

2018 Arbor Day Essay Contest



Sponsored by McDonald's Restaurants of South Dakota, South Dakota Dept. of Agriculture, Resource Conservation & Forestry Division, and The South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts

The Contest is open to all South Dakota fifth and sixth grade students.

RULES

Essays or poems must be 250 words or less and submitted as originally written by the student. They can be typed or handwritten.

The central theme of any essay or poem should be the importance of Arbor Day and trees -- why we celebrate Arbor Day in South Dakota, and why it is important to plant and care for trees across the state. Students are encouraged to focus on personal experience and to remember that originality and effectiveness are major factors in judging.

All essays must have the student's name, grade, school, city, and teacher's name printed or typed clearly on the front.

DEADLINES

All schools should have their winner's essay or poem into their local Conservation District by end of business **Friday, March 23, 2018.**

Local entries will be judged, and only those selected as first place winners will be forwarded to the state contest by **April 6, 2018.**

YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICE IS:

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
801 E. 5th ST. SUITE 2
CANTON, SD 57013-1920

605-987-2624 ext 3159

PRIZES

Every student who enters will receive a certificate from **McDonald's** for a free dessert item and a packet of tree seeds along with instructions on how to grow his/her own tree, courtesy of **the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry.**

In addition to engraved plaques provided by SDACD, the following cash awards provided by **McDonald's Restaurants of South Dakota** will be presented on or around South Dakota's official Arbor Day to the three state winners:

FIRST PLACE \$100*

SECOND PLACE \$75

THIRD PLACE \$50

* An award of \$150 will be presented in the name of the first place winner to his/her school for use toward the purchase of educational equipment or supplies. The first place winner will also receive a handsome, lined jacket courtesy of McDonald's.

JUDGING

Judging will be based on the following categories: Originality and Creativity, Clearness and Effectiveness, Spelling and Punctuation, Appropriateness of Theme, Accuracy of Information, Neatness, and Grammatical Usage.

South Dakota's Traditional Arbor Day is the last Friday in April – April 27, 2018.

ARBOR DAY ESSAY CONTEST

JUDGING CRITERIA

The local conservation districts will do initial judging. They are each asked to select one local winner and submit it to the state contest. SDACD, Resource Conservation & Forestry Division, and other organization representatives will do judging at the state level. To assure uniformity, the judging will be based on seven categories with two categories receiving more weight than others. For each essay, a score of 1 to 10 should be assigned to each of the seven categories keeping the following rating system in mind:

Point Value	Rating Description
1 or 2	Poor
3 or 4	Substandard
5 or 6	Fair or Average
7 or 8	Good or Above Average
9 or 10	Excellent or Superior

The seven categories to be rated and their respective weights are as follows:

1. Originality and Creativity	40 %
2. Effectiveness and Cleanness	30 %
3. Spelling and Punctuation	10%
4. Appropriateness of Theme	5 %
5. Accuracy of Information	5 %
6. Neatness	5 %
7. Grammatical Usage	5 %

To score an essay, assign a point value of 1 to 10 for each of the seven categories. Treat each essay as objectively and fairly as possible. In the case of tie scores, another scorer should be called upon to rate the tied essay and, hopefully, break the deadlock.

Example of scoring:

1. Originality	8 x 10 = 80	80 x 40% =	32
2. Effectiveness	9 x 10 = 90	90 x 30% =	27
3. Spelling/Punctuation	5 x 10 = 50	50 x 10% =	5
4. Appropriateness of Theme	7 x 10 = 70	70 x 5% =	3.5
5. Accuracy	10 x 10 = 100	100 x 5% =	5
6. Neatness	6 x 10 = 60	60 x 5% =	3
7. Grammatical Usage	8 x 10 = 80	80 x 5% =	4
TOTAL			<u>79.5</u>

This essay received a score of 79.5 of a possible 100 points.