



Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Conservation Poster Contest
A Patch Program for All Girl Scouts



VA Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
7308 Hanover Green Drive, Suite 100
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
www.vaswcd.org



Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District
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The Conservation Poster Contest Patch Program was developed by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District.

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Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The VASWCD Educational Foundation Mission

The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Educational Foundation is nonprofit and classified as a 501(c)(3) organization that was established in 1990. The VASWCD Educational Foundation provides and promotes leadership in the conservation of natural resources through stewardship and education programs. Funding for activities such as Envirothon is provided through donations made by individuals, corporations, organizations and other foundations as well as fundraising efforts. Contributions to the VASWCD Educational Foundation are used to support educational efforts within the Commonwealth.

There are 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts serving localities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Governed by a board of directors of local citizens, districts work hand-in hand with state, federal and county agencies, other conservation organizations, schools, and many community partners to achieve their conservation objectives.

Districts offer many educational programs which target a variety of audiences. Emphasis is on education programs based on the VA Standards of Learning. Resources include activities, games, models, videos, skits, and more. Many districts also have a variety of resources available to teachers and scout leaders.

Contact information for the Soil and Water Conservation District serving each of the Girl Scout Commonwealth Councils counties can be found on the following pages.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts



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Soil and Water Conservation Districts

County/City	SWCD
Accomack Co.	Eastern Shore SWCD
Albemarle Co.	Thomas Jefferson SWCD
Alleghany Co.	Mountain SWCD
Amelia Co.	Piedmont SWCD
Amherst Co.	Robert E. Lee SWCD
Appomattox Co.	Robert E. Lee SWCD
Augusta Co.	Headwaters SWCD
Bath Co.	Mountain SWCD
Bedford Co.	Peaks of Otter SWCD
Bedford, City of	Peaks of Otter SWCD
Bland Co.	Big Walker SWCD
Botetourt Co.	Mountain Castles SWCD
Brunswick Co.	Lake Country SWCD
Buchanan Co.	Big Sandy SWCD
Buckingham Co.	Peter Francisco SWCD
Buena Vista, City of	Natural Bridge SWCD
Campbell Co.	Robert E. Lee SWCD
Caroline Co.	Hanover-Caroline SWCD
Carroll Co.	New River SWCD
Charles City Co.	Colonial SWCD
Charlotte Co.	Southside SWCD
Chesapeake, City of	Virginia Dare SWCD
Chesterfield Co.	James River SWCD
Clarke Co.	Lord Fairfax SWCD
Covington, City of	Mountain SWCD
Craig Co.	Mountain Castles SWCD
Culpeper Co.	Culpeper SWCD
Cumberland Co.	Peter Francisco SWCD
Dickenson Co.	Lonesome Pine SWCD
Dinwiddie Co.	Appomattox SWCD
Essex Co.	Three Rivers SWCD

County/City	SWCD
Fairfax Co.	Northern Virginia SWCD
Fauquier Co.	John Marshall SWCD
Floyd Co.	Skyline SWCD
Fluvanna Co.	Thomas Jefferson SWCD
Franklin Co.	Blue Ridge SWCD
Frederick Co.	Lord Fairfax SWCD
Fredericksburg, City of	Tri-County/City SWCD
Galax, City of	New River SWCD
Giles Co.	Skyline SWCD
Gloucester Co.	Tidewater SWCD
Goochland Co.	Monacan SWCD
Grayson Co.	New River SWCD
Greene Co.	Culpeper SWCD
Greenville Co.	Chowan Basin SWCD
Halifax Co.	Halifax SWCD
Hanover Co.	Hanover-Caroline SWCD
Harrisonburg, City of	Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Henrico Co.	Henricopolis SWCD
Henry Co.	Blue Ridge SWCD
Highland Co.	Mountain SWCD
Isle of Wight Co.	Peanut SWCD
James City Co.	Colonial SWCD
King George Co.	Tri-County/City SWCD
King & Queen Co.	Three Rivers SWCD
King William Co.	Three Rivers SWCD
Lancaster Co.	Northern Neck SWCD
Lee Co.	Daniel Boone SWCD
Lexington, City of	Natural Bridge SWCD
Loudoun Co.	Loudoun SWCD
Louisa Co.	Thomas Jefferson SWCD



