

# 2016 POSTER, POETRY & PROSE CONTEST

## W.A.T.E.R. - WHAT A TRUE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE!



## HOW WILL YOU CONSERVE AND PROTECT IT?

- Participants: Illinois Fifth and Sixth Graders
- Poster Materials: Heavy art paper or poster board no smaller than 8 1/2" x 11" and **no larger than 12" x 18"**
- Poetry/Prose Materials: Plain or wide-ruled paper, 8 1/2" x 11" handwritten or typed
- Deadline: Postmarked by **February 1, 2016**
- Sponsored By: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency



Your poster, poem or prose could be selected for a statewide exhibit at the Illinois EPA in Springfield, April 11 - May 9. Use your imagination! You could win a ribbon, a certificate, and an environmental reference book for your school library. Specific guidelines are available from your teacher.  
[www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/education/contest/index](http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/education/contest/index)

# Exhibit Rules for the 2016 Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest:

## W.A.T.E.R. – What A True Environmental Resource! How will you conserve and protect it?

**Theme Focus:** The importance of conserving and protecting water, including drinking water and storm water; both individually and as a community.

**Participants:** Illinois fifth and sixth grade students

### Poster guidelines:

- Heavy art paper or poster board no smaller than 8-1/2" x 11" and **no larger than 12" x 18"**
- Markers, crayons, pens, pencils or paints (two-dimensional media only)
- Must be own work (no copyrighted characters)

### Poetry/Prose guidelines:

- One page maximum length (8-1/2" x 11" sheet)
- Neatly handwritten or typed

**NOTE:** Each student must submit a brief (one or two line sentence) explanation of his/her intention in creating the work. A release form must also accompany the entry. Only one person per entry allowed.

### ***Student's work will be judged on:***

- Originality of concept;
- Originality of execution -- no magazine articles, commercial slogans or copyrighted characters or figures;
- Clear, accurate message;
- Emphasis on the theme focus;
- Neatness/attractiveness, legibility/readability, correct spelling, punctuation and grammar; and
- Effort that was put into the work.

### ***Selection:***

- Display all student posters and written works at the school;
- Choose four posters and four written works to represent your school;
- Attach completed identification forms to entries;
- Each entry must include a release form filled out and signed at the time of submission; and
- Entries must be postmarked no later than **February 1, 2016**. Send entries to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Kristi Morris, Education Coordinator  
1021 North Grand Avenue East, MC #17  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

***All entries become the property of the Illinois EPA and will not be returned.***

### ***Awards:***

Each participating student whose work is chosen for judging will receive a certificate.

Each finalist will receive a certificate, a ribbon and an invitation to the awards reception in Springfield.

Twelve students (six in each category) whose works are selected as top award winners may receive an environmental reference book for his/her school's library. Awards may be mailed to teachers for appropriate presentation if students are unable to attend the awards reception in Springfield. \*Awards are subject to change.

# W.A.T.E.R. – What A True Environmental Resource!

## How will you conserve and protect it?

- January 2016 Educators introduce green infrastructure and the impact to water resources and why it's important; and to explore ways that individuals and communities can help conserve and protect drinking water and storm water.
- January 19 - 22 Students create posters or written works relating to the theme focus.
- January 25 - 29 Teachers display posters and poems/prose at their schools. Students and faculty vote to select four posters and four written entries to submit to the Illinois EPA for further judging.
- February 1 Teacher/school sends four posters and/or poems/prose to the Illinois EPA; a total of eight entries per school. **Entries must be postmarked by February 1, 2016.**
- February 17 Illinois EPA staff selects top posters and written works for exhibition.
- February 18 A panel of outside judges (from local organizations, etc.) selects the top twelve entries.
- April 9 Reception and awards ceremony held in Springfield.
- April 11- May 9 Top posters, poems and prose on exhibit at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Springfield.

All entries become the property of the Illinois EPA. If you have any questions, please call Kristi Morris, Education and Outreach Coordinator, at 217/558-7198 or e-mail at: [kristi.morris@illinois.gov](mailto:kristi.morris@illinois.gov). For more information or to download the participation packet, please visit the website at: <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/education/contest/index>

Informational resources can be found on the following websites:

- Illinois Water Resources Center: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/iwrc/resources/>
- Illinois State Water Survey: <http://www.isws.illinois.edu/>
- U.S. EPA, "After the Storm": <http://water.epa.gov/action/weatherchannel/index.cfm>
  - Green Infrastructure: <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/index.cfm>
  - Water: Educator Resources: <http://water.epa.gov/learn/resources/index.cfm>
- American Rivers: <http://www.americanrivers.org/initiatives/pollution/green-infrastructure/what-is-green-infrastructure/>
- The Conservation Fund: <http://www.conservationfund.org/what-we-do/strategic-conservation-planning>
- USGS Illinois Water Science Center: <http://il.water.usgs.gov/>

## **Poster Entry Identification**

*PLEASE PRINT OR WRITE CLEARLY. RETURN WITH SCHOOL POSTER ENTRY. 2016*

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of preferred area newspaper(s) (please include city unless it is part of newspaper's name):

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's statement about work (in his/her own words): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## **Poem/Prose Entry Identification**

*PLEASE PRINT OR WRITE CLEARLY. RETURN WITH SCHOOL POEM/PROSE ENTRY. 2016*

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of preferred area newspaper(s) (please include city unless it is part of newspaper's name):

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's statement about work (in his/her own words): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Appearance and Material Release Form**  
**2015/2016**

In consideration that my child (student), \_\_\_\_\_,  
has entered a poster, prose and/or poem in the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's  
"W.A.T.E.R. – What A True Environmental Resource! How will you conserve and protect it?" exhibit  
and said works are the property of the Illinois EPA, I hereby give my consent to the Illinois EPA  
to publish my **child's name, school, hometown, photo, and creative works** in the Illinois  
EPA's Internet site and publications for educational, informational, marketing or other purposes  
deemed necessary.

I hereby waive any right that I may otherwise have to inspect or approve the finished  
product, or the manner of its use chosen by the Illinois EPA. I also release, discharge and agree  
to hold harmless the Illinois EPA to whom this consent and waiver is given from any liability by  
virtue of any blurring, distortion, alteration, or use in composite form, whether intentional or  
otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the taking of said pictures or in any processing, or in  
the publication and distribution. I understand that I shall receive no compensation whatsoever in  
connection with the foregoing, beyond my child's opportunity to participate. I hereby waive all  
rights of privacy in connection with the use of my child's name, school, hometown, photo, or  
creative works. I also waive any and all rights, whether explicit or implied, in the material and  
consent without reservation to the Illinois EPA using, distributing or otherwise making available  
the material to other parties as it sees fit.

***Parent or legal guardian must complete and sign below:***

**Parent Name (please print) and contact number or email**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Address (please print)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_