

2026 SOUTHERN AREA YOUTH CONSERVATION SPEAKING CONTEST



2026 SOUTHERN AREA ASSOCIATION WINNERS

11 counties make up the Southern Area Association: Columbia, Dodge, Green, Grant, Iowa, Jefferson, Richland, Sauk, Dane, Rock, and Lafayette

2 counties participated in the speaking contest

21 speakers competed in grades 5-12 across the participating counties

5 speakers presented for the 2026 Southern Area Contest

GRADES 5-6	NAME	COUNTY	SPEECH TITLE
1ST	Evelyn Corey	Sauk	"Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"
2ND	Adalyn Howe	Columbia	"Microplastics: Tiny Pieces Big Problems"
GRADES 7-8	NAME	COUNTY	SPEECH TITLE
1ST	Gracelynn Schultz	Columbia	"Water Quality"
GRADES 9-12	NAME	COUNTY	SPEECH TITLE
1ST	Leah Gorsuch	Sauk	"The Ground We Stand"
2ND	Hannah Brusveen	Columbia	"Glyphosate's Impact on Land Conservation"

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2026 SOUTHERN AREA ASSOCIATION WINNERS

Left to Right: Leah Gorsuch (Senior Division),
Hannah Brusveen (Senior Division), Evelyn
Corey (Elementary Division)

Not pictured: Gracelynn Schultz (Junior
Division), Adalyn Howe (Elementary Division)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

2026 SOUTHERN AREA YOUTH CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST

2026 SOUTHERN AREA WINNERS

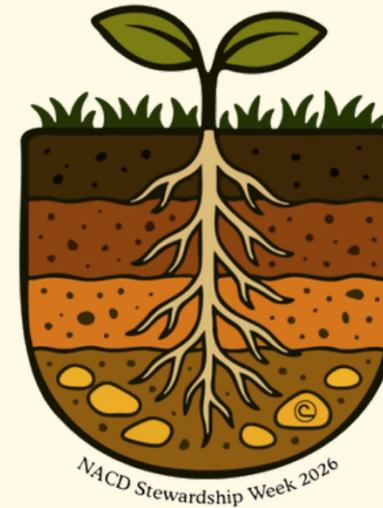
11 counties make up the Southern Area Association: Columbia, Dodge, Green, Grant, Iowa, Jefferson, Richland, Sauk, Dane, Rock, and Lafayette

9 counties participated in the poster contest

879 posters were created by students in grades K-12 across the participating counties

28 posters were submitted for the 2026 Southern Area Contest

Soil.
Where it all Begins



NACD Stewardship Week 2026



National Association of Conservation Districts



GRADES K-1 NAME COUNTY

1ST	Naomi Thompson	Sauk
2ND	Luke Sime	Dane
3RD	Jupyter Saucedo	Columbia

GRADES 2-3 NAME COUNTY

1ST	Millie Kammerud	Lafayette
2ND	Lynnette Herrild	Sauk
3RD	Amelia Brown	Columbia