Soil and Water Conservation Districts

County/City	SWCD
Lunenburg Co.	Southside SWCD
Lynchburg, City of	Robert E. Lee SWCD
Madison Co.	Culpeper SWCD
Mathews Co.	Tidewater SWCD
Mecklenburg Co.	Lake Country SWCD
Middlesex Co.	Tidewater SWCD
Montgomery Co.	Skyline SWCD
Nelson Co.	Thomas Jefferson SWCD
New Kent Co.	Colonial SWCD
Northampton Co.	Eastern Shore SWCD
Northumberland Co.	Northern Neck SWCD
Nottoway Co.	Piedmont SWCD
Orange Co.	Culpeper SWCD
Page Co.	Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Patrick Co.	Patrick SWCD
Petersburg, City of	Appomattox River SWCD
Pittsylvania Co.	Pittsylvania SWCD
Powhatan Co.	Monacan SWCD
Prince Edward Co.	Piedmont SWCD
Prince George Co.	James River SWCD
Prince William Co.	Prince William SWCD
Pulaski Co.	Skyline SWCD
Rappahannock Co.	Culpeper SWCD
Richmond Co.	Northern Neck SWCD
Roanoke, City of	Blue Ridge SWCD
Roanoke Co.	Blue Ridge SWCD
Rockbridge Co.	Natural Bridge SWCD
Rockingham Co.	Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Russell Co.	Clinch Valley SWCD
Scott Co.	Scott County SWCD
Shenandoah Co.	Lord Fairfax SWCD

County/City	SWCD
Smyth Co.	Evergreen SWCD
Southampton Co.	Chowan Basin SWCD
Spotsylvania Co.	Tri-County/City SWCD
Stafford Co.	Tri-County/City SWCD
Staunton, City of	Headwaters SWCD
Suffolk, City of	Peanut SWCD
Surry Co.	Peanut SWCD
Sussex Co.	Chowan Basin SWCD
Tazewell Co.	Tazewell SWCD
Virginia Beach, City of	Virginia Dare SWCD
Warren Co.	Lord Fairfax SWCD
Washington Co.	Holston River SWCD
Waynesboro, City of	Headwaters SWCD
Westmoreland Co.	Northern Neck SWCD
Williamsburg, City of	Colonial SWCD
Winchester, City of	Lord Fairfax SWCD
Wise Co.	Lonesome Pine SWCD
Wythe Co.	Big Walker SWCD
York Co.	Colonial SWCD

The Conservation Poster Contest



The annual Conservation Poster Contest provides kindergarten through twelfth grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resource issues through art. It also highlights the educational outreach efforts of conservation districts and their state conservation associations, auxiliaries and agencies. The poster contest theme follows the annual National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Stewardship theme.

Each year, the poster contest starts at the district level. The contest is open to public, private or home school students, girl scout/boy scout troops, 4H Clubs, etc. Individuals and teachers with questions regarding district contests should contact their local district. To locate your local district search our online SWCD Directory or contact the VASWCD. District winners advance to the state level. Local SWCDs forward their local winning poster entries to the VASWCD office for consideration at the state level. Finally, state winners advance to the National Contest. National winners are recognized each year at the NACD Annual Meeting.

Poster Categories by Grade:

- K-1
- 2-3
- 4-6
- 7-9
- 10-12



2020 Contest Theme



Pollination is the transfer of pollen from one flower to another of the same species. This transfer is necessary for the production of seeds and fruits, and helps to ensure the genetic variability that is vital to healthy plant populations.

