 8.5” x 11” (vertical or horizontal).**
- **Digital posters should be submitted as a JPEG or PNG format.**
- Posters must be created by **individual** students rather than teams of students. Posters with multiple student names will not be judged.
- The 2025 theme, “Home is Where the Habitat is,” must be on the poster. Posters without the theme will not be judged.
- **Each entry must have an official entry form signed by a parent/guardian to be eligible for judging.** Entries can be submitted by teachers, but forms must have parent/guardian signature.

- **Poster Evaluations**

The posters will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Conservation message: Poster uses correct theme. (50 points)
- Visual effectiveness (30 points)
- Originality (10 points)
- Universal appeal (10 points)

Braille Contest Rules:

- The contest is open to public, private, or home-school students who are blind or have low vision and require braille or tactile assistance to participate.
- Participants can create Braille posters one of two ways:
 - Using their imagination and drawing and then adding Braille labeling using a Braille embosser or similar tools.
 - Using a Braille to create Braille elements and then adding color or additional drawings.
- Any media may be used – paint, crayons, colored pencils, charcoal, stickers, paper, or any other typical poster material.
- **Poster size must be between 8.5” x 11” (Letter Size Paper) and 22” x 28.” (Poster Board Size Paper)**
- Posters must be created by **individual** students rather than teams of students. Posters with multiple student names will not be judged.
- The 2025 theme, “Home is Where the Habitat is,” must be on the poster. Posters without the theme will not be judged.
- **Each entry must have an official entry form signed by a parent/guardian to be eligible for judging.** Entries can be submitted by teachers, but forms must have parent/guardian signature.
- **Poster Evaluations**

The posters will be evaluated on the following criteria:

 - Conservation message: Poster uses correct theme. (50 points)
 - Originality (20 points)
 - Universal appeal (30 points)

Additional Assist Contest Rules:

- The contest is open to public, private, or home-school students who require additional assistance with completing the poster.
- Any media may be used – paint, crayons, colored pencils, charcoal, stickers, paper, or any other typical poster material.
- **Poster size must be between 8.5” x 11” (Letter Size Paper) and 22” x 28.” (Poster Board Size Paper)**
- Posters must be created by **individual** students rather than teams of students. Posters with multiple student names will not be judged.
- The 2025 theme, “Home is Where the Habitat is,” must be on the poster. Posters without the theme will not be judged.
- **Each entry must have an official entry form signed by a parent/guardian to be eligible for judging.** Entries can be submitted by teachers, but forms must have parent/guardian signature.
- Students that participate in this contest are permitted to have an adult assist them in the creation of their posters making it an inclusive and accessible contest for all.
 - While it is understood that some students may benefit from assistance, we encourage each student to actively participate in creating their poster. We celebrate the diverse abilities and talents of all participants in this inclusive contest, and we value the unique contributions of every student. Entries that prominently feature the handwriting and coloring of the student will be especially appreciated, as they reflect the individuality and creativity of each participant, with or without additional assistance.
- **Poster Evaluations**

The posters will be evaluated on the following criteria:

 - Conservation message: Poster uses correct theme. (50 points)
 - Visual effectiveness (10 points)
 - Originality (10 points)
 - Universal appeal (30 points)