



2024-2025 Chatham Soil & Water Essay Contest

"Wetlands are Wonderful"

Essay Rules & Specifications:

- Contest is open to Chatham County students in public, private, Charter or home school grade 6-12. Each grade level is judged separately except for grades 9-12 which will be judged together.
- Contest will be conducted on the District, Area, and State levels. The District First Place winner will be eligible to enter the Area contest, and Area First Place winner will be eligible to enter the State contest.
- Essay should bear the current title of the essay theme
- Be limited to between 300 – 500 words. All words will be counted to reach the limit.
- Be presented on standard 8 ½" X 11" paper.

Deadline:

Essay entries are due to the Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District no later than **5 pm on February 24, 2025**. Essay submissions may be dropped off Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm, before or on the due date in our lobby at 1192 US 64 W Business, Suite 200, Pittsboro, NC 27312. **Our lobby is located on the west side of the building.** Please call us at (919) 545-8440 if you have any questions.

Essay must be identified on the back using the following format:

Student's Name: _____ **Grade:** _____
Student's Address: _____
Parent's Phone/Email: _____
Teacher's Name: _____
School: _____
County: Chatham **District:** Chatham

Judging Criteria:

Points will be deducted for the following infractions:

- Incorrect length – 5 points
- Current title not on essay – 5 points
- Wrong paper size – 2 points

For a complete list of rules, scoring rubric, hints, and tips, along with the NC DPI Correlation to NC Essential Science Standards and Common Core Standards, please visit: <https://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/contests.html>