



Brazos Valley Soil & Water Conservation District #557

1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1005, Granbury, TX 76048 Ph: (817) 573-1666 ext.3

November 1, 2024

My name is Dawn Noland, and I work for the Brazos Valley Soil and Water Conservation District. We would like to invite your students to take part in an Essay contest for The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Awards Program. The subject of the essay is **“Home Is Where the Habitat Is”**.

The contest is for seniors 18 years or younger only and has a maximum of 500 words. We believe that it is important for young people to understand what conservation means to their future. Please forward this to appropriate teachers. Please send in entries by **January 2, 2025**, to the above address.

Brazos Valley Soil and Water Conservation District will award a \$500 scholarship to the 1st place winner for our local contest.

The essay for ages 14 to 18 that are not seniors will receive prizes as well. But only seniors will be eligible for the scholarship.

Thank you for your Consideration in our contest. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me. 817-573-1666 ext. 3

Dawn Noland
District Clerk
Brazos Valley SWCD



Essay Contest 47th Texas Conservation Awards Program

THEME: "Home is Where the Habitat Is"

Junior: Ages 13 and under — (Maximum of 300 words)

Senior: Ages 14 to 18 — (Maximum of 500 words)

Please visit the following website for additional resources, information will be listed under "Technical Resources" on the right side: www.tsswcb.texas.gov/programs/public-information-and-education. You may also contact your local soil and water conservation district for additional information.

"Home is Where the Habitat is" focuses on the vital role native habitats play in sustaining biodiversity, storing carbon, and protecting soil and water resources. When animals, plants, and aquatic life have healthy habitats, it benefits us all by ensuring ecosystem stability, enhancing natural beauty, supporting clean air and water, and creating a resilient and sustainable environment.

CHECKLIST:

- Entry is typed, subject matter of the essay follows the topic and is meets the maximum allotment of words (*stated above*) and includes the title "*Home Is Where the Habitat Is*"
- Entry includes cover sheet with the following items listed, if the following information is **not** included with the entry, **it is subject to disqualification**:
 - Age Division: either Junior or Senior
 - Participant's Name
 - Participant's Guardian Name
 - Participant's Mailing Address and guardian's phone number
 - Participant's School
 - ****SWCD use only**: please include SWCD name & number**

PROCESS: The essay is to be submitted to local soil and water conservation districts for judging. **Locate your local district here:** www.tsswcb.texas.gov/swcds/locatormap. Each local district will judge the entries and submit two essays in each age division to the Area Judging Committee for competition on the area level. Plaques will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners on the area level and state winners will be selected from the area winners. This contest is open to students 18 years and under, and who are considered eligible under Texas University Interscholastic League eligibility requirements.

JUDGING: Follow the topic set for the year, 2025 is "*Home Is Where the Habitat Is*" Include soil and water conservation practices as they relate to the topic. Make the writing interesting to the reader and that the ideas are clear and easy for to follow. Finally, check the work for correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences.

*****FOR SWCD USE ONLY, PLEASE FILL OUT BEFORE DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS*****

Local District Deadline: 1-2-25

Please Return To: _____

For questions, please reach out to awards@tsswcb.texas.gov

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Granbury, TX 76048