



## 2026 NACD Braille Poster Contest

**Theme:** “Soil. Where It All Begins”

The National Association of Conservation Districts Braille Poster Contest is open to kindergarten through 12th grade students who are blind or have low vision. This contest provides a platform for students to express their creativity and conservation messages through Braille and tactile or mixed media elements.

**Eligibility:** The contest is open only to K-12th grade students who are blind or have low vision and require Braille or tactile assistance to participate.

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### Submission Requirements:

- Artwork entered in the national competition must first have been judged in a local or area conservation district-sponsored poster contest and a state conservation association or state auxiliary-sponsored contest.
- To find the contact responsible for the NACD poster contest in your state/territory, visit the NACD Conservation District Directory and contact your state conservation association.
- State conservation association, auxiliary, or state poster contest sponsors select a poster to enter in each of the five-grade divisions: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12. States are not required to enter a poster for every grade level.
- If the local district does not participate in the Braille Poster Contest, NACD will make allowances for submission through the state poster contest organizer if permitted.
- Posters must be uploaded through the online submission form found on the NACD Contests page. This link will go live March 1, 2026. Deadline to submit is Dec 1, 2026.
- Braille Poster Submissions can include up to three photos. At least one photo **MUST** showcase the entire poster, with up to two additional close-up photos permitted.
- Submissions should be in **PDF, JPEG, or PNG format.**



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- **File Name Requirement:** When submitting your digital poster, follow the file naming format exactly to avoid disqualification:
  - **Format:** State\_CategoryCode\_GradeLevel\_LastName\_FirstInitial
  - **State:** The full name of your state. Do not abbreviate.
  - **Category Code:** The word "Braille" to indicate a Braille poster.
  - **Grade Level:** Your grade division
  - **Last Name:** Your last name. **First Initial:** The first initial of your first name.

**Example:** California\_Braille\_10\_12\_Drummon\_C

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**Contest Rules:** Participants can create Braille posters in a variety of ways:

- By using their imagination to draw, add tactile elements, fabrics, or other mixed media, and then incorporating Braille labeling with a Braille embosser or similar tools.
- By using a Braille (a Braille typewriter) to create Braille elements and then adding color or additional drawings.
- Braille posters should be scanned and uploaded as a PDF. Please ensure scanned files are cropped, flat, and straight.
- Please see the Contests page for instructions on scanning to PDF using a cell phone. Both Apple and Android phones have a document scan feature without requiring an additional app.
- **Size:** Braille posters can be any size that accommodates the student's needs.
- Any media may be used for tactile elements, including Braille, raised textures, and other materials.



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**Braille Contest Additions:** Students participating in this contest are permitted to have an adult assist them in the creation of their posters, particularly in the Braille labeling process, making it a contest available to everyone.

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## Poster Evaluation Criteria:

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

- Winning posters will be announced and showcased during the luncheon at the 2026 NACD Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV.
- 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? Email [stewardship@nacdn.org](mailto:stewardship@nacdn.org)**