**Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District Poster and Essay Contest Rules**

“Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home”

**Local Poster and Essay Contest Details**

* Categories
	+ K-2nd (poster only)
	+ 3rd-5th
	+ 6th-8th
	+ 9th-12th
* Entries must be submitted by the deadline.
* Each entry must have: student name, grade, school name, teacher and teacher’s e-mail and phone number.
* Must be student’s own work. Entries completed without adult assistance will be scored better.
* Winning students and supporting teachers at each age level will receive a $25 Gift Card from Half-Priced Books.

**Essay Details**

* The theme “Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home” must be present in your essay submission.
* Essay must be between 300-500 words.
* Essays are only judged at the local level.

**Poster Details**

* The theme “Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home” must be on your poster submission.
* Poster size between 8.5”x11” and 22”x28”
* Any media may be used to create a poster. Poster must be flat or 2D.
	+ Paint
	+ Crayons
	+ Colored Pencils
	+ Charcoal
	+ Paper
* Helpful tips
	+ Use a combination of illustrations and words
	+ Make sure the poster is balanced
	+ Be as neat as you can
* Things you should NOT do
	+ Cover poster with lamination or other clear covering
	+ Use fluorescent poster board as the background
	+ Create a poster that is all words
	+ Create a poster that is all pictures
* No photographic images
* Posters evaluated for Conservation Message (50%), Visual effectiveness (30%), Originality (10%) and Universal Appeal (10%).

**State and National Contest Details**

* Winning entries will be selected by your local conservation district and sent on to the state contest.
* State winning entries will then be sent to the national level, where one overall winner will be selected.
* Monetary prizes will be awarded to the 1st-3rd place winners in each category at the national level.