Plants are either pollinated by wind or through the actions of animals. Plants that are pollinated primarily by wind produce small grains of pollen that can be easily carried some distance through the air. Because movement of pollen from one flower to another by wind is somewhat haphazard, wind-pollinated plants usually produce a lot of small pollen grains that can be easily carried in the wind (think of that yellowish dust all over your car in the spring—the pollen from trees). Also, since they are not trying to attract animals to move the pollen, wind-pollinated flowers tend to be small and drab.

Animal-pollinated plants have a mutually beneficial relationship with their animal pollinators. Plants provide food in the form of nectar and in the process of collecting that resource, the animal moves pollen from flower to flower. Both sides benefit. Animal-pollinated flowers also advertise themselves through attractive colors, shapes, and scents.

Many of the foods we eat depend on animal pollinators. Most of these are foods give our diet variety and flavor. Examples include tree fruits like apples, peaches, and oranges; tomatoes, berries, and spicy foods like chili peppers .

Without pollinators, these plants could not produce seeds and fruit, and would eventually disappear because they could no longer reproduce. All the other organisms that depend on these plants for food and shelter would also eventually disappear. Some plants today are in danger of becoming extinct because they lack sufficient pollinators. Pollinators need our help!

Earning the Patch



The VASWCD conservation poster contest is open to all Girl Scouts. Girls must complete all 5 activities to earn the patch.

1. Almost every locality in Virginia is served by a Soil and Water Conservation District. Look at pages 3-4 of this booklet for the name of the soil and water conservation district serving your county. Cities are usually served by the districts in the counties surrounding them.
2. Find out what soil and water conservation districts do. Type the name of your district in your search engine and explore the programs offered by your soil and water conservation district.
3. One of the programs offered across Virginia is the Conservation Poster Contest. Each year the contest has a new theme. Visit the VASWCD website (www.vaswcd.org) for the current theme and contest rules.
4. Invite a member of your local SWCD or another environmental group to visit your troop and talk about the current poster contest theme. Contact information is available by visiting the VASWCD website (www.vaswcd.org). You may also complete this step by researching the topic on your own using the resources offered in this booklet on pages 10-11.
5. Create a poster reflecting the contest theme and submit it to your local SWCD. Winners at the local level will advance to a state competition. Winners of the state competition are sent to the National Association of Conservation Districts for a national competition. GOOD LUCK!



Poster Contest Rules

Following are the rules for the national conservation poster competition. Entries should be submitted to your local Soil and Water Conservation District office. Contact your local district office to determine local deadlines.

- Any media may be used to create a flat or two-dimensional effect (paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials on regular posters.
- In Henrico County, the poster size must be between 11"x17".
- Posters should be packaged so they remain flat when sent for judging.
- All posters must be created by an individual student rather than a team of students.
- The 2020 Stewardship title **"Where would we BEE without Pollinators"** must be on your poster. This is the only title eligible for the national poster contest.
- Each entry must have a signed entry form completed and signed by a parent or guardian to be eligible for judging. Entry forms are available from your local SWCD.
- Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, each student is encouraged to do as much of the work as possible by him/herself. Entries completed by students in their handwriting and coloring will score better than those designed, drawn and colored with adult assistance.
- Each entry must be judged at each conservation district's or area contest prior to the state contest. Check with your local Soil and Water Conservation District for your local contest due date. Winners at the local level advance to the state contest. Winners in each category at the state level will then proceed to the national contest.

Steps to a Great Poster!



- Research the theme topic.
- Decide on the information to include on your poster.
- Sketch out your idea.
- Lightly mark guidelines for lettering.
- Clean up your poster so it is neat. Erase any guidelines that are showing.
- Complete the poster entry form, be sure it is signed by a parent or guardian and attach it to the back of your poster. Turn in your poster on time.
- Entries must be the contestant's original, hand-done creation. It may not be traced from photographs or other artists' published works.
- Any media may be used to create a flat or two-dimensional effect (paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, paper or other materials).
- You should not:
 - Laminate your poster
 - Use staples, tacks or tape.
 - Use fluorescent poster board
 - Create a poster that is all words or all pictures



Resources

Visit these website links for information for your project. Most of these links will have additional pollinator resource links. This is only a small sample. There are many more resources. Check your local library.

