

COMPUTER DESIGNED SLIDE SHOW CONTEST

The Computer Designed Slide Show Contest is sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Theme:

A set of five themes have been selected by the Association's Education Committee and adopted by the Association. These themes rotate on a yearly basis. The theme does not have to be written on the slide show. The approved theme and rotation schedule is as follows:

2023-2024	The Living Soil
2024-2025	Wetlands are Wonderful
2025-2026	We all live in a Watershed

Conservation Districts are urged to make students aware of the following definitions to ensure that the slide shows display content relevant to the nature of conservation.

- **"Conservation"** -- the wise use and management of natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) to fulfill human needs now and in the future.

- **"Soil Conservation"** -- to protect soil from erosion, to keep it productive and out of waterways: to use and manage soil wisely now to ensure a rich soil resource for future generations.

- **"Water Conservation"** -- to protect water quality by keeping water clean from sediment, chemicals, oil and animal wastes; to protect water quantity by using smaller amounts of harmful elements; to use and manage water wisely now to ensure good water quality for future generations.

- **"Best Management Practices" (BMPs)** – agricultural practices that are suitable for reducing or minimizing the amount of water pollution generated by non-point sources; an engineered structure or management activity, or combination of these, that eliminates or reduces adverse environmental effects of pollutants. Often called Best Management Practices.

Participant Eligibility:

The contest will be held for **6th, 7th, 8th and 9-12th** (9th – 12th grade students compete together in a single competition) **grade students** at District, Area and State levels.

Contest Cycle:

Runs concurrently with the school year and takes place in participating Districts.

Contest Procedure:

Contests will be conducted on the District, Area and State levels. District First Place winners will be eligible to enter the Area contests, and Area First Place winners will be eligible to enter the State contest. Each contest coordinator shall see that contestants and judges have a copy of the rules and shall urge them to study these rules, especially the sections on content, specifications, copyright and judging criteria. All slide shows entered into the District sponsored competition become the property of the respective District. These entities are entitled to use these slide shows for promotion of the Conservation District program.

Specifications:

Slide shows should be designed along the following specifications. See **Slide Show Pointers** for tips.

- The slide show shall contain no more than 15 slides of content. Fewer slides are allowed.
- The slide immediately following the slide show (slide number 16 if 15 slides are used) should be blank. The slide immediately following the blank slide (slide number 17 if 15 slides are used) should contain identifying information (see below). The correct order for the slide show should be
 - Slide Show (up to 15 slides)
 - Blank Slide
 - Identifying Information Slide
- **Slide shows must be created so that they are viewable as a slide show on a PC computer in the soil & water conservation district office.** If created in MS PowerPoint, files must be compatible with PowerPoint 2003 -ppt file.
- The use of audio (sound) is allowed.
- The use of slide animation is allowed.
- The use of video is prohibited. Slide shows using video will be disqualified.
- Slide shows shall not exceed a maximum of 5 minutes in length.
- The slide shows shall be submitted electronically.
- All slide shows will be judged electronically.
- Slide shows must be the **original work** of the individual student. Original work is created by the Student and shows a fresh, new idea. Students should be made aware of **copyright protection**. (See Copyright section.)

Slide shows must be identified by containing the following information on the final slide of the slide show:

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Slide Show Title: _____

Slide Show File Name: _____

Student's Address/Parents' Email, Phone: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

School: _____

County: _____ District: _____

Judging Criteria:

The NCASWCD has adopted a standard slide show score sheet to be used at all contest levels. Slide shows will be judged on the following points (Refer to **Slide Show Pointers** and the score sheet for tips):

- Conservation Message 50%
- Visual Effectiveness 30%
- Universal Appeal 10%
- Originality 10%

Infractions:

Points will be deducted for the following infractions:

- Copyright violation - 5 points
- Exceeding the maximum number of slides (15) - 5 points
- Exceeding the maximum time limit (5 minutes) - 5 points
- Use of video - Disqualification