GRADES 4-6 NAME COUNTY

1ST	Olive Atkins	Lafayette
2ND	Mackenna Herrild	Sauk
3RD	Jasmyn Karls	Columbia

GRADES 7-9 NAME COUNTY

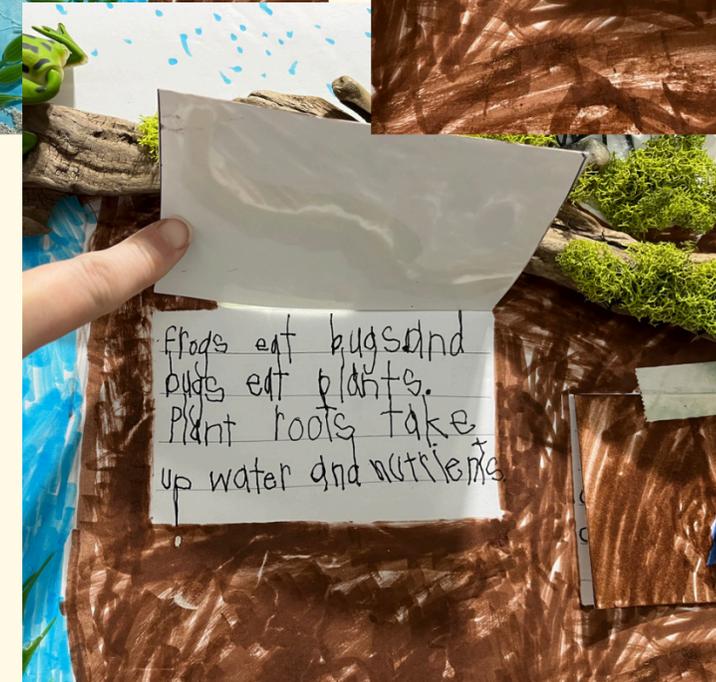
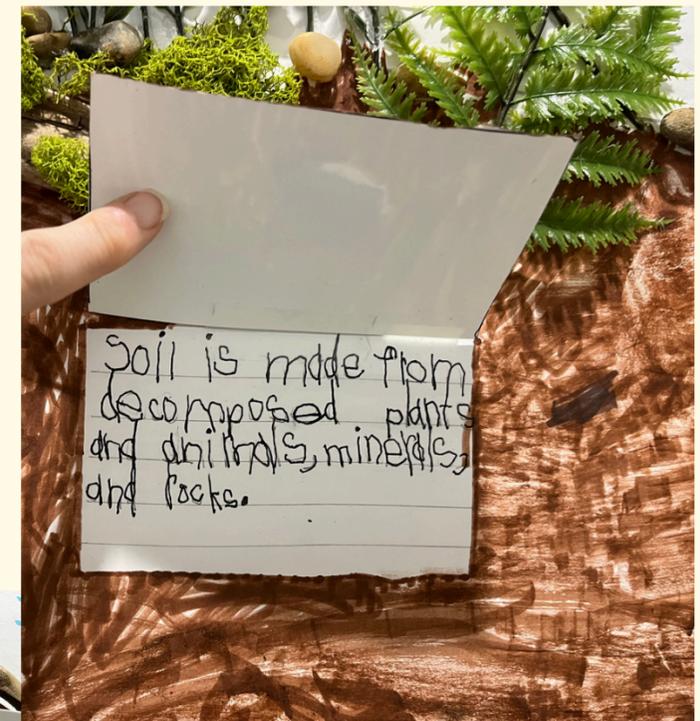
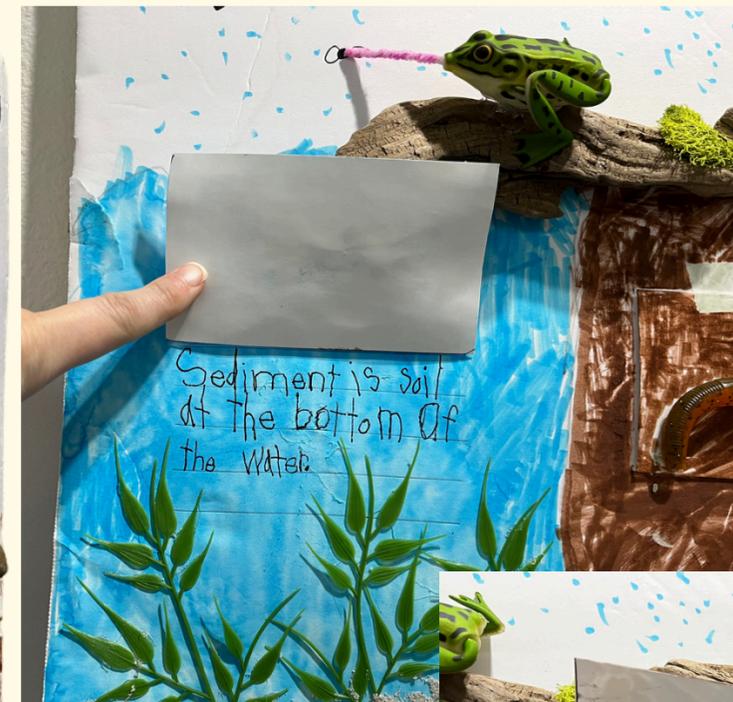
1ST	Pearl Hillary	Green
2ND	Alexandra Herrild	Sauk
3RD	Layla Nickel	Columbia

