

CONSERVATION education

Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District

June 2022

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.

2022 Student Environmental Action Showcase (SEAS) at Trailside Middle School

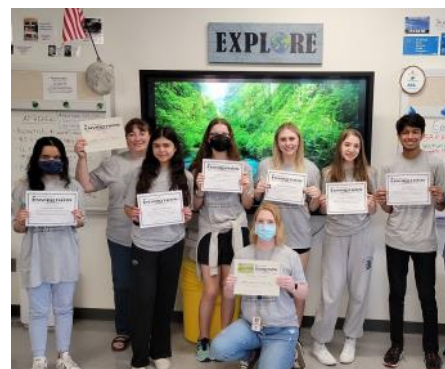
Over 200 students, community partners and visitors attended the third annual Loudoun Student Environmental Action Showcase (SEAS) on April 26th at TRAILSIDE MS in Ashburn, VA. Students of all ages and community partners came together for this in-person event to promote environmental stewardship in Loudoun County. The event was co-hosted by the Loudoun Environmental Education Alliance (LEEA), LCPS and the Northwest Virginia Regional GREENetwork.

Visit <https://loudounnature.org/> to see photos of the event along with the online artwork showcase!



Loudoun's Lightridge High School ROCKS the ENVIROTHON Competition

Lightridge High School produced not just one, but two Envirothon teams this school year who both competed in the Area II Envirothon competition at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve on April 30th. These dedicated students and coaches persevered through many challenges as they prepared for their first in-person Envirothon competition. BOTH teams placed in the top three of a testing category during the competition. The team consisting of [Pooja Adelli \(Team Captain\)](#), [Ayati Joshi](#), [Yash Nayak](#), [Scarlett Schuhart](#) and [Rishab Vontela](#) placed SECOND in Soils category. The second team which included [Saanvi Munigela \(Team Captain\)](#), [Isabella Dalebout](#), [Amanda Jimmerson](#), [Marisa Woodcock](#), [Samah Nassiri](#) and alternates [Chinmayi Ranade](#) and [Morgan Skiles](#), placed FIRST in the Special Topic category. Both teams were under the guidance of coaches Dawn Buskey and Jennifer Wolfe. CONGRATULATIONS to you all! We appreciate your exceptional effort in learning about the natural world and know you are making a difference. If you are interested in learning more about Envirothon or want to form a team, please contact jennifer.venable@lswcd.org or go to our [Envirothon web page](#).



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Youth Conservation Leadership Institute

Meet our 2022 Youth Conservation Leadership Institute students! Anthony (Broad Run HS), Emma (Homeschool), Cooper (Homeschool) and Sharanya (Independence HS) have all worked hard this school year on their environmental projects which benefit our local community. [Read more about their amazing work!](#)



Capstone Student Rachel Parmele

Rachel Parmele, a senior at Briar Woods HS, jumped right in to helping us with our conservation work during her Capstone project. She did a wonderful job teaching about the importance of soil and explained why earth worms are a big deal to 3rd graders at Buffalo Trail ES and Catoctin ES. She also assisted with a watershed awareness lab at the Academies of Loudoun, learned the importance of stream monitoring and enjoyed meeting some indicators of stream health - super cool macroinvertebrates! Thank you, Rachel, for your hard work and positive attitude! We know you will achieve whatever you put your mind to in the future.



2022 Arbor Day Celebration

Celebrate Arbor Day by learning more about the value of trees and the winners of our poster and photo contest. Click below to view the online celebration. Brought to you by Loudoun County Urban Forester Michael Ronayne and Loudoun SWCD.



2022 Conservation Poster Contest

Healthy Soil, Healthy Life

Who cares about **DIRT**? Soil is vital to our lives. **HEALTHY** soil will...



- ◇ FEED us
- ◇ FILTER pollution
- ◇ PROVIDE habitat
- ◇ CLEAN water and air
- ◇ PROVIDE clothing and building material
- ◇ SEQUESTER carbon... and much more!

Soil conservation is important to all of us. Healthy life above ground depends upon healthy soil below our feet.

Educate and inspire your community by supporting soil conservation with your own unique creation. **This year we are adding a NEW DIGITAL ART category.** This contest is open to all Loudoun County public, private and homeschooled students in grades K—12.

ENTRIES DUE AUGUST 1st, 2022

CONTEST RULES

- NEW THIS YEAR- A DIGITAL ART CATEGORY FOR 7TH-12TH GRADERS. [SEE MORE DETAILS](#)
- Hand Drawn categories- 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. [See website for details on how to submit your entry](#)
- 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 2022 theme "Healthy Soil, Healthy Life" **must** be included on the front side of each poster/image.
- 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/sws-poster-contest
- Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, we encourage 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.
- 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 District's state competition. State winners will be eligible for the National Association of Conservation District's (NACD) National Poster Contest and prizes.



www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/sws-poster-contest