

FFA Leadership Development Program

2016 Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest Theme:

**Land Stewardship
Produces a
Healthy Texas**

To prepare for the public speaking contest, students are to consult with their Ag Science teacher and use the Guidelines Packet accessible on the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board's website. The student is also to work with their soil and water conservation district (SWCD) as a local resource. A statement signed by an SWCD representative must be attached to the submitted speech.

To locate and contact a soil and water conservation district, refer to page 8 of this packet and follow the instructions.

This program is a partnership between the Texas FFA, the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

For more information contact:

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
P.O. Box 658
Temple, TX 76503
(254) 773-2250 or 800-792-3485
<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov>



Scholarships Available



Three scholarships will be presented by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts at the annual Texas FFA convention. One \$3,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the first place contestant, one \$2,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the second place contestant and one \$1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the third place contestant at the convention.

Scholarship money must be used to defray costs of a recipient's education at a technical institution, college, or university of the recipient's choice. All scholarships will be awarded 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 the institution of higher learning.

Expense Paid Trips: The state first place scholarship winner and his or her advisor will receive an expense paid trip under State of Texas travel guidelines to the annual meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. The first place Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest Winner is required to present his or her state winning speech at the annual meeting of SWCD Directors.

To Access the Guidelines Packet

1. Click on the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board's website: www.tsswcb.texas.gov
2. On the left side of the home page, under Program Quick Links click on "SWCD Information & Education."
3. Click on "[Soil & Water Stewardship Public Speaking Contest](#)" and scroll down for the 2016 Program Guidelines Packet

To Get the Student Started

Using the prompt statements or questions noted in the speech outline on page six, the student is to center his/her speech on the theme "*Land Stewardship Produces a Healthy Texas*" The focus of the speech is to demonstrate knowledge gained as a result of research and personal consultation with the local soil and water conservation district. It is further recommended that the student consult the listed resources that follow to gain a well rounded view of the theme topic. **Other resources may also be consulted in addition to the listed references.**

Recommended Resources for Speech Development

<https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/files/docs/Land%20Stewardship%20-%20Providing%20Water%20for%20Texans%202015-2.pdf>

States some benefits voluntary land stewardship plays in solutions for water issues in Texas because it is complementary, cost-effective, sustainable, efficient, multifaceted, and manageable. The efforts of private landowners are vitally important because the presence of voluntary land stewardship helps maximize the effectiveness of all other water management strategies.

http://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/habitats/pineywood/tech_guidance/forest_stewardship.phtml

Sixty percent of East Texas belongs to the more than 150,000 non-industrial private landowners who decide how the forest will be used. The region's continued environmental and economic health depends on efforts to protect forest resources.

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1023/A%3A1009534214698>

The article defines and explains the stewardship of natural resources including the ethical and practical aspects of land stewardship.

http://www.michigandnr.com/publications/pdfs/huntingwildlifehabitat/Landowners_Guide/Habitat_Mgmt/Planning/Land_Stewardship.htm

Article talks about motives of land stewardship, understanding what resources are on the land and the planning process for the care of the resources.

<http://www.landstewardship.org/stewardship-principles/>

Talks about the principles of good land management practices and basic stewardship principles that can help landowners and land managers become better stewards and make more sustainable use of the resources in their care.

http://www.texas-wildlife.org/images/uploads/Voluntary_Land_Stewardships_Benefits.pdf

Addresses how land stewardship benefits the waters of Texas.

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_051259.pdf

This publication addresses guidelines for soil quality assessment in conservation planning.

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs141p2_018516.pdf

The publication defines what a soil and water conservation plan is what is in a conservation plan and the benefits of a conservation plan.

<http://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/CAT87210574/PDF>

A historical document which is a manual on the conservation of soil and water. A wealth of information on a wide array of soil and water conservation principles to include a classification system of land and land capabilities.

<http://www.cep.unt.edu/theses/grant.pdf>

This is a theses prepared for a Master's Degree on the subject of private property in America and the ethics of owning land.

<http://irnr.tamu.edu/media/256589/fragmentedlands.pdf>

The article addresses fragmented lands and changing land ownership in Texas as well as buyer and seller motives for selling or purchasing land.

http://irnr.tamu.edu/media/233178/texas_land_trends.pdf

Brief article presenting land trend issues and the loss of land in Texas.

<http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/resources/fact-sheets/en/#c326621>

The website presents a series of fact sheets about the benefits of soil i.e., Functional soils play a key role in the supply of clean water and resilience to floods and droughts. Healthy soils are crucial for ensuring the continued growth of natural and managed vegetation, providing feed, fiber, fuel, medicinal products and other ecosystem services such as climate regulation and oxygen production. It is the foundation for agriculture and the medium in which nearly all food-producing plants grow.

Specific Instructions: The speech must be between *six and eight minutes in length*.
For specific rules and requirements relating to the contest, consult the Degree Check Guidelines.

Objective of the Speech

The objectives of the speech are as follows:

1. Development of an understanding of what ethical and practical land stewardship means.
2. Provide examples of benefits derived from good land stewardship.
3. Provide examples of how good land stewardship contributes to the environmental and economic health to the speaker's local community.
4. Explanation of how good land stewardship benefits Texas water quality and quantity.
5. Explanation of how good land stewardship addresses soil health.
6. Development of an understanding of what a soil and water conservation plan is, the components of a plan, and the benefits of a conservation plan.
7. Development of an understanding of what a land classification system is and what constitutes land capabilities.
8. Develop an understanding of land trend issues in Texas and the results of the trend.



Speech Outline

Introduction

- Introduce the theme “Land Stewardship Produces a Healthy Texas”. Follow with what ethical and practical land stewardship means.
- Set the tone of the speech with some thought provoking quote regarding a philosophical view of good land stewardship practices.

