



HOW  
DISTRICTS  
CONDUCT  
COMPETITIONS



***“How Districts Conduct Competitions”***  
**2017 AFCD Annual Meeting Breakout Session**

***Poster Contests – Speech Contests – Envirothons – Land Judging***

- *Determine which contest/contests best fit District’s Goals and Objectives (your District can effectively compete in one or all areas).*
- *If Coordinator is a District staff member, be sure to acquire “buy in” from Board of Supervisors to create a positive environment for successful implementation of program.*
- *Determine, with Board approval, whether it’s appropriate to invite contestants from counties without SWC Districts to participate.*
- *Secure copies of all rules and regulations related to the competition at all levels so District winners will be able to move forward to Area, State and National levels, if appropriate (without potential disqualification).*
- *Determine financial commitment necessary to adequately support the contest or program and what resources can be secured to meet needs.*
- *Research appropriate timetable for each competition (contests with area, state or national levels have very specific dates for participation in every level above District level).*
- *Determine potential participants for executing competition (this may include your local school system, 4-H and FFA programs, Extension programs, Farm Bureau, others).*
- *Select cooperating partners for the program (this may be a team of people with expertise in the specific subject area, e.g. : School art teachers for the poster contest; speech teachers for the speech contest; ag programs for land judging; science teachers for Envirothon programs, etc.). Cooperating partners can be brought together as a group or work individually within their own area.*
- *Begin developing a timetable for project thresholds (contact with school programs, media promotion, etc.). Make sure that you have allowed ample time to conduct the program effectively, and if necessary, set the program out a year to allow it to be done successfully).*

- *Where appropriate, select contest sites, judges, etc. well in advance, so a last minute crisis can be averted, if possible. When selecting judges make sure they have the expertise in the field, e.g. : judges for the speech contest should not be District Supervisors or staff and should include someone with public speaking knowledge, someone with subject knowledge, etc.*
- *Send out invitational letters to potential participating groups (this can include associations, organizations, schools, etc.).*
- *BE INCLUSIVE – Make sure you offer participation opportunities to all public, private, parochial and home school groups within your District.*
- *COMMUNICATE – COMMUNICATE – COMMUNICATE – It’s essential to keep everyone well informed about all aspects of the competitions at all times. Communication can be via email, phone, mail, face book, personal meeting, etc. Make sure that you have at least one “live meeting” with involved adults (teachers, coordinators, etc.) which may be on the phone or in person meeting. DON’T RELY ON EMAILS FOR YOUR FIRST CONTACT.*
- *MAKE STUDENTS FEEL POSITIVE FOR THE EFFORTS THEY’VE PUT IN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPETITION. A WINNER IS NOT JUST THE HIGHEST SCORING INDIVIDUAL, BUT RATHER EVERYONE WHO DEVELOPS SKILLS AND ABILITIES AS A RESULT OF BEING INVOLVED. Examples: Certificates with each student’s poster on them for all entries, gift bags for students in events where possible, recognition at their school or group meeting.*
- *PUBLICIZE EVENT RESULTS through media (newspapers, radio, television, face book, websites, etc.)*
- *EXPRESS THANKS!! Show your gratitude to judges, contestants, supporters and others at every opportunity. A note of thanks to a judge or teacher can be a powerful tool when it comes to future participation.*
- *KEEP GOOD RECORDS to make the next event even easier.*
- *TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND REPEAT!!*

*Submitted By:*

*Betty Jo Tompkins, Executive Director*

*Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District, Florida, USA*

# Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District

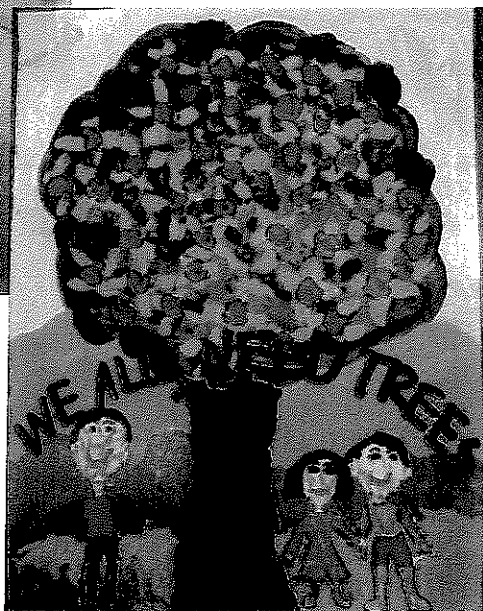
Contests Ag Producer Land Judging  
 Seminars  
 Posters Cost Share Programs 2-Venture  
 Legislation  
 Web Site Irrigation Labs  
**Conservation**  
 Hillsborough 100 Environmental  
 Conservation Challenge Education  
 Working Group Urban • Suburban • Rural  
 Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District

