



## 2017/2018 Johnston Soil and Water Conservation Essay Contest

- WHO:** All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students in Johnston County
- WHAT:** Type or handwrite in ink an essay that is between 300-500 words on the selected conservation theme title. Paper size should be 8 ½ x 11 and must bear the name of the current title.
- TITLE:** **“Water – The Cycle of Life”**
- WHERE:** Students type or handwrite essays with the above title and teachers submit the best entries from each class. Teachers may deliver, mail or email the essays to the Johnston Soil and Water Conservation District at the Johnston County Agricultural Center, 2736 NC Hwy. 210, Smithfield, NC, 27577.
- WHEN:** Deadline for entries is **Friday, December 8, 2017** at 5:00 PM.
- PRIZES:**
- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Place | \$ 50.00 Cash Prize |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place | \$ 25.00 Cash Prize |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place | \$ 15.00 Cash Prize |
- All School Winners – Certificates and Prizes
- LEVELS:** **District Contest** – Johnston County Students  
**Area Contest** – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Entry competes with 11 other counties for Area IV title  
**State Contest** – Area IV Winner competes with 8 Areas for state Winner

**\*\* An Awards Banquet Dinner will be held on Friday, February 2, 2018 at the Johnston County Agriculture Center to honor the school winners. First place winners will be asked to read their winning essays. \*\***

# Johnston Soil and Water Conservation District

## ESSAY CONTEST RULES

1. The District Supervisors of the Johnston County Soil and Water Conservation District will sponsor a Johnston County Conservation Essay Contest.
2. The contest is for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in schools in Johnston County.
3. The number of students enrolled in each perspective grade level will govern the number of entries submitted from each grade level from each school.

Example:           0 - 99 Students - 1 Entry per school  
                  100 – 199 Students - 2 Entries per school  
                  200 - 299 Students - 3 Entries per school  
                  300 - 399 Students - 4 Entries per school

4. All essays must:
  - Bear the name of the current conservation theme title
  - Be in the student’s own handwriting in ink OR typed (students with a motor skill disability may use other writing tools, but essays must meet specifications)
  - Be limited to 300-500 words – please use WORD COUNT
  - Use 8 1/2 x 11 paper
  - Be properly identified on the BACK of the essay (see cutout label next page)
5. The conservation theme title for all essays is: **“Water – The Cycle of Life”**
6. The winning essays from each school may be delivered, mailed or emailed to the Johnston Soil and Water District at the Johnston County Agricultural Center located at 2736 NC Hwy. 210, Smithfield, NC 27577.  
**Deadline for entries is Friday, December 8, 2017 at 5:00 PM.**
6. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Awards will be presented at the county level. Certificates will be awarded to each entry submitted from each school. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade entry will advance to the Area IV level and compete among 11 other counties. The Area IV winner will then advance to the state competition.

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$50 cash prize  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$25 cash prize  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$15 cash prize

8. Essays will be the work of the individual student. Once the essay is entered in the contest, it becomes the property of the District. Attempts are made to return the essays to the students.

9. Essays will be judged on the following criteria:

Content-----50 points	Organization-----20 points
Writing Style-----20 points	Neatness-----10 points

10. Infractions:

Points will be deducted for the following infractions:

- Incorrect length - 5 points
- Current title not on essay - 5 points
- Wrong paper size - 2 points

11. **HELPFUL HINT:** Please utilize the Word Count tool that is in most word processing systems for essay word counts.
12. **An Awards Banquet Dinner will be held on Friday, February 2, 2018 at 6:30 PM** at the Johnston County Agricultural Center. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winners will be recognized. The 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner in each grade level will be asked to read their winning essay. Each school winner, their parents, teacher and principal are encouraged to attend the Banquet. Please inform the Johnston Soil and Water Conservation District office by January 26, 2018 of the total number of guests attending from your school.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS ON THE **BACK** OF THE ESSAY OR ATTACHED TO THE ESSAY TO INSURE ANONYMITY.

(Cut here)

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Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_