GRADES 10-12 NAME COUNTY

1ST	Lilly Bowar	Sauk
2ND	Teresa Gratz	Green
3RD	Thea Kammerud	Lafayette

GRADES K-1 1ST PLACE

NAOMI THOMPSON, SAUK COUNTY



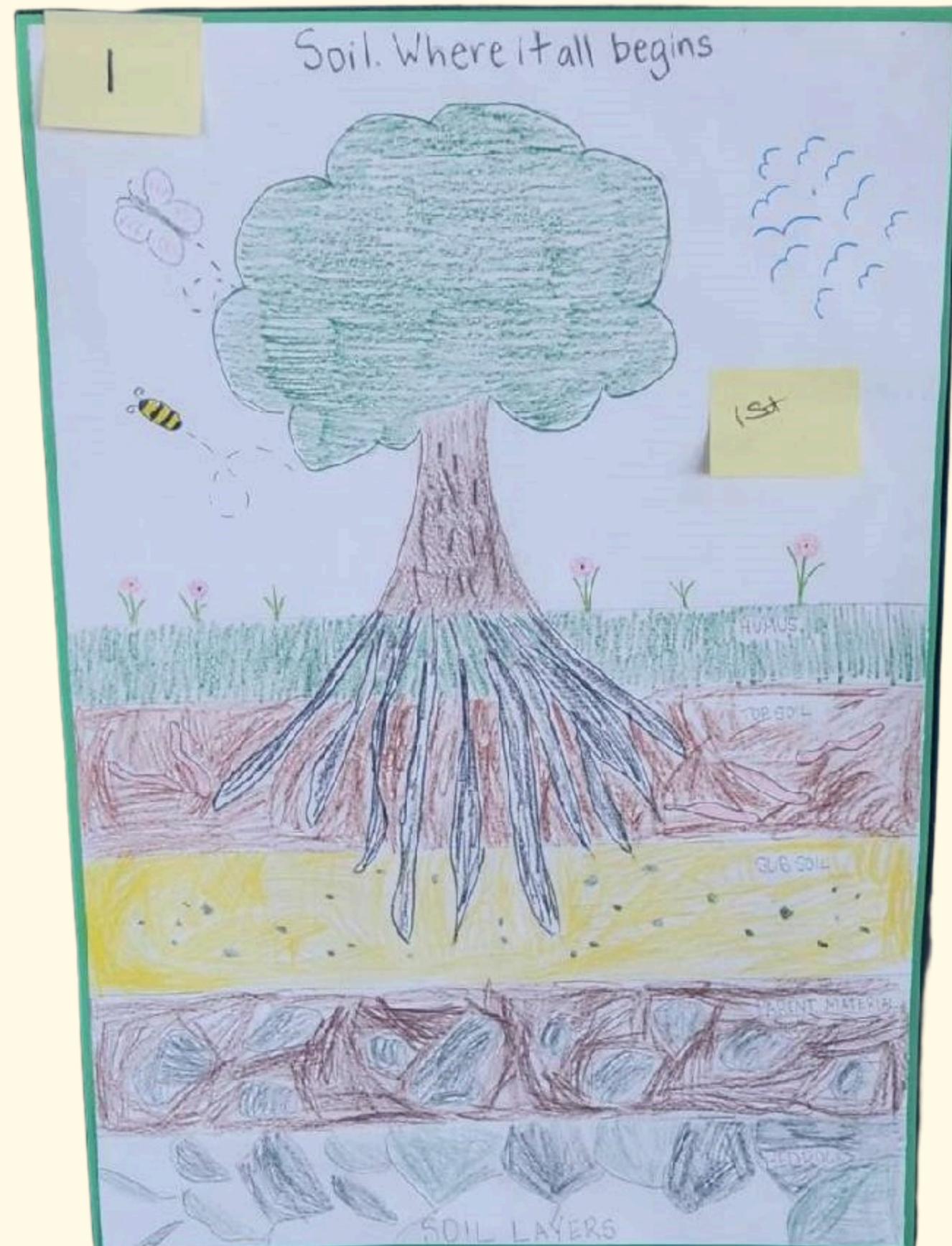
GRADES K-1 2ND PLACE

LUKE SIME,
DANE COUNTY



GRADES K-1 3RD PLACE

JUPYTER SAUCEDO,
COLUMBIA COUNTY



GRADES 2-3 1ST PLACE

MILLIE KAMERUD,
LAFAYETTE COUNTY



GRADES 2-3 2ND PLACE

LYNNETTE HERRILD, SAUK COUNTY



GRADES 2-3 3RD PLACE

AMELIA BROWN,
COLUMBIA COUNTY



GRADES 4-6 1ST PLACE

OLIVE AKINS
LAFAYETTE COUNTY



GRADES 4-6 2ND PLACE

MACKENNA HERRILD, SAUK COUNTY



GRADES 4-6 3RD PLACE

JASMYN KARLS
COLUMBIA COUNTY



GRADES 7-9 1ST PLACE

PEARL HILLARY GREEN COUNTY



GRADES 7-9 2ND PLACE

ALEXANDRA HERRILD,
SAUK COUNTY



GRADES 7-9 3RD PLACE

LAYLA NICKEL
COLUMBIA COUNTY



GRADES 10-12 1ST PLACE

LILLY BOWAR, SAUK COUNTY



GRADES 10-12 2ND PLACE

TERESA GRATZ,
GREEN COUNTY



GRADES 10-12 3RD PLACE

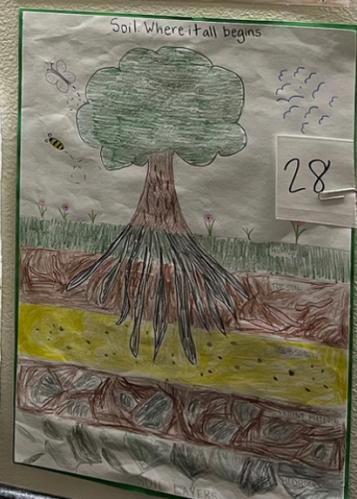
THEA KAMMERUD
LAFAYETTE COUNTY



OTHER SUBMISSIONS

2025 SAA Conservation Poster Contest
VOTING INFO
JUDGING CRITERIA

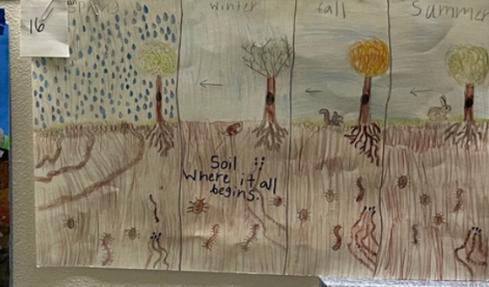
GRADES K-1



GRADES 4-6



GRADES 2-3



OTHER SUBMISSIONS

2026 SAUK COUNTY YOUTH CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST

THIS YEAR'S THEME: **Soil. Where it all begins.**

VOTING INFO

1. Scan QR code for ballot
2. Posters are divided by grades
3. Write the corresponding poster number to vote for a 1st, 2nd, 3rd place for each grade

JUDGING CRITERIA

CONSERVATION MESSAGE - 50%

- Theme included & evident: "Soil, Where it all Begins"
- Conveys a positive conservation message
- Accurate illustration of natural resources
- Shows a good understanding of the conservation concept

VISUAL EFFECTIVENESS - 30%

- Neatness
- Easy to read from up to 10' away
- Well planned & designed; good use of space, balance, color & medium

ORIGINALITY - 10%

- Creativity of design & concept
- Evidence of thought & time put into poster

UNIVERSAL APPEAL - 10%

THANK YOU!

Contact: Jacqui Peyer
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GRADES 7-9

GRADES 10-12

