

Essay Contest Rules for 2016-2017
Hinds County Soil and Water Conservation District
Open to all 7th – 12th grade students in Hinds County
(Includes public, private, charter or home school students)

DUE DATE:

- **All entries must be received in our office by Friday, Dec. 9, 2016 and may be submitted before the deadline.**
- **The address is 322 New Market Dr., Jackson, MS 39209**
- **Phone number is (601) 965-5682 Ext. 180**
- **School pickup arrangements must be made by Dec. 2, 2016.**



THEME: The theme for the contest this year is “**Healthy Soils Are Full of Life**”. The theme emphasizes the absolute necessity of nutrient-rich soils in which our food is grown.

- **The theme must be on the front of the poster**
- **Be sure to emphasize the link between conservation and healthy soils!**

FORMAT AND STYLE: Essays may be typed or legibly handwritten using only the front side of each page.

- **Essays must be a minimum of 300 words and a maximum of 500 words.**

COVER SHEET: A cover sheet must be attached to the front of the essay and must include:

- Student first name and last name
- Address (complete mailing address for notification of winning essay via official letter)
- Parent or guardian name
- Email address (for electronic notification of winning essay)
- Phone Number (in case response to invitation goes unanswered)
- School name, Grade and Age
- Teacher's name & Teacher's E-mail address (educator contact responsible for this contest)
- Name of Sponsor which is the Hinds County Soil & Water Conservation District

REFERENCE LIST: A list of references should be included as the last page of the essay.

JUDGING: The essays are first judged at each grade level for each school to determine the first, second and third place school winners. Next, the first place winning entries are grouped into one of three categories, 7th & 8th grade, 9th & 10th grade and 11th and 12th grade, to determine the overall County winners. All first place County winners will advance to a Central Area competition. Any first place winning entries in the Central Area competition will advance to the State competition. Any first place winning entries in the State competition will advance to the National competition.

RECOGNITION: Each participant will receive a pencil for your entry. A certificate will be presented to each first, second and third place school winner for each grade that entries were submitted.

AWARDS: County winners for first, second or third place will receive a ribbon, certificate and cash award. **The cash awards are First place-- \$40.00, Second place--\$30.00 and Third place--\$20.00.**

RECEPTION: All county winners will be honored at our Annual Poster and Essay reception that will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. A letter containing an invitation will be mailed to the mailing address included on the cover sheet. **WINNERS MUST R.S.V.P. for the reception.**