## 26th Annual Poster Contest

# Theme: Healthy Soils are Full of Life



2016 "We All Need Trees" State Poster Contest  
Winners, Madison, K-I Chiles Elem. (Below) and  
Hailey, 10-12 Strawberry Crest HS (Left)



**ENTER TODAY!**  
Posters Due by

### KINDERGARTEN—1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE

- 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE—\$25 & TROPHY
- 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE—\$15 & TROPHY
- 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE—\$10 & TROPHY

### 2<sup>ND</sup>-3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

- 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE—\$25 & TROPHY
- 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE—\$15 & TROPHY
- 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE—\$10 & TROPHY

### 4<sup>TH</sup>—6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE—\$50 & TROPHY
- 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE—\$30 & TROPHY
- 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE—\$20 & TROPHY

### 7<sup>TH</sup>—9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE—\$50 & TROPHY
- 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE—\$30 & TROPHY
- 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE—\$20 & TROPHY

### 10<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE—\$50 & TROPHY
- 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE—\$30 & TROPHY
- 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE—\$20 & TROPHY

Great educational resources are available at the National Association  
of Conservation Districts website:

<http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/contests/>

For questions and to submit posters:  
Hillsborough Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
201 S. Collins St., Suite 202  
Plant City, FL 33563  
813-752-1474 X3  
Sarah Ernst

ernsts@hillsboroughcounty.org  
sarah.ernst@nacdn.net  
Betty Jo Tompkins  
bjt6890@yahoo.com

tompkinsb@hillsboroughcounty.org  
813-477-8332

Thanks for your commitment to conservation and  
our Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation  
District.....LEADING FOR TOMORROW!



**STUDENT**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or guardian name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent or guardian allowing NACD/District to utilize the poster and publish the student's name for educational or promotional purposes:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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**

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Public School \_\_\_\_\_ Private School \_\_\_\_\_ Home School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Name Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District

Contact Sarah Ernst Title Environmental Outreach Coordinator

Address 201 S. Collins St., Suite 202 Phone ( 813 ) 752-1474 ext. 3

City Plant City State FL Zip 33563

Email Address ernsts@hillsboroughcounty.org

# HILLSBOROUGH SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

August 17, 2016

201 S. Collins Street  
Suite 202  
Plant City, FL 33563

(813) 752-1474 X3 (Office)  
(813) 759-6530 (Fax)

## SUPERVISORS

DAVID MAYNARD  
Seat 1  
DEBORAH TAMARGO  
Seat 2  
MICHAEL HEPBURN  
Treasurer  
Seat 3  
ROY DAVIS  
Vice Chairman  
Seat 4  
MARK PROCTOR  
Chairman  
Seat 5

## DISTRICT STAFF

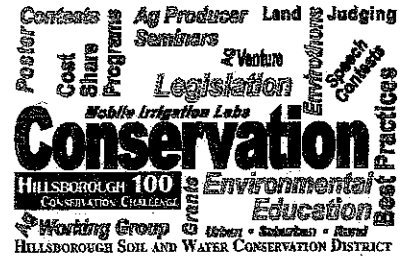
SARAH ERNST  
QUIANNA PICQUET  
BETTY JO TOMPKINS

## NRCS STAFF

LISA HARPER  
District Conservationist

Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students  
Hillsborough County Florida

RE: 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Poster Contest  
THEME: "Healthy Soils are Full of Life"



Dear Instructor,

We would like to invite you and your students to participate in our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Poster Contest. Earlier this year we had two really outstanding posters win at the state level and are continuing on to compete at the national level. Our 2015 National Poster Contest winner for the Kindergarten – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade division is a Claywell Elementary student. We are so proud of them!

This poster contest allows students to convey and implement their thoughts and understanding of how important it is to conserve and preserve our natural resources through art.