Body of Speech

- State some facts about current land trend issues in Texas and the results of the trend.
- Define what a land capability classification system is and what constitutes a land’s capabilities. Explain how a classified type of land relates to land trend issues.
- From interviews and discussion with local soil and water conservation district personnel (USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel, a soil and water conservation district employee, or a conservation district director) discuss ways in which the local soil and water conservation district, along with agricultural producers cooperating with the SWCD, contribute to good land management in the local community.
- Explain what a soil and water conservation plan is, the components of a plan and the benefits of a conservation plan. How does a plan play a role in the quantity and quality of water and soil health?
- Discuss how good land stewardship contributes to the environmental and economic health to the local community, state, and nation.

Conclusion

- How do you visualize carrying the theme, “Land Stewardship Produces a Healthy Texas” into the future?

** It is not required that the above prompt questions be addressed in the speech as chronologically listed. The student has the flexibility to rearrange the prompt questions in a manner that permits a smooth flow of delivery. The student also has the flexibility to introduce other concepts into his or her speech that he or she feels relevant to the presentation.*

Soil and Water Conservation District Consultation Affidavit

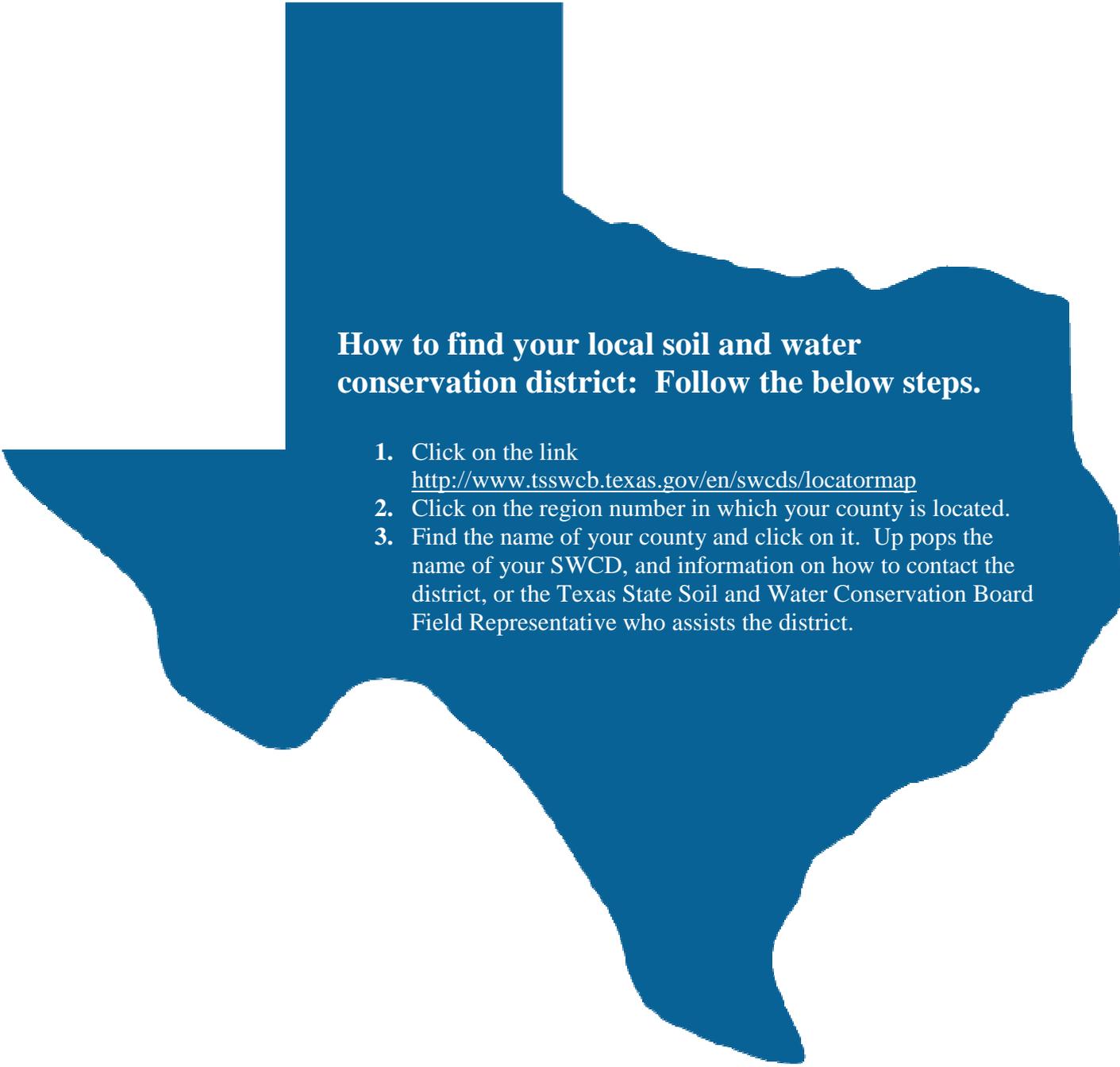
I certify that _____ consulted with
the _____ Soil and Water Conservation
District in preparation for the 2016 Soil and Water Stewardship Public Speaking
Contest (“Land Stewardship Produces a Healthy Texas”).

(Student Signature) (Date)

(SWCD Representative Signature) (Date)

(This form should be submitted along with the speech.)





How to find your local soil and water conservation district: Follow the below steps.

1. Click on the link
<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/swcnds/locatormap>
2. Click on the region number in which your county is located.
3. Find the name of your county and click on it. Up pops 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.