



Purpose

Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company makes it possible for CDI to partner with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) to offer the 2018 Conservation Poster Contest. A total of 45 awards are given. Any child that resides in Iowa, is a public, private or home school student in Kindergarten through 12th grade with a participating SWCD can participate. Visit <https://idals.iowa.gov/FARMS/index.php/districtMap> and on the map, select the county in which your school is located to find your SWCD Office.

What's new?!

- This year's new Poster Contest Theme is **"Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home"**
- Please note the 2018 Deadlines!



2018 Application Process & Deadlines

- **October, 2017:** Participating SWCD's get the word out about the 2018 Conservation Poster Contest.
- **Friday, March 23, 2018:** Applicants must submit their poster accompanied by the Poster Contest Entry Form to the SWCD office in the county which their school is located. Entry forms must be legible and complete, including a guardian/parental signature and their SWCDs information or the poster cannot be considered. Make sure a copy is securely attached to the back of the submitted poster.
- **Friday, May 4, 2018:** The local SWCD chooses one county winner from each of the five grade categories to submit to their CDI Regional Director via email with a Photo of Each Winning Poster, their Poster Contest Entry Form, and a completed District Winners Form.
- **Friday, May 25, 2018:** CDI Regional Directors will have chosen 45 winners to move on for state consideration, there is one regional winner from each of the 9 regions in each of the 5 categories. CDI Regional Directors will submit to CDI via email a Photo of Each Winning Poster, their Poster Contest Entry Form, the District Winners Form, and the Regional Winners Form.
- **June, 2018:** CDI Regional Directors & Alternates will choose one state winner from each of the five categories from those 45 regional winners at the CDI June Board Meeting.
- **July, 2018:** CDI will send awards to local SWCD offices who will in turn notify the student, school & local media. The five SWCDs with state poster contest winners will send the original poster to CDI. Posters must be packaged in a cardboard mailer so they remain flat when sent to CDI.
- **September, 2018:** The five state winning posters will be displayed during the 2018 Annual Conference for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners.
- **September, 2018:** The five state winning posters will be sent to the national poster contest for consideration for a national award and displayed at the 2019 NACD Annual Meeting in February.
- **NO POSTERS WILL BE CONSIDERED IF SUBMITTED AFTER THESE DEADLINES.**

Awards

- Local SWCD's may finance an award to winners at the county level.
- The five winners in each grade category within each of the nine regions will receive a **\$35** cash award.
- Each of the five first place state winners will receive **\$50** cash award rather than \$35. They will then be sent to the national poster contest for consideration for a national award.

Rules & Selection Criteria

- Posters must reflect and include the title of this year's contest theme **“Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home”** on the poster. Don't use any other phrase; this is the only title eligible for the national poster contest.
- The following **rules** apply. Posters must be made on regular poster paper. The size of the poster can range from 8.5x11 inches up to 22x28 inches. Mediums including paint, crayons, colored pencils, charcoal, stickers, magic markers, paper, or whatever inspires the students can be used. No three-dimensional effects are allowed.
- Iowa children who participate in the poster contest are divided into **five divisions**:
 - Division 1 - Grades K and 1
 - Division 2 - Grades 2 and 3
 - Division 3 - Grades 4 through 6
 - Division 4 - Grades 7 through 9
 - Division 5 - Grades 10 through 12
- Posters are judged based on the following **criteria**:
 - 50% for Conservation Message
 - 30% for Visual Effectiveness
 - 10% for Originality
 - 10% for Universal Appeal

Resources

- Please utilize the **downloads** on the **CDI website**, www.cdiowa.org and visit the **NACD website**, www.nacdnet.org to fully understand the Conservation Poster Contest guidelines and for great **education and poster creation resources!**