

# 2026 Conservation Poster Contest

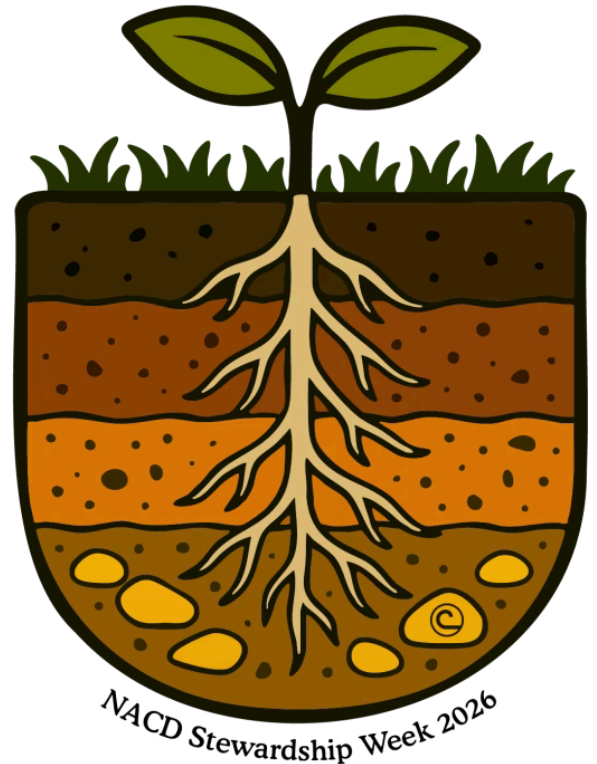
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The 2026 NACD Stewardship Week theme, Soil. Where It All Begins, celebrates the incredible power of soil to support life in all its forms. Soil is not just the ground we walk on. It is the starting point for healthy food, clean water, thriving habitats, and resilient communities. From backyard gardens to forests and city parks, everything begins with what is beneath our feet.

Soil does a lot more than grow plants. It holds water, cycles nutrients, and provides homes for billions of living organisms that help keep nature in balance. It keeps roots in place, helps prevent flooding, and supports wildlife and people alike. The trees in our neighborhoods, the food on our tables, and the natural places we love all depend on healthy soils.

# Soil.

## Where it all Begins



Sponsored by Winnebago County  
Soil and Water Conservation District  
and the National Association of  
Conservation Districts.

## Important Information:

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Due Date: **Friday, May 1, 2026.**  
Please turn poster submission into  
the SWCD office: 163 1<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Thompson, IA 50478



Cash prizes awarded to  
district and state winners!



Size must be 8.5x11 inches  
up to 22x28 inches



Poster must include,  
**"Soil. Where It All Begins".**



Poster AND Entry form  
must be securely attached!

SWCD Office  
163 1<sup>st</sup> Ave Thompson, IA 50478  
641-584-2211

## Rules & Selection Criteria for Hand-Drawn Poster Contest

- Posters must reflect and include the title of this year's contest theme, "Soil. Where It All Begins," on the poster. Don't use any other phrase; this is the only title eligible for the national poster contest.
- The following rules apply. Posters must be made on regular poster paper. The poster size can range from 8.5x11 inches to 22x28 inches. Mediums including paint, crayons, colored pencils, charcoal, stickers, magic markers, paper, or whatever inspires the students can be used. No three-dimensional effects are allowed.
- Iowa children who participate in the Hand-Drawn Poster Contest are divided into five divisions:
  - Division 1 - Grades K and 1
  - Division 2 - Grades 2 and 3
  - Division 3 - Grades 4 through 6
  - Division 4 - Grades 7 through 9
  - Division 5 - Grades 10 through 12
- Posters are judged based on the following criteria:
  - 50% for Conservation Message
  - 30% for Visual Effectiveness
  - 10% for Originality
  - 10% for Universal Appeal

## Rules & Selection Criteria for Digital Poster Contest

- The Digital Poster Contest is open to 7th to 12th-grade students.
- Posters must reflect and include the title of this year's contest theme, "Soil. Where It All Begins," on the poster. Don't use any other phrase; this is the only title eligible for the national poster contest.
- Poster can be horizontal or vertical, measuring 8.5" x 11" Media: Any mixed media suitable for reproduction as a poster, such as Canva, PicMonkey, Google Slides, Photoshop, InDesign, etc., is allowed. Digital posters must be original art and shall not include any copyrighted, trademarked, or branded marks, images, or phrases besides the NACD 2026 themed logo, if desired.
- Submission format: Digital design should be submitted as a 300 dpi JPEG or PNG.
- Iowa children who participate in the Digital Poster Contest are divided into two grade divisions:
  - Grades 7 through 9
  - Grades 10 through 12
- Posters are judged based on the following criteria:
  - 50% for Conservation Message
  - 30% for Visual Effectiveness
  - 10% for Originality
  - 10% for Universal Appeal

Have questions? Please reach out to Sarah Newton  
at [sarah.newton@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:sarah.newton@ia.nacdnet.net) or 641-584-2211