Posters will be judged on how well they portray the theme "Healthy Soils are Full of Life" on their poster. Each student will need to complete the enclosed Entry Form signed by a parent/guardian, abide by all rules and attach the Entry Form to their poster to be eligible. Posters will then be judged by the Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors in December.

All posters must be submitted to the Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District's Office at 201 S. Collins Street, Suite 202, Plant City Florida by and winners become property of the District.

Please find enclosed a flyer (to be posted in a prominent place), rules, entry form and resources for the theme. The flyer includes the breakdown of grade divisions and prizes for the winners. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact us at (813) 752-1474 Ext.3 or at [ernsts@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:ernsts@hillsboroughcounty.org).

Sincerely,

Betty Jo Tompkins  
Executive Director

Mark Proctor  
Chairman

Enclosur (s)

*Thanks for your commitment to conservation and our Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District.....LEADING FOR TOMORROW!*



# The Tampa Bay Regional Envirothon - what is it?

Each Envirothon focuses on five testing categories: wildlife, aquatic ecology, soil and land use, forestry, and a current environmental topic. Students work together as teams to apply classroom learning with hands-on, outdoor experience alongside professionals in each field. Teams also answer an oral question related to the current environmental issue, requiring critical thinking. The top scoring team from each county advances to the Florida Envirothon to compete against other regional winners, with top teams advancing to the national competition.



Participation in the Tampa Bay Regional Envirothon:

- Builds Leadership skills
- Promotes teamwork
- Fosters an interest in natural resource conservation and environmental issues
- Introduces students to potential careers in the environmental sciences
- Develops future global citizens

## Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

Contests Ag Producer Land Judging  
 Seminars 2-Venture  
 Legislation  
 Mobile Irrigation Labs  
**Conservation**  
 100  
 Working Group  
 Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District

201 S. Collins Street, Suite 202  
Plant City, FL 33563

Phone: (813) 752-1474, ext. 3

Fax: (813) 757-6530

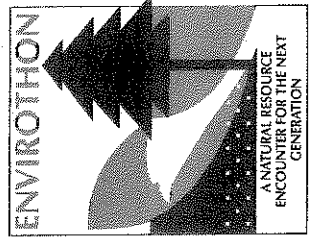
Email: [kellyka@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:kellyka@hillsboroughcounty.org)  
[kaila.kelly@fl.nacdn.net](mailto:kaila.kelly@fl.nacdn.net)

### Elected Supervisors

Mark Proctor, Chairman  
Kim O'Connor, Vice Chair  
Michael Hepburn, Treasurer  
David Maynard, Supervisor  
Susan Dumke, Supervisor

### District Staff

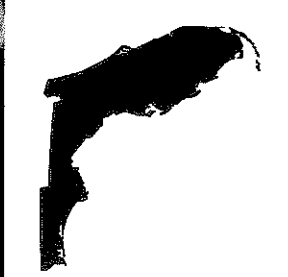
Betty Jo Tompkins, Executive Director  
Kaila Kelly, Conservation Outreach Coordinator  
Jennifer Gray, Administrative Specialist



## Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

# TAMPA BAY REGIONAL ENVIROTHON

FEBRUARY 23, 2017  
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Hillsborough County Fairgrounds

