

# CONSERVATION education

Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District

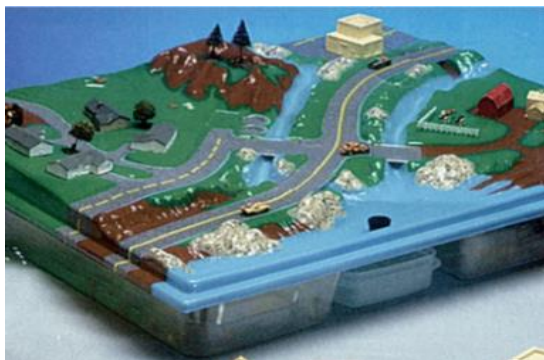
September 2020

Welcome to the Conservation Education Newsletter from the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District. This quarterly publication will keep you up to date on conservation education news from our District.

## Back to Virtual School...

*Thank you for your tireless efforts during this challenging time!*

In support of digital learning, Loudoun Soil and Water is now offering an online version of our most popular lesson – the Enviroscape Watershed model (geared toward third–sixth graders). This digital version is comprised of two videos which are available on our YouTube Channel. The first video covers what is a watershed, watershed addresses of Loudoun County, stormwater runoff, where our water comes from and the importance of clean water. The second video is the actual Enviroscape Demonstration . We hope this is supportive and welcome feedback—please reach out to let me know how else we can help!



## Enviroscape Watershed Lesson now available ONLINE!



Who Lives In A Watershed?  
Part I - Intro to Watersheds

<https://youtu.be/ekm1mMo-35I>



Who Lives In A Watershed?  
Part II – Enviroscape demo

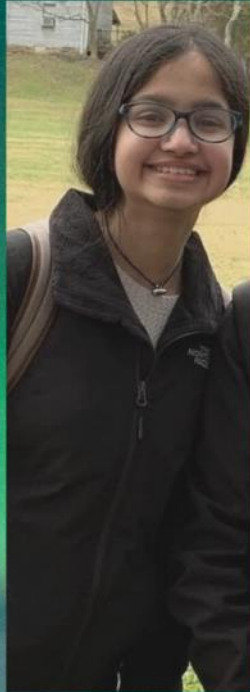
<https://youtu.be/ibdOv29V2rQ>

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# WHAT DO THESE STUDENTS HAVE IN COMMON?



## TOP TEN FINALISTS!!!

MARIA MCDONALD  
JUNIOR (AOS)

Aquatics

TYCHO SVOBODA  
SENIOR (AET)

Aquatics  
Wildlife

AMIKA KAPOOR  
SOPHMORE (AET)

Aquatics  
Wildlife  
Water Resource  
Management

ISHA SHAH  
SOPHMORE  
(AET)

Forestry

SABRINA YU  
SOPHMORE  
(AET)

Water Resource  
Management

These Academies of Loudoun students all put in a lot of hard work outside of the classroom to learn more about Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatics, Soils and Water Resource Management during the 2019-20 school year in preparation for the ENVIROTHON competition scheduled for April 2020. Their ENVIROTHON team, lead by Lori Stone, AP Environmental Science teacher at AET and Jennifer Hiltner, Research Librarian at the Academies, kept up incredible tenacity after learning the ENVIROTHON competition they had worked so hard to prepare for was cancelled due to COVID-19 by continuing with their pursuit of Natural Resource knowledge and competing in the Virtual Natural Resource Event in June. These sharp environmentalists all scored in the top ten of one or more of the Natural Resource testing categories.

CONGRATULATIONS to you all! We appreciate your efforts in learning about the natural world and know you are making a difference in the world!!

**INTERESTED in the 2020-21 Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon Competition?**

Go to [www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/envirothon](http://www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/envirothon) to learn more.

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# Happening now in Conservation Education ...

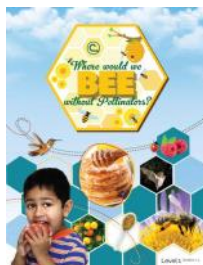
## Conservation Poster Contest...

