

2026 Conservation Poster Contest

Sponsored by the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District

The 2026 Conservation Poster Contest is open to K-12th grade students within the Lower Elkhorn NRD boundaries.

The **2026 NACD Stewardship Week** theme, **“Soil. Where It All Begins”**, celebrates the incredible power of soil to support life in all its forms. Soil is not just the ground we walk on. It is the starting point for healthy food, clean water, thriving habitats, and resilient communities. From backyard gardens to forests and city parks, everything begins with what is beneath our feet.

Soil does a lot more than grow plants. It holds water, cycles nutrients, and provides homes for billions of living organisms that help keep nature in balance. It keeps roots in place, helps prevent flooding, and supports wildlife and people alike. The trees in our neighborhoods, the food on our tables, and the natural places we love all depend on healthy soils.

Conservation districts across the country work every day to protect this vital resource. Through education, technical support, and local partnerships, they help landowners and communities keep soil healthy, productive, and resilient. Districts also provide free [educational resources](#) to schools, families, and community groups to inspire the next generation of soil stewards and help people of all ages connect with conservation in meaningful ways. Whether it is helping farmers manage erosion or supporting school gardens in town, conservation districts lead the way in caring for the land. When we take care of soil, we are taking care of everything it supports. That is why soil is where it all begins!

<https://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-program/>

<https://www.nacdnet.org/contests/>

****See the back of this flyer for categories and contest rules****



Categories for conservation poster contest judging are: Grades K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12

- ✓ Each poster will be evaluated for its conservation message (50%), visual effectiveness (30%), originality (10%), and universal appeal (10%). The top poster from each division will be submitted to the state competition. Prizes will be given to the top three students in each division.

Contest Rules

- ✓ Open to public, private, and home-schooled students.
- ✓ All submissions **must** be sponsored by a local conservation district.
- ✓ Any media may be used, including paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper, or other materials.
- ✓ Poster size can be 8.5" x 11" or larger.
- ✓ The 2026 Stewardship theme **"SOIL. WHERE IT ALL BEGINS"** must be included on the front side of each poster submission to be eligible for the national poster contest.
- ✓ All posters **must have** a completed entry form attached to the back of the poster. **Deadline** for the poster contest is **Friday, November 13th.**

Entry Form

- ✓ **Please photocopy the enclosed form and attach a copy to the back of each poster. Mail or deliver posters to:**

*Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District
Attn: Julie Wragge
1508 Square Turn Boulevard
Norfolk, NE 68701*

402-371-7313 or jwragge@lenrd.org