

2009 Niagara County Youth Environmental Essay Contest

Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District (NCSWCD) presents the 1st Annual Niagara County Youth Environmental Essay Contest.

ESSAY TOPIC

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was proposed by President Obama in his 2010 budget to focus on the most critical environmental concerns facing the Great Lakes.

WHY & HOW SHOULD WE PROTECT THE GREAT LAKES?

JUDGING

SWCD staff & environmental professionals will judge the essays using four (4) criteria.

- Creativity (1-30 points) Does the author use diverse writing techniques? Do they put a unique spin on the topic? Are the ideas original?
- Comprehension (1-30 points) Does the author display a clear understanding of the topic?
- Organization (1-20 points) Does the writing flow? Is there a clear expression of ideas?
- Writing (1-20 points) Does the author use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation?

2009 SPONSORS

- SEVENSON ENVIRONMENTAL SVCS.
- ROTARY CLUB OF LOCKPORT
- SYROS RESTAURANT
- WALMART - LOCKPORT STORE
- NIAGARA RIVER ANGLERS ASSOC.
- NIAGARA'S CHOICE FCU
- AQUARIUM OF NIAGARA
- NIAGARA TOURISM CORPORATION
- LOCKPORT LOCKS & CANAL CRUISES
- SNOW PARK NIAGARA FALLS
- NIAGARA-ORLEANS COUNTRY CLUB
- THUNDER THEATER/JD GIFTS
- REIDS DRIVE-IN
- NIAGARA WAX MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The essay contest for middle and high school students has two categories:

Novice - Grades 7 through 9
Expert - Grades 10 through 12

- 1st place winners in each category receive a Camping Equipment Package valued at \$200.
- 2nd and 3rd place winners will be awarded sponsor donated prizes valued at \$50 and \$25, respectively.
- Sponsor teachers of 1st place winners will also receive a sponsor donated award!

ESSAY CONTEST RULES

- Format essay on 8 1/2 x 11 paper (margins set to 1", 12-pt. font, single space)
 - Do not use "fancy" or script fonts.
 - Limit essay to 1,500 words (limit - three pages).
 - Number each page on the bottom right corner.
- Students must be under the direct supervision of a teacher who must endorse the essay as sponsor.
 - ONLY Niagara County students are eligible to participate.
 - Essays must relate to the identified theme question.

At the top left side of the first page, type:

- Author's name & telephone number
- Grade
- Teacher's name
- School name, address & telephone number

Type the author's name and the school name at the bottom of the last page. The title of the essay must be on the first page and in the upper left hand corner of subsequent pages. No drawings or poems, please. Entries become the property of Niagara County SWCD and will not be returned. All work must be original. Plagiarized work will be disqualified. **Entries must arrive at the SWCD office before 4:30 pm on December 22, 2009. Mailed submissions must be post-marked by 12/22/09.**

Mail: Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District, Essay Contest
USDA Service Center
4487 Lake Avenue
Lockport, NY 14094

or

E-mail: victor.digiacom@ny.nacdnet.net

For more information, contact:

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