

**LOUDOUN'S 2024 ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST**  
**Sponsored by Loudoun Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Theme: Loudoun's Trees are 4 The Soil**  
**Deadline: Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

Soil is known as one of the most important and valuable resources on earth and trees play a vital role in creating and protecting it. It's a good feeling to know that trees are working all day, every day, all over Loudoun County and around the world holding the soil with their roots and contributing to nutrient cycling to improve soil health. Tree roots improve the ability and capacity of soil to absorb water, reducing the risk of erosion. Tree roots perform an amazing job of anchoring the soil. Trees growing next to streams and rivers in the riparian zone are very effective at slowing flood waters and protecting stream banks. Branches and leaves that create the canopy of a tree are unique to each species and provide shelter from the wind, rain, and scorching sun. Fallen leaf litter is transformed into soil organic matter thanks to many intricate relationships that occur below ground. Numerous types of fungi (mushrooms) and microorganisms work together with the soil to provide nutrients that are adsorbed by tree roots. Trees produce an enormous amount of oxygen for all of us to breathe and store a significant amount of carbon. They filter pollutants from the air and purify gallons of groundwater stored in the soil. Some of life's essentials like food and medicine are produced by trees from minerals they take up from the soil. It's amazing that a chemical compound found in willow trees can cure a headache or that cinnamon comes from the inner bark of a tree. Apples, peaches, pears, coconuts, and coffee are just a few of the varieties of foods that trees produce by extracting nutrients from the soil. Trees supply people with lumber for building homes and furniture as well habitats for wildlife. The forest floor is home to much more than what meets the eye which are responsible for making healthy soil. It's incredible that a tree leaf takes in sunshine and gives back oxygen and that the health and well-being of everyone in the world depends on trees and soil.

The 2024 Loudoun Arbor Day poster contest is a creative way to learn about trees and express your artistic talent to create a poster that illustrates the 2024 contest theme. Poster contest prizes will be awarded to the top 50 posters. An awards ceremony is planned for Saturday, April 27, 2024 to recognize winners and display posters. The location and time have not been determined at this time.

**POSTER CONTEST GUIDELINES:**

The 2024 Loudoun Arbor Day poster contest is open to all Loudoun County students in grades K-12. Posters must measure no larger than 11" X 16" and be the original artwork of the student. The poster contest theme must be on front side the poster. All entries become the property of LSWCD for use as educational and promotional purposes. Original posters will be returned to students.



**Each entry must have the following entry form information:**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ School Name \_\_\_\_\_  
School contact or Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ email (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature allows LSWCD to utilize a poster for educational & promotional purposes

**DEADLINE to SUBMIT POSTERS is TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024**

1. **PREFERRED METHOD is to MAIL OR HAND-DELIVER POSTERS to:**  
Loudoun Soil & Water Conservation District, 30 Catoctin Circle, SE, Suite 218, Leesburg, VA 20175  
Or use the County Courier Mail (also known as the Pony Mail) The address is: Loudoun SWCD #95  
**HAND-DELIVER to LSWCD office at the address above,**  
LSWCD Office is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Wells Fargo Bank building
2. **If submission is sent electronically each entry MUST have 2 attachments:**  
#1. a JPEG image of the poster  
# 2. a PDF file with the entry form information (see above)

**Send submissions to: [pat.mcilvaine@lswcd.org](mailto:pat.mcilvaine@lswcd.org) or contact for more information**