Pollinator Partnership: What is a pollination/pollinator? Why are pollinators important to us?

Types of pollinators.

<http://www.pollinator.org/Resources/What%20is%20a%20pollinator.pdf>

Xerces Society Pollinator Conservation

<http://www.xerces.org/pollinatorconservation/>

Fact Sheets

<http://www.xerces.org/fact-sheets/>

Butterfly Conservation

<http://www.xerces.org/butterfly-conservation/>

Crop Life

<http://www.croplifeamerica.org/pesticide-issues/protectingour-pollinators>

America's Heartland

<http://www.americasheartland.org/pollinators/index.htm>

Ohio State University Bee Lab

http://osu.campusguides.com/agric_bees_pollination

Research

<http://www.pollinator.org/research.htm>

Pollinator Live Lesson Plans and Resources

<http://pollinatorlive.pwnet.org/teacher/lessons.php>

Resources



Citizen Science Sites

<http://www.xerces.org/educational-resources/#citizen>

Plants and Animals – Partners in Pollination And 4 lesson plans

http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson_plans/partners_in_pollination/lesson_2_main.html

EPA's Pollinator Information

<http://www2.epa.gov/pollinator-protection>

USDA NRCS Pollinators and Plants

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps /portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/>

USDA Forest Service Pollinator Resources

<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/>

Bee Friendly Certification for Farmers and Gardeners

<http://pfspbees.org/beefriendly-farming/certification>

Bats Are Pollinators, Too; Bat Conservation International

<http://batcon.org/pdfs/stories/PollinatorBrochure2010Web.pdf>

Learn about your area and what is best to plant for pollinators:

[Pollinator Partnership http:// www.pollinator.org/guides.htm](http://www.pollinator.org/guides.htm)

The Power of Pollinators 3 downloadable PowerPoint's and additional resources

- 1) Why Pollinators Matter
- 2) Bee Biology & ID
- 3) Gardening for Pollinators

http://ocvn.osu.edu/sites/d6-ocvn.web/files/sites/drupalocvn.web/files/PoP_flier_final_version.pdf

The Patch!



Those Girl Scouts that have submitted a poster by the local SWCD deadline and adhere to the rules and activities listed on page six and seven of this Leaders' Guide are eligible to receive the VASWCD Conservation Poster Patch. Scouts or Troop Leaders will receive their patch through their local Soil and Water Conservation District in a timely manner once posters have been submitted and processed.

Patches are provided free of charge to Girl Scouts completing the poster program per the enclosed guidelines. This Patch Program is sponsored by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Educational Foundation.





2020 NACD/VASWCD POSTER CONTEST Local Entry Form

*Submit this entry to your local Soil & Water Conservation District
By October 9, 2020
Attach this registration form to the back of your poster.*

Please check appropriate category

K-1st	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 nd -3 rd	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 th -6 th	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 th -9 th	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 th -12 th	<input type="checkbox"/>

This poster is being submitted to earn a Scout VASWCD Poster Contest Patch

STUDENT

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____
School Name/Troop # _____ Grade _____ Age _____

_____ The poster is an original completed by the student.

_____ The student received assistance from another person or materials/ideas from another source. If so, please explain on another piece of paper.

SCHOOL/SCOUT TROOP

Teacher/Troop Leader _____
Public School _____ Private School _____ Home School _____
Address _____ Phone (_____) _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-mail address _____
Parent or guardian name (printed) _____
Signature of parent or guardian allowing NACD/District to utilize the poster for educational or promotional purposes: _____
Date _____

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Questions?

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<http://vaswcd.org/poster-contest>