



# National Association of Conservation Districts

## 2026 NACD Additional Assist Poster Contest

**Theme:** “Soil. Where it all Begins”

The National Association of Conservation Districts Additional Assist Poster Contest is open to kindergarten through 12th grade students who require additional assistance in completing a poster for the contest. Only official state poster contest sponsors can submit entries for the national contest.

**Submissions will not be accepted at the national submission link until March 1, 2026**

### **Submission Process:**

- All posters must first be judged in a local or area conservation district-sponsored contest and in a state conservation association or state auxiliary-sponsored contest. Please refer to the contest flow chart for more information.
- State Poster Contest Coordinators must submit entries through the online submission form available on the NACD Education Contests page. Email submissions will not be accepted.
- To find the contact responsible for the NACD poster contest in your state/territory, visit the NACD Conservation District Directory or contact your state conservation association.

**Please note:** Many districts prefer to present checks at annual meetings, awards banquets, or school events, strengthening the connection between the student and the district. Starting in 2025, NACD sends certificates and checks directly to the sponsoring district, which will then issue its own check to the student. The district will work with parents or guardians to ensure the check is written correctly, avoiding processing issues and ensuring proper award coordination.

---

### **Additional Assist Contest Additions:**

- The Additional Assist Poster Contest ensures that all students have the opportunity to participate, including those who may need assistance.
- While the hand-drawn poster contest encourages individual creation, the additional assist contest celebrates the abilities of all participants and **allows for adult assistance**.
- We value the unique contributions of every student, and entries that prominently feature the student’s hand drawing, writing, and coloring will be especially appreciated, as they highlight the individuality and creativity of the participant, with or without additional assistance.



## Contest Rules:

The 2026 Stewardship theme phrase, "Soil. Where it all Begins," must be included in full on the front side of each poster submission to be eligible for the national contest.

- Traditional painted or drawn posters should be scanned and uploaded as a PDF. Ensure scanned files are cropped, flat, and straight. See the Contests page for easy scanning methods using a cell phone. Taking a photograph of the poster is not recommended due to quality concerns.
- **Size:** The poster design size should meet the requirements of the state contest. 11 x 17 inches is recommended for durability (60 lb. to 90 lb. paper suggested).
- Any media may be used, including paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper, or other materials. Mixed media is permitted.
- Posters must be created by an individual student. While adult assistance is allowed in this category, the entry must reflect the contestant's original creation and may not be traced from photographs or other artists' works.
- Submissions should be in **PDF, JPEG, or PNG format.**
- **File Name Requirement:** When submitting your poster, follow the file naming format exactly to avoid disqualification. **There will be no exceptions.**
  - **Format:** State\_CategoryCode\_GradeLevel\_LastName\_FirstInitial
  - **State:** The full name of your state. Do not abbreviate.
  - **Category Code:** The word "Assist" to indicate an Additional Assist poster.
  - **Grade Level:** Your grade division
  - **Last Name:** Complete last name. **First Initial:** The first initial of first name.

**Example:** Georgia\_Assist\_2\_3\_Kinder\_P

## Poster Evaluation Criteria:

- **Conservation Message (50%):** The poster effectively conveys the theme and a clear conservation message.
- **Visual Effectiveness (30%):** The design is engaging, well-organized, and visually appealing.
- **Originality (10%):** The poster demonstrates creativity and fresh ideas.
- **Universal Appeal (10%):** The design should appeal to a broad audience and be easily understood.



# National Association of Conservation Districts

## **Additional Notes:**

- Winning posters will be announced at the 2027 NACD Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV.
- Winning posters will be showcased during the Annual Meeting luncheon.
- Local and state contest awards and sponsors may differ by state. Depending on the sponsoring state's conservation association, auxiliary, or agency's preference, national awards can be presented at a regional, state, and/or local conservation ceremony.
- Each state conservation association, auxiliary, or agency contact will receive notification of the judging results and a news release announcing the winners.

## **NACD Contact Information:**

National Association of Conservation Districts

509 Capitol Ct, NE, Washington, DC 20002

Phone: (202) 547-6223

Website: [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org)

**Contest questions? [stewardship@nacdn.net](mailto:stewardship@nacdn.net)**