215 Sydney Washer Rd.

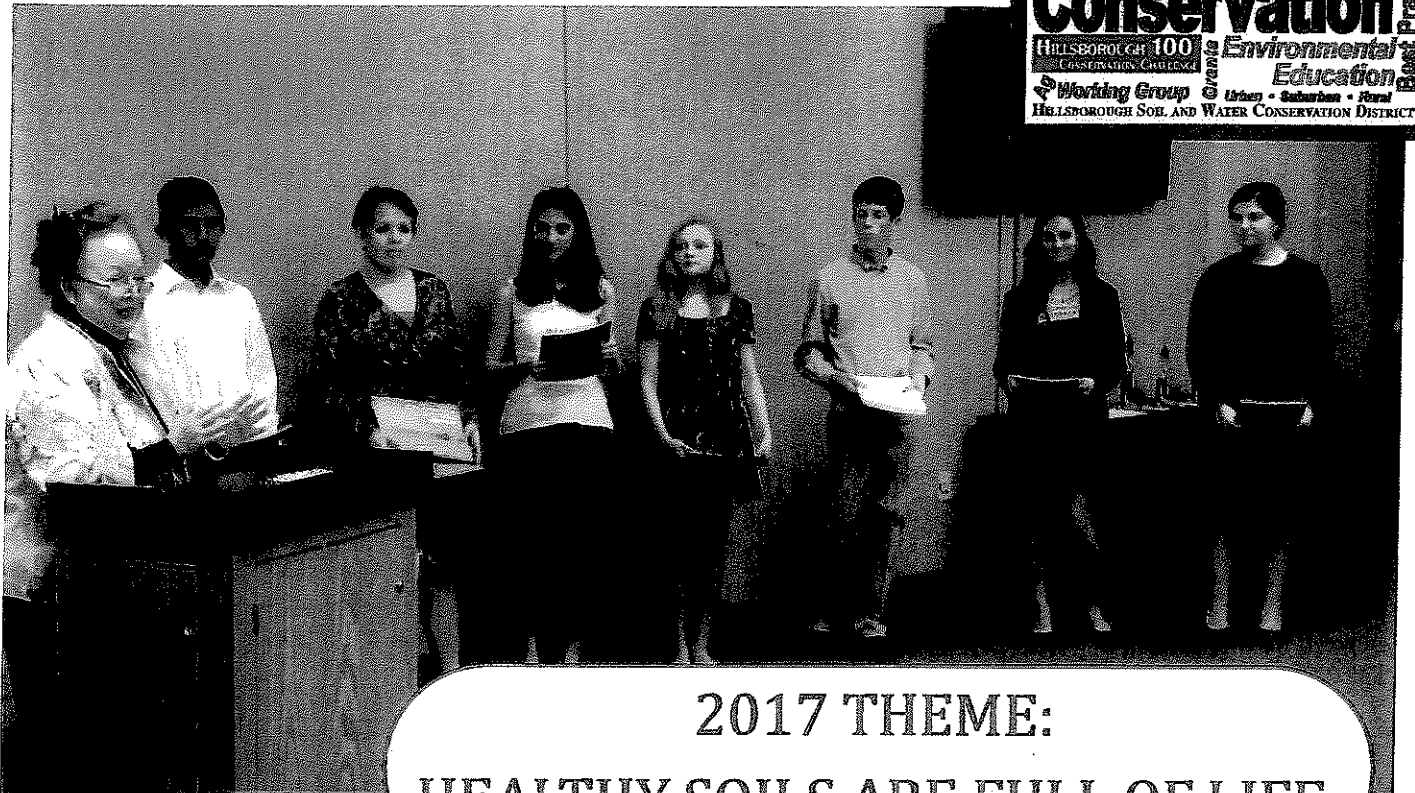
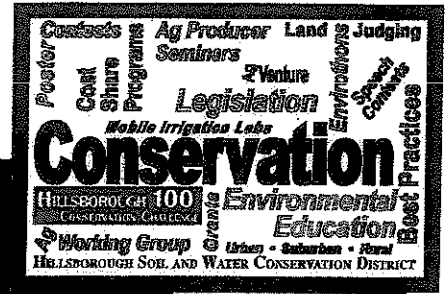
State Road 60

Dover, FL 33527



Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District

# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Speech Contest



**2017 THEME:**  
**HEALTHY SOILS ARE FULL OF LIFE**

- 1st Place**  
**\$100.00**
- 2nd Place**  
**\$50.00**
- 3rd Place**  
**\$25.00**

All Students in 6th through 12th grade welcome  
 Great educational resources available at the National Association of Conservation Districts website:  
<http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/contests/>

**ENTER TODAY!**

**Submit speeches on or before**  
**Wednesday, January 11, 2017**

**Remaining participants will receive a gift card!**

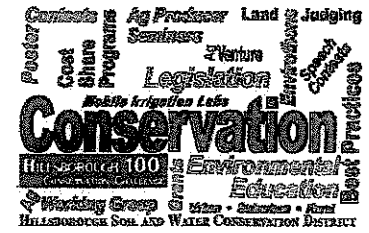
**Speech Contest**  
**Tuesday, January 24, 2017 @ 6:00 PM**  
 Hillsborough County Extension Office  
 Conference Center  
 5339 CR 579  
 Seffner, FL 33584

To submit a speech or for more information contact Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District  
 201 South Collins Street, Suite 202  
 Plant City, FL 33563  
 Phone: 813-752-1474 Ext. 3  
 Fax: 813-759-6530  
 Kaila Kelly  
 kellyka@hillsboroughcounty.org  
 Kaila.kelly@nacdn.net  
 Betty Jo Tompkins  
 bjt6890@yahoo.com  
 tompkinsb@hillsboroughcounty.org  
 813-477-8332

