

# SOIL STEWARDSHIP PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

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HEALTHY  
FORESTS

HEALTHY  
COMMUNITIES



2021

# GUIDELINES

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To prepare for the Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest, students are to consult with their Ag Science teacher, use this Guidelines Packet and reference the SDE Handbook. The student is also to work with their Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) as a local resource. A signed SWCD affidavit included on the last page of this packet must be submitted along with the speech for contests.

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, and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

## **Speech Objective:**

The 2021 theme is "Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities." Trees are vital. As the biggest plants on the planet, they absorb carbon from the atmosphere, stabilize the soil, filter water, provide healthy habitat for wildlife and offer many additional benefits – for nature, people and biodiversity. Not only is it necessary to protect existing trees and plant new ones, but it's also important to advocate and educate about trees and forest conservation within your community.

## **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.

## **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](http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov)

## **QUESTIONS?**

Please send any questions or concerns to  
[youthdevelopment@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:youthdevelopment@tsswcb.texas.gov)

# SCHOLARSHIPS

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

- **\$3,000 scholarship to the 1st place contestant**
- **\$2,000 scholarship to the 2nd place contestant**
- **\$1,000 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 the 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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# SWCD AFFIDAVIT

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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 2021 Soil and Water Stewardship Public Speaking Contest, "Healthy  
Forests, Healthy Communities."

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Contestant Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Advisor Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*SWCD Representative Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*SWCD Rep. Job Title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

*\*\* This form is a requirement for SDE competition.*

## QUESTIONS?

Please send any questions or concerns to  
[youthdevelopment@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:youthdevelopment@tsswcb.texas.gov)