

Benton Soil and Water Conservation District

2012 ESSAY CONTEST

Our Soil – A Layer of Life

1. *Who May Enter* Any fifth or sixth grader in the current school year, living or going to school within Benton County, may enter by submitting one entry.
2. *Essay Length* 400-500 words
3. *Essay Material* Use 8 ½” x 11” white paper
4. *Theme* The purpose of this contest is to give students an understanding of the importance of soil protection and soil conservation in our communities. Essays should be related to a class assigned activity or individual experience suggested from the activities included in the folder. The Essay must express the theme “*Our Soil – A Layer of Life*”
5. *Essay Format* Double-space computer printing or hand-written
6. *Back of Essay* List the following identification information on back of the essay:
 - Student’s name
 - Parent’s name telephone number, address
 - Teacher, school, grade level and city
 - Benton Soil and Water Conservation District
7. *Timeline* Essays entries must be delivered to the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District office by **4:30 pm Friday, March 30, 2012.**
8. *Judging*

Composition – 30%

 - Spelling, grammar, sentence structure
 - Organization
 - Legibility

Subject Matter – 70%

 - Accuracy of information
 - Style (readability, creativity)
 - Relevance to contest theme
 - Presentation of local water concerns related to conservation
9. *Awards*

Benton Soil and Water Conservation District awards:
Essay: 1st Place - \$100.00; 2nd Place - \$75.00;
3rd Place - \$50.00; 4th Place - \$25.00

Classroom winners each receive \$5.00

In addition to the student receiving the 1st place prize in the Essay Contest, they will also win \$100.00 to be rewarded to their teacher as a classroom award!
10. *Policy* All essays become the property of the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District and may be used at their discretion.