

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.

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# 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)

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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

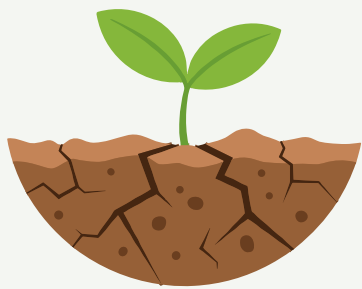
County/City	SWCD
Rockingham Co.	Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Russell Co.	Clinch Valley SWCD
Scott Co.	Scott County SWCD
Shenandoah Co.	Lord Fairfax SWCD
Smyth Co.	Evergreen SWCD
Southampton Co.	Chowan Basin SWCD
Spotsylvania Co.	Tri-County/City SWCD
Stafford Co.	Tri-County/City SWCD
Staunton, City of	Headwaters 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

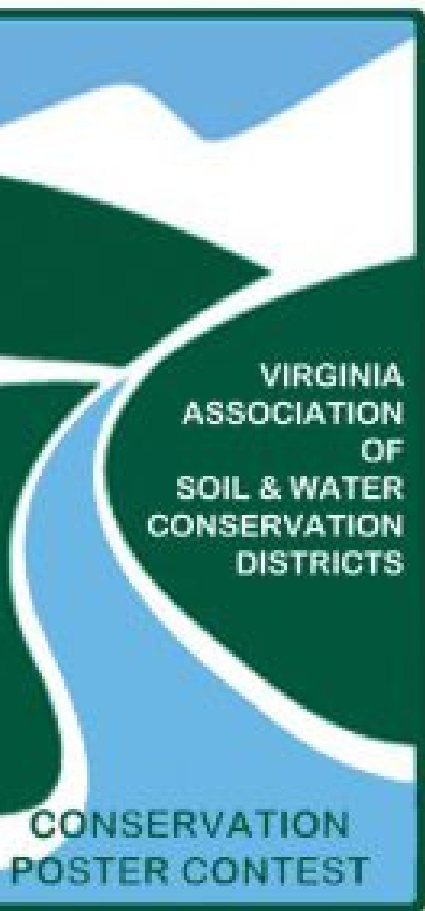
Any media may be used. An adult may assist, with active participation from student, in creating the poster.

**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.

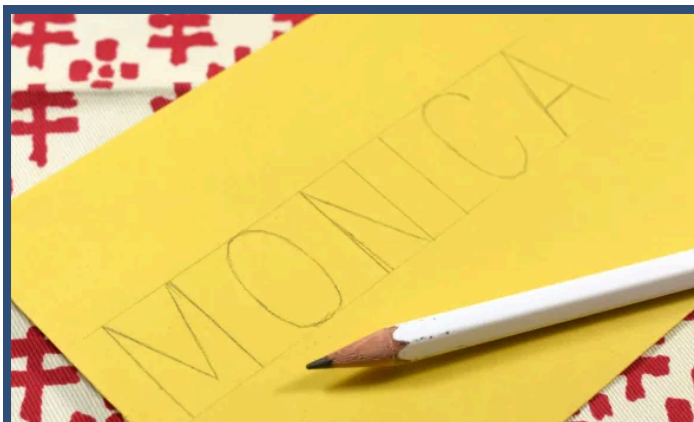
# STEPS TO A GREAT POSTER



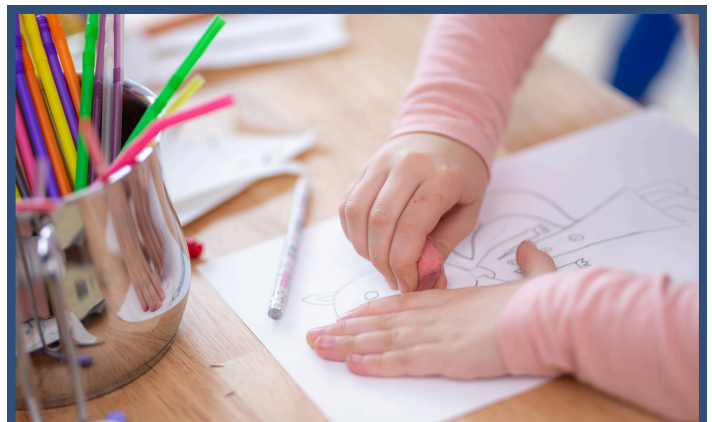
Research the theme topic



Sketch out your idea



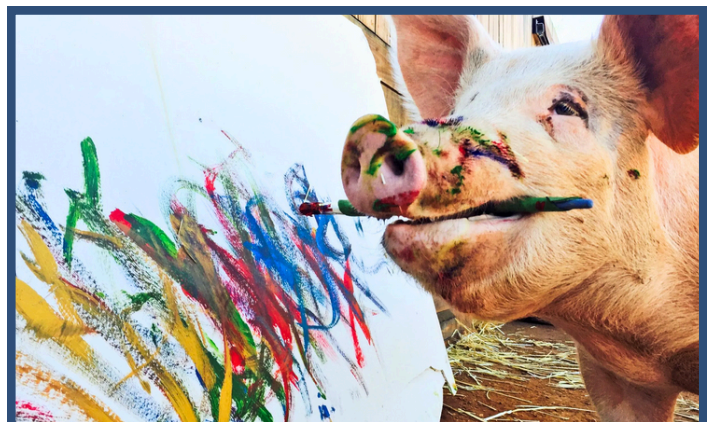
Create guidelines for lettering



Clean up poster and erase



Do not trace or copy other work

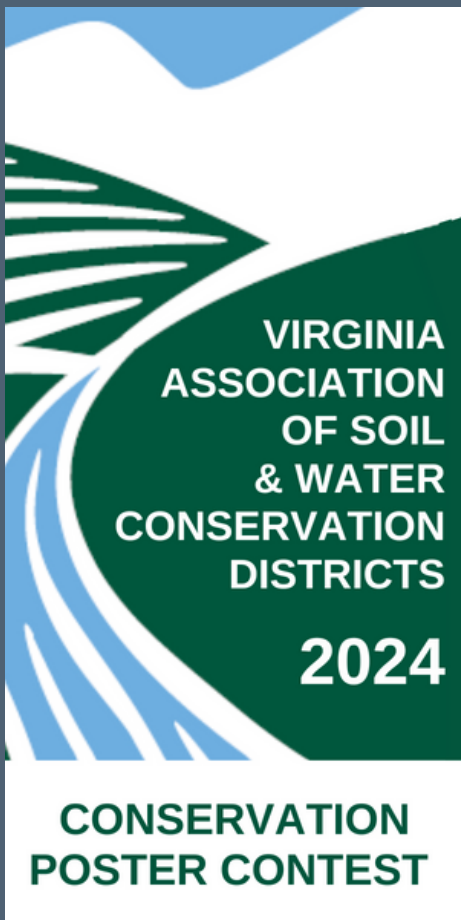


Be creative and have fun!

# 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!)**