

# FFA Leadership Development Program

2018 Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest Theme:



To prepare for the public speaking contest, students are to consult with their Ag Science teacher and use the Guidelines Packet accessible on the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board's website. The student is also to work with their soil and water conservation district (SWCD) as a local resource. A statement signed by an SWCD representative must be attached to the submitted speech.

**To locate and contact** a soil and water conservation district, **refer to page 8** of this packet and follow the instructions.

This program is a partnership between the Texas FFA, the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

For more information contact:

**Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board**  
1497 Country View Lane  
Temple, TX 76504-8806  
(254) 773-2250 or 800-792-3485  
<https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/>



# Scholarships Available



Three scholarships will be awarded by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts. One \$3,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the first place contestant, one \$2,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the second place contestant and one \$1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the third place contestant.

Scholarship money must be used to defray costs of a recipient's education at a technical institution, college, or university of the recipient's choice. Scholarship funds will be transmitted directly to a public speaking contest winner's chosen technical school, college, or university in the student's name upon proof of registration as a full-time student at the institution of higher learning.

**Expense Paid Trips:** The state first place scholarship winner and his or her advisor will receive an expense paid trip under State of Texas travel guidelines to the annual meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. The first place Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest Winner is required to present his or her state winning speech at the annual meeting of SWCD Directors.

## To Access the Guidelines Packet

1. Click on the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board's website:  
<https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/>
2. On the left side of the home page, under Program Quick Links click on "SWCD Information & Education."
3. Click on "[Soil & Water Stewardship Public Speaking Contest](#)" and scroll down for the 2018 Program Guidelines Packet

## To Get the Student Started

Using the prompt statements or questions noted in the speech outline on page six, the student is to center his/her speech on the theme "*Watersheds – Our Water, Our Home*". The focus of the speech is to demonstrate knowledge gained as a result of research and personal consultation with the local soil and water conservation district. It is further recommended that the student consult the listed resources that follow to gain a well rounded view of the theme topic. **Other resources may also be consulted in addition to the listed references.**

## Recommended Resources for Speech Development

<https://tpwd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/SimpleViewer/index.html?appid=53fd4e778179477a848f9e89aacce481#!>

The Texas Watershed Viewer allows users to identify local watersheds, sub watersheds, river basins, and river sub basins throughout the State of Texas by clicking on a geographical areas on the map.

<http://water.tamu.edu/water-quality/protecting-texas-watersheds/>

A Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) assures the long-term health of the watershed with strategies for protecting unimpaired waters and restoring impaired waters. (*Definition courtesy of the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board*)

<https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/programs/texas-nonpoint-source-management-program/watershed-protection-plan-program>

A Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) is a coordinated framework for implementing prioritized and integrated water quality protection and restoration strategies driven by environmental objectives