



# National Association of Conservation Districts

## 2026 NACD Digital Poster Contest

**Theme:** "Soil. Where it all Begins"

The NACD Digital (Graphic Design) Poster Contest is open to **7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students**.

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. For more information on local and state contests, please refer to the contest flow chart.

### Submission Process:

- Only official state contest sponsors can submit entries for the national contest.
- State-level contest sponsors will select one poster per grade division (7 - 9 and 10 - 12) to enter the national contest.
- States are not required to submit an entry for each grade division.
- The national contest submission link will go live on March 1, 2026. All national contest submissions must be received between March 1, 2026 and midnight local time on December 1, 2026 at the NACD submission link. Any submissions after midnight will not be considered, no exceptions.
- Submissions should be in PDF, JPEG, or PNG format.

**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 (e.g., Maryland, West Virginia).
- **Category Code:** The word "Digital" to indicate a digital poster.
- **Grade Level:** Your grade division (either 7–9 or 10–12).
- **Last Name:** Your last name. **First Initial:** The first initial of your first name.

**Examples:** Maryland\_Digital\_10\_12\_Stanley\_M    WestVirginia\_Digital\_7\_9\_Smith\_S



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## Design Specifications:

- Posters must be created using graphic design software. Participants are encouraged to use the latest graphic design tools to enhance their designs.
  - Posters must be original work. Only individual students are eligible to submit entries. Group or team projects will not be accepted.
  - Posters must reflect the 2026 Stewardship theme: **“Soil. Where it all Begins.”** This theme must be prominently included in each poster submission.
  - Do not include copyrighted, trademarked, or branded marks, images, or phrases, except for the Stewardship Week 2026 theme statement.
  - The design size should meet the specifications outlined by the state contest. 11 x 17 inch landscape or portrait is preferred.
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## Digital Poster Evaluation Criteria: Contest entries will be evaluated based on the following:

- **Conservation Message (50%):** The poster effectively uses the correct theme and conveys a clear conservation message.
  - **Visual Effectiveness (30%):** The design is eye-catching, 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.
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## Additional Notes:

- The winning posters will be announced and highlighted during the Annual Meeting luncheon at the 2027 NACD Annual Meeting to be held 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.



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**NACD Contact Information:**

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