Our Conservation Poster Contest deadline of **SEPTEMBER 15th** is **fast approaching!** Entries may be submitted electronically, so design, create and submit while at home distance learning! All Loudoun County public, private and homeschooled students grades K-12 are encouraged to enter. Creating a poster is a great way for your student to learn about and promote pollinator conservation. This year's theme is **"Where would we BEE without Pollinators?"** Check out the Flyer at the end of this newsletter to find out contest rules and more details, or by visiting [www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/sws-poster-contest](http://www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/sws-poster-contest)



## FREE Pollinator Materials

Visit our website to download FREE pollinator posters, bookmarks, and fun activity sheets & booklets for students of all ages. Get your FREE downloadable pollinator goodies here: [www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/sws-poster-contest](http://www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/sws-poster-contest)



## Youth Conservation Leadership Institute (YCLI)...

Meet Maria McDonald, a 2019-20 YCLI participant. Maria, who is a junior this school year at Independence High School and the Academies of Sciences, chose to TAKE ACTION in her community based on her concern for the local environment through her Water Quality monitoring project. We appreciate leaders like you Maria - well done!



YCLI is now accepting applications for the 2020-21 school year. The program offers high school students interested in environmental conservation and stewardship an opportunity to build leadership skills and connect with local mentors involved with environmental issues. Students choose projects of their interest to carry out in their community. YCLI is open to any Virginia high school (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) student committed to the entirety of the program including:

- Completion of at least 20 community service hours to be approved by the VASWCD staff.
- Submission of one interim and final report/presentation on the community work completed.
- Attendance at the final recognition program to be held in Spring of 2021.
- Read an assigned book on environmental leadership for a group discussion

Visit <http://vaswcd.org/ycli> for more details.

**Applications are due  
Friday Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 !!!**



## 2020 SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK POSTER CONTEST

# Where would we BEE without Pollinators?

Pollinators form the foundations of a healthy and sustainable future for food and the environment, but in recent years, they have shown concerning signs of decline. It's important that we work to help them prosper by enhancing native pollinator habitats and protecting against pollinator declines. Designing a poster and researching the theme can give you a voice in your community on important conservation issues! Participating in our poster contest helps increase awareness about our pollinators and encourages our community to work together to protect our natural resources. **The Poster Contest is open to all Loudoun County public, private and homeschooled students in grades K—12.**

### CONTEST RULES

- Any media may be used, including paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper, or other materials.
- Posters must be hand drawn but can be any size. Originals or digital entries (photographs or scanned copies of the hand drawn posters in a JPEG format) can be submitted.
- All posters must be created by an individual student, rather than a team of students. Entry must be contestant's original creation and may not be traced from photographs or other artists' published works.
- The 2020 Stewardship theme "Where would we BEE without Pollinators?" **must** be included on the front side of each poster submission to be eligible for the national poster contest.
- Each entry **must** be submitted with an entry form to be eligible for judging. The form **must** be completed and signed by a parent or guardian. Please visit our website to download an entry form. [www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/swsw-poster-contest/](http://www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/swsw-poster-contest/)
- Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, NACD encourages each student to do their own work. (Note: Entries with student handwriting and coloring will score better than those designed, drawn, and colored by adult assistance.)
- Only the local contest sponsor (Loudoun SWCD) can submit entries to the state and only the state sponsor (VASWCD) can submit for the national contest.

### POSTER EVALUATION

- Conservation message (50 percent) (Poster uses correct theme)
- Visual effectiveness (30 percent)
- Originality (10 percent)
- Universal appeal (10 percent)

### PRIZES

Local awards and recognition will be given. Local winners in each category will be sent to the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. State winners will be eligible for NACD's National Poster Contest and prizes. **All poster entries should be sent to Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District. They may be dropped off at our office or sent via County Mail Stop 95. If in JPEG format, please email to [jennifer.venable@lswcd.org](mailto:jennifer.venable@lswcd.org).**

# Deadline September 15, 2020

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