Copyright:

Copyright is a protection by U.S. laws for the authors and creators of original work. A copyright protects the particular manner of expression of ideas, but not the ideas themselves. Original work includes illustrations, computer-generated drawings, photographs, or other art work created solely by the individual submitting the work. **Example:** You can make a poster using cartoon characters that talk about soil and water conservation in comic-strip fashion if the ideas are yours (this main idea cannot be copyrighted). But if classmates recognize your cartoon characters as popular characters, then your work is copied from the original artists. Remember to use your imagination because your own ideas are the BEST!

District Contest:

- According to the local District's guidelines, each school may submit one or more winning slide shows. The method of electronic slide show submittal will be determined by each District.
- The District will select one winner to compete in the Area Contest.
- District Contests may be conducted at any time during the school year provided that District winners are determined by the Area deadline. First place winning slide shows should be sent to the Area Chairman.
- Districts may present awards they deem appropriate.

Area Contest:

- Each Area Chairman will appoint a judging committee and arrange a date and place to hold the Area Slide Show Contest. The Area Chairman will notify all Districts 30 days in advance of the Area contest. Students do not have to be present at this contest.
- The First Place winning slide show from each Area must be sent to the Division of Soil & Water on or before **April 20**.
- Areas may present awards they deem appropriate.

State Contest:

- The Association, with assistance from the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, will select a date, place and judges for the State Slide Show Contest.
- The State Contest will be held no later than **May 15**. Winners will be announced within 20 days.
- State prizes, as determined by the Association, will be:
 - First Prize: \$200 cash or check
 - Second Prize \$100 cash or check
- Certificates will be given to all state-level participants.

Slide Show Pointers -- examples of how to make your conservation message into a design more readable and attractive

What makes a good slide show?

- Follow a logical order: start with a title/introductory slide; have the slides progress so that they build on previous slides; end the slide show with a conclusion slide.
- A catchy message; use one theme
- A slogan telling viewers to do something and making them want to do it
- Good use of colors and backgrounds to get and hold attention
- Letters large enough to be easily read and words separated enough to make them quickly grasped
- Good use of pictures and illustrations

Avoid these slide show faults:

- More than one theme
- Too busy -- too many and/or too scattered pictures or words
- Text too small to read easily
- Text is difficult to read due to not enough color contrast with background
- Material not relevant to topic
- Message becomes lost

Other tips to remember:

- Balance the placement of text and photos/illustrations on the slide
- Illustrations add emphasis and attract attention
- Small lettering is hard to read at a distance. Consider the following font sizes for readability from 20 feet:
 - Easiest to read: 36 to 44 point font size (Good for titles)
 - Easy to read: 28 to 34 point font size
 - Fairly easy to read: 24 to 26 point font size
- **Boldness** makes a difference
- Plain lettering is more readable than fancy lettering

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N.C. ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



GRADE LEVEL: 6, 7, 8, 9-12

JUDGE: _____

DATE: _____

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Slide Show Entry Number:								
CONSERVATION MESSAGE: 50 points Message shows clear understanding of why this natural resource is important & explains how people can & should conserve this natural resource.								
VISUAL EFFECTIVENESS: 30 points Readability (use of white space, type choice, neatness); originality; effect on audience (which slide show will you remember next year?)								
UNIVERSAL APPEAL: 10 points Easily understood by the general population								
ORIGINALITY: 10 points Entry expresses the contest theme in a fresh, inventive, or novel way of using independent thought and creative imagination, and using the unexpected to full advantage.								
SUBTOTAL:								
INFRACTIONS:								
PERFECT SCORE: 100 points								
TOTAL:								
INFRACTIONS: Violates Copyright: 5 points Exceeds slide limit (15 slides max): 5 points Exceeds time limit (5 minutes): 5 points Uses video: Disqualification								

(Adopted January 2014)