**Thanks for your commitment to conservation and our Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District.....LEADING FOR TOMORROW!**

# HILLSBOROUGH SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

August 17, 2016



201 S. Collins Street  
Suite 202  
Plant City, FL 33563

(813) 752-1474 X3 (Office)  
(813) 759-6530 (Fax)

**SUPERVISORS**  
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Seat 2  
MICHAEL HEPBURN  
Treasurer  
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ROY DAVIS  
Vice Chairman  
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Chairman  
Seat 5

**DISTRICT STAFF**  
SARAH ERNST  
QUIANNA PICQUET  
BETTY JO TOMPKINS

**NRCS STAFF**  
LISA HARPER  
District Conservationist

6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students  
Hillsborough County

**SUBJECT: 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SPEECH CONTEST**  
**THEME: "Healthy Soils are Full of Life"**

Dear Instructor,

We are happy once again to announce the Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Speech Contest. This is an invitation to all Hillsborough County 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Our speech contest provides 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about conserving natural resources, especially as they relate to agriculture. Participants will be judged on how well they incorporate the theme, "Healthy Soils are Full of Life" into their speeches. We feel it's important for students to understand the importance of soils and how they play a vital role in sustaining life by providing water filtration and habitat along with providing resources for food, fibers, and other goods.

Each student must submit a typewritten speech, cover page, and release form filled out and signed by a parent or guardian for their speech to be eligible for judging. Please submit all speeches for this contest **by Monday, January 7, 2016 before 4:30 P.M** to the District's office address: **Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District, 201 S. Collins Street, Suite 202, Plant City, FL 33563.**

Oral speeches will be presented on **Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the UF/IFAS Hillsborough County Extension's Conference Center** at 5339 CR 579, Seffner, FL. Trophies and cash awards will be presented to: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$100.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$50.00, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$25.00. The District's winning speaker advances to the Area Contest; with the Area winner competing at the State level.

Please find enclosed a flyer (to be posted in a prominent place), rules, entry form and educational resources. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact us at (813) 752-1474 Ext. 3 or at [ernsts@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:ernsts@hillsboroughcounty.org).

Sincerely,

Betty Jo Tompkins  
Executive Director

Mark Proctor  
Chairman

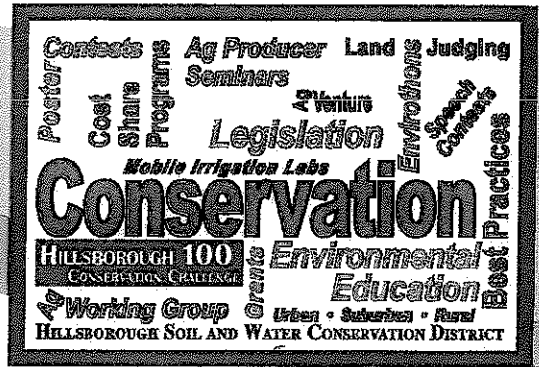
Enclosure(s)

**Thank you for your commitment to conservation and our Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District.....LEADING FOR TOMORROW!**

# Land Judging Contest

November 16, 2016

Florida Strawberry Growers' Association  
13138 Lewis Gallagher Rd., Dover



Middle School and High School students will compete as individuals and teams to:

- Determine land capability class
- Identify conservation practices
- Recognize soil and land characteristics and their effects on planned use

Trophy & Cash Awards to the top 3 high scores for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Middle and High School Teams! The winning teams will have the opportunity to compete at the State Contest.



## Resources

Hillsborough NRCS Soil Survey <http://hillsboroughcounty.org/documentCenter/view/7336>

Pinellas County NRCS Soil Survey <http://hillsboroughcounty.org/documentCenter/view/7344>:

Online Training and Land Judging Manual <http://landjudging.org/training/>

For more information or to register a team contact

Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District  
201 S. Collins St. Suite 202  
Plant City, FL 33563  
Phone: (813) 759-4474 X3  
Fax: (813) 759-6230  
[emstis@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:emstis@hillsboroughcounty.org)  
[sarah.emstis@nrcs.net](mailto:sarah.emstis@nrcs.net)

Thanks for your commitment to conservation and our Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District... LEADING FOR TOMORROW!