



The 2025 Youth Conservation Poster/ Photo Contest, open to all **Spartanburg County** K-12 students, invites students to combine artistic skills with scientific knowledge to illustrate the theme "Home is Where the Habitat is." Students may design their posters/images digitally or on paper (**landscape orientation preferred!**), but all entries should be submitted electronically (photographs or scanned images of paper illustrations may be submitted as .jpg, .png, or .pdf files). Entries are due by June 30, 2025.

Students from other counties in SC should contact their local [Soil and Water Conservation District](#) for poster submission guidelines

Please join us in celebrating habitats through the Home is Where the Habitat is theme by submitting your photo or illustration by June 30, 2025!

Competition Progression and Awards * CASH PRIZES*****

Spartanburg County winners will progress to the state competition; state winners will progress to the national competition. Cash prizes will be awarded at each level.

- County Competition: \$20 prizes will be awarded to 1st place winning posters in each of five grade level categories; \$15 to 2nd place and \$10 to 3rd place. Cash prizes are sponsored by the Spartanburg Soil and Water Conservation District. New awards available to teachers submitting student entries!

Rules

- The contest theme (**Home is Where the Habitat is**) must be on the front of the poster/image.
- Student and school names should not appear on the front of the poster/image.
- Any media may be used to create a 2D (flat) effect, including paint, marker, ink, crayon, charcoal, colored pencil, stickers, collage, wallpaper, magazines, photos, digitally-designed graphics, and flat objects found in nature.
- Posters must be the work of an individual student (no team entries).
- Entries should be the contestants' original creations and may not be traced from photos or other artists' works.
- Once posters are complete, make a .pdf, .jpg, or .png of your entry using a scanner or camera (or, in the case of digital illustrations, convert the image to a .pdf, .jpg, or .png file type), then have a parent or guardian submit the entry online using the form from below.

Recommendations

- Photographs and digital pictures are encouraged.
- Successful posters/images present a simple, concise visual message, similar to a billboard or bumper sticker.
- The contest topic should be in bold, clear, unique text. Make sure the words stand out and are easy to read!
- Avoid fluorescent-colored posters.

Evaluation

Posters will be evaluated by a panel of judges according to the following criteria:

- Conservation Message: poster illustrates the theme "**Home is Where the Habitat is**" (50%)
- Visual Effectiveness: poster attracts attention, uses colors and white space effectively, is easy to read, is neat, and makes good use of color and shading. (30%)
- Originality (10%)
- Universal Appeal: information conveyed on poster is relevant worldwide (10%)

Submission

Have a parent, teacher, or guardian upload a scanned or photographed version of your entry (.pdf., .jpg, or .png formats) by June 30, 2025. **Submission must be accompanied by student's full name, grade, and Spartanburg County address as well as email best for communication if different from submission email.** Please retain your original poster entry in a safe location until September 30, 2025, as we may request hard copies of select entries.

Sponsors

- Spartanburg Soil and Water Conservation District
- SC Association of Conservation Districts
- SC Department of Natural Resources
- US Forest Service
- National Association of Conservation Districts

