

Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District

Announces a

SPEECH CONTEST

for

Highlands County Students in 6th - 12th Grades
(Public, Private, or Home School)

TOPIC: "Healthy Soils are Full of Life"



- The topic is a statewide topic and this contest is designed to develop leadership through providing for participation in public speaking activities while stimulating interest in conserving our natural resources, especially as it relates to Agriculture.

**Entries must be received by
Thursday, March 16, 2017
by 5:00 p.m. to
Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District
4505 George Blvd.
Sebring, FL 33875
863-402-7020 - 863-385-7028 Fax
sbishop@highlandsswcd.org**

**Oral Speech Contest will be held on
Tuesday, March 21, 2017
5:30 p.m. in
The Auditorium
Bert J. Harris Agriculture Center
George Blvd.
Sebring, FL 33875**

CONTEST RULES

- This contest is open to any Highlands County students in grades six through twelve.
- **Entry Form Deadline is Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.**
- **Speeches will be given orally on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2016 at 5:30 p.m.**
- Submit a typewritten speech, double-spaced on 8.5 x 11 inch white paper, with a one inch margin, using standard font no greater than a size 12. Include a cover page with contestant's name, speech title, parent or guardian name, home address, phone number, email address and school name.
- Contestants may not use a speech presented at any previous years' contest, and will be disqualified for doing so. In the event of disqualification of a contestant who has placed, each subsequently placed contestant will then move up in placement (i.e. second place becomes winner, third place becomes second, etc.).
- Speeches must be a minimum of six (6) minutes; but not greater than eight (8) minutes in length. Time under or over these requirements, respectively, will result in 2 points deducted for each 15 second increment or part thereof.
- Contestants will be assigned a number on the day of the contest and will be introduced by their number. Contestants should not give them name while speaking.
- Contestants may use notes while speaking; but no form of audio or visual aids are accepted.
- Contestants are expected to dress appropriately and professionally; however contestants may NOT wear attire that identifies them with any particular organization (i.e. FFA, 4-H, school).
- Failure to abide by the rules or expectations listed will result in the contestant being disqualified.
- The winner of the District contest will advance to the Area 4 contest. If the winner is unable to compete for any reason, the rankings will move up until our County has a contestant in Area 4 contest (i.e. second place will become first, third place will become second, etc.). The winner of the Area 4 contest advances to the State contest.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- There are three judging components, impartial judges and a timekeeper. A standard score sheet will be used for all contestants. The judges' decisions will be final.
Judging Components:
- Content – Relevance to the given topic 10%; Treatment of material used and accuracy of statements 20%; Originality of subject matter 20%;
- Composition – Organization, cohesiveness, grammar, style 10%
- Delivery – Voice, enunciation and modulation 10%; Personal appearance, neatness, posture 10%; Communicative ability of getting across thought and meaning while being sincere 10%; Stage presence including visual contact and gestures 10%.

PRIZES

- \$150 First Place; \$100.00 Second Place; \$50.00 Third Place

First place winner advances to District contest with a chance of advancement to State contest

SPEECH CONTEST ENTRY FORM

2017 Soil & Water Conservation Speaking Contest

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Auditorium of The Bert Harris Center in Sebring Florida

Sponsored by: Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

School: _____

Attach a typewritten copy of speech & Media Release to this entry form and submit by deadline of Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

I have read and understand the rules of the Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District Speech Contest and agree to abide by them.

Signature of Student Contestant

Date

I have read and understand the rules of the Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District Speech Contest and verify my child is entered in this contest.

Signature of Student's Parent/Guardian

Date

Entry Deadline: Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.; No exceptions

Entry Forms can be submitted in person to the office, via U.S. Mail, via E-Mail or Fax as listed below:

Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District

4505 George Blvd.
Sebring, FL 33875
E-Mail: sbishop@highlandsswcd.org
Fax: 863-385-7028 Office: 863-402-7020

2017 Soil & Water Conservation Speaking Contest

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Auditorium of Bert Harris Center in Sebring Florida

Sponsored by: Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District

Media Release

I hereby agree that all photographs, video recordings, and audio recordings made of me for purposes of publicity, illustration, advertising, or publication about the Public Speaking Contest at the local, regional or state competition, by authorized media personnel may be used by Association of Florida Conservation Districts without compensation to me. Parent/Guardian signature required for students under the age of 18.

Printed student name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature
