



SOIL STEWARDSHIP PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

GUIDELINES

Important Note:

To prepare for the 2027 Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest, students are to consult with their Ag Science teacher, use this Guidelines Packet and reference the SDE Handbook.

Students should collaborate with their local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) as a resource when researching local conservation needs and preparing their speech. A signed SWCD Affidavit, included in this packet, is required and must be submitted along with their speech at contest.

To locate your local SWCD:

1. Visit: <https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/swcds/locatormap>
2. Click on the region number in which your county is located.
3. Find the name of your county and click on it. There you will find the name of your SWCD, and information on how to contact the district, or the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Field Representative who assists the district.

Speech Objective:

The 2027 theme, "Soil: Foundation for the Future," emphasizes that healthy soil is the cornerstone of strong communities, productive agriculture, resilient ecosystems, and ultimately, a sustainable Texas. Every acre of healthy soil supports the food we grow, the water we protect, the wildlife we conserve, and the landscapes that will sustain future generations. As populations grow and demands on our natural resources increase, the need to protect and improve our soils has never been more important. This year's objective is to increase awareness of soil as one of Texas' most valuable natural resources and to highlight the lasting benefits of sound conservation practices. By promoting stewardship that improves soil health, reduces erosion, enhances water quality, and strengthens working lands, we can build a more resilient future for our state. The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the state's Soil and Water Conservation Districts work alongside landowners, producers, educators, and communities to encourage conservation that delivers lasting results. Through education, innovation, and local leadership, we can inspire Texans of all ages to recognize that every conservation decision made today helps build a stronger foundation for tomorrow. Together, we can ensure that healthy soils continue to support thriving farms, ranches, communities, and natural resources for generations to come.

The Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest is a partnership between the Texas FFA Association, the Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD).

For more information:

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
1497 Country View Lane
Temple, TX 76504-8806
(254) 773-2250
www.tsswcb.texas.gov

QUESTIONS?

Please send any questions or concerns to
youthdevelopment@tsswcb.texas.gov

SWCD AFFIDAVIT

My name is _____ and I am currently a member of the _____
FFA Chapter affiliated with _____ High School in _____
Texas. I hereby state that that the information stated is both accurate and complete and
that I have consulted with the _____ Soil and Water Conservation
District in preparation for the 2027 Soil and Water Stewardship Public Speaking Contest,
"Soil: Foundation for the Future."

Contestant Signature

Date

Advisor Signature

Date

SWCD Representative Signature

SWCD Rep. Job Title

Date

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youthdevelopment@tsswcb.texas.gov

This form is a requirement for SDE competition.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Three scholarships will be awarded by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts to the top three individuals of the state contest.

- **\$4,000 scholarship to the 1st place contestant**
- **\$3,000 scholarship to the 2nd place contestant**
- **\$2,000 scholarship to the 3rd place contestant**

Scholarship money must be used to defray costs of the recipient's education at a technical institution, college, or university of the recipient's choice. Scholarship funds will be transmitted directly to a public speaking contest winner's chosen technical school, college, or university in the student's name upon proof of registration as a full-time student at a single institution of higher learning.

Expense Paid Trip:

The 1st place winner in the state contest and his/her advisor will receive an expense paid trip under the State of Texas travel guidelines to the Annual Meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. The 1st place winner in the state contest is required to present their speech at the aforementioned meeting.

Thank You Notes:

We ask that the winners of the scholarship money from the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts consider sending a thank you note.

Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
1497 Country View Lane
Temple, Texas 76504

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youthdevelopment@tsswcb.texas.gov