

Rooks County Conservation District Poster Contest Rules

- * Posters shall be drawn on 12x18" paper that is provided by the District. The poster must be drawn for HORIZONTAL DISPLAY ONLY. Posters shall not be mounted on other background materials.
- * Posters may be computer generated, in pencil, pen and ink, paint, watercolor, crayons, cut paper, etc.
- * The judges will select the winners based on the following criteria:

CONSERVATION THEME.....	30%
CLARITY OF MESSAGE.....	30%
ORIGINALITY & PUBLIC APPEARANCE.....	20%
NEATNESS & APPEARANCE.....	20%
- The entry forms need to be neatly printed or typed and attached to the **BACK LOWER LEFT HAND CORNER** of the poster. Be sure to complete every blank. Be sure your name does not appear on the front of the poster.
- Entries will be picked up from the school on **February 4th**. Winners in each category will be notified.

POSTER CONTEST IDEAS

WHAT MAKES A GOOD POSTER?

- A brief, catchy message; one theme that can be read in 10 seconds
- Using the selected theme- **"Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper"**
- Colors to get and hold attention
- White space that adds emphasis and attracts attention
- Letters large enough to be easily read and words separated enough to make them quickly grasped.

TIPS TO REMEMBER

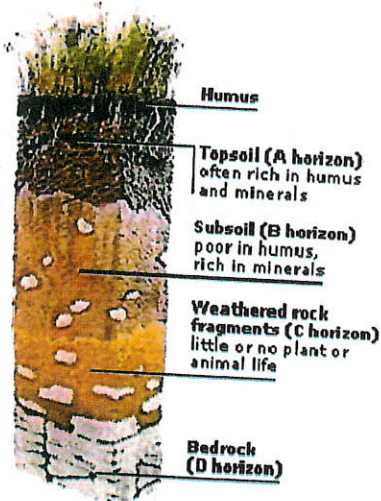
- Don't use too many words
- Use a combination of illustrations and words
- Be as neat as you can
- Blend colors when using crayons or colored pencils
- Depending on design leave white space on the poster
- Make sure the poster is balanced
- Brainstorm ideas and make a list
- Decide on information to include on the poster
- Research the theme topic
- Sketch out your idea
- Make guidelines for lettering (lightly)
- Clean up the poster so it is neat. Erase any guidelines that are showing

LIFE IN THE SOIL: DIG DEEPER

Soil comes from the rocks and minerals that have been broken up into tiny pieces. Soils can be many different colors because they come from many different rocks and minerals.

About 75% of the Earth's surface is covered with water. Most of the remaining 25% is covered with soil and not all of that is fertile and suitable for farming. A soil profile can be a useful tool to determine how fertile a soil may be.

A Soil profile is a section of soil from the top layer of the surface down to the rock or sediment layer from which the soil was originally formed. The different layers from top to bottom and in between are called horizons. Not all soil profiles look alike. There are many types of soils and their profiles can vary in colors, depth of horizons and many other ways.



It is very important to remember that we all need healthy soil. Plants and trees grow in the soil. Houses are built on soil. The food we eat grows in and on the soil. Soil helps clean the water we drink. Some of our clothes come from plants that grow in the soil. **We All Need Soil!**

Soil can take thousands or even millions of years to form! This is why it is very important to take good care of the soil we have. Soil fertility is important to all of us as the world's population increases and the amount of available farm ground decreases. Remember...we can't survive without healthy soil! Taking good care of our soil is the best way to make sure that we have the soil we need for food, water, air, clothes and many other things. There are many things you can do to protect your soil, like recycling and composting, terracing, cover crops and no till farming on crop ground.

Take a look outside after it rains. If you see muddy water flowing it can mean that soil is mixed with the water and is being washed away. This is soil erosion. Soil is being carried away by rainwater. If you see soil erosion happening in your yard, try planting some plants or trees. Roots from plants and trees help hold soil in place, preventing erosion.

Only about 10% of Earth's land surface has suitable soil for producing our food supply, housing, cities, schools, hospitals, air to breathe and more! Our healthy life above ground depends upon healthy soil below our feet! It is vital that we practice good soil conservation.

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." ---

Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, 1949

Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
Entry Blank for Poster, Essay, and Limerick Contest

Name_____

Home Address_____City & zip_____

Parents Name_____Phone #_____

Age_____Grade in School_____

Name of School_____

Teachers Name_____

Title

Rooks County Conservation District

Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
Entry Blank for Poster, Essay, and Limerick Contest

Name_____

Home Address_____City & zip_____

Parents Name_____Phone #_____

Age_____Grade in School_____

Name of School_____

Teachers Name_____

Title

Rooks County Conservation District