

**KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE
RULES FOR THE ESSAY AWARDS PROGRAM**

ELIGIBILITY: The Essay Awards Program is open to all students in learning levels five (5) through eight (8); home schooled children in levels five (5) through eight (8); and children in Special Purpose Schools** (no age or grade distinction). These youth may be identified with schools, 4-H clubs, Boy or Girl Scouts, church groups, etc. Each district is allowed to submit two (2) entries in the State Essay Awards Program. Exception being if there is a Special Purpose School entry, two additional entries may be sent. The entries are to be typewritten just as the entrant had handwritten it. Entrants may compete in the contest conducted by the conservation district in which they reside, or in the conservation district where they attend school. Entrants may participate in only one district contest.

SUBJECT MATTER: There will be no subject for the Essay Contest. The Committee, however, encourages the districts to set a topic.

ENTRIES: Should be sent to Roberta Spencer, Program Coordinator of the Conservation Education & Youth Committee of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (Jackson County Conservation District, 307 Montana, Holton, KS 66436) **NO EARLIER THAN SEPTEMBER 1 AND NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 19 OF EACH YEAR.** The entries from each district must be entered in the State Essay Awards Program by the Conservation District board of supervisors. For identification, an entry form with information containing the participant's name, age, learning level, home address, and the conservation district must be pasted **to the back of the last page of the essay in the lower left-hand corner.** (Special purpose students need not list age or level). **No identification is to be on the front of the essay.** (We are asking that each conservation district type the name of each entry for correct spelling and readability). Please use the entry form provided or one like it.

EXHIBITING AND AWARDS: Essays shall be exhibited at the annual meeting of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts and the winners will be announced. First Place winner will receive a plaque and certificate, second place a medal certificate, and third place a medal and certificate. Certificates and medals will be presented to five honorable mention winners. It is the responsibility of each conservation district to pick up their essay entries after the final general session. Conservation Districts can pick up their awards at the Youth and Education Committee meeting on Monday of the Convention.

ESSAY RULES:

1. An essay shall not exceed five hundred (500) words and must be double spaced, typed on 8 ½" x 11" paper. District employees may type a copy, as written, for students without access to a typewriter or computer.
2. For youth participating from Junior High Schools that are members of KSHSAA, the essay must be written under teacher or other adult supervision.
3. Wrap essays between cardboard and **DO NOT ROLL OR FOLD** for mailing.

The judges will select winners according to the score sheet as follows:

Conservation Message.....	50%
Clarity of Message.....	30%
Originality	10%
Universal Appeal.....	10%

The First Place winner will receive \$50 and will also be awarded \$50 for travel expenses to the KACD Convention for their essay presentation.

Revised in November 2016, by KACD Conservation Education & Youth Committee, to go into effect for entries in 2017 KACD Contest. Entry submission address updated January 2015.

** Special Purpose Schools are for those who are mentally or physically challenged