

Richland County ARBOR DAY YOUTH CONTEST

2014 Topic: If Trees Could Talk

What message would a tree send to humans?

Background: Arbor Day is a holiday set aside to plant, care for, and celebrate trees. The first Arbor Day was celebrated in Nebraska in 1872, and today, Arbor Day is celebrated in all 50 states and in many other countries around the world. While several states observe Arbor Day in spring, South Carolina celebrates Arbor Day in December because winter is the best time for planting trees in our climate. This year, Arbor Day falls on Friday, December 5, 2014.

Assignment: To raise awareness about Arbor Day and about the importance of planting and caring for trees, we invite Richland County preK-12 students to create messages from a tree's point of view. What would a tree tell humans if given the chance? Students may use a variety of media (writing, video, poster, or bulletin board) to present their ideas. See entry form (attached) for additional guidelines.

Awards: Contest winners will receive \$25 cash prizes. Entries may be individual, group, or class projects, but only one cash prize will be awarded per winning entry.

Eligibility: The contest is open to preK-12 students who live in, or attend school in, Richland County.

Due Date: The submission deadline is October 31, 2014.

Inspiration: Use these ideas to spark your imagination.

Pretend you are a tree.

What would you tell the young child who climbs your branches?

What slogan would you promote on a billboard?

What would you tell a forester?

What message would you put on a bumper sticker or T-shirt?

What would you tell a politician?

What do you wish people knew about trees?

What would you tell a hiker or camper?

What history lesson could you teach?



2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063A
Columbia, SC 29204

E-mail soilandwater@rcgov.us

Phone (803) 576-2080 • Fax (803) 576-2088

www.rcgov.us/rswcd • www.facebook.com/rswcd

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Entry Form

Due Date: October 31, 2014

Entry Title _____

Creator(s) _____

Grade _____ School _____

Teacher _____

Teacher Phone _____ Teacher E-Mail _____

Entry Type (check one):

Writing: Essays, stories, poems, songs, letters, riddles, and other written forms are all acceptable. Submit entries with completed entry forms via fax, e-mail, US Mail, or hand delivery.

Video: Videos should not exceed five minutes in length. Submit videos on CD with completed entry forms via US Mail or hand delivery.

Poster: Any 2D media may be used to create a poster (paint, crayon, marker, pen, pencil, 2D collage, computer software, etc.). Posters should be between 8.5"x11" and 24"x36", and they must be submitted with completed entry forms via US Mail or hand delivery.

Bulletin Board: Perfect for a group or class project, bulletin boards should be at least 3'x4'. Submit an entry form via fax, e-mail, US Mail, or hand delivery. A representative from the Conservation District will contact you to schedule a visit to view and photograph the bulletin board or mural.



**Richland Soil and Water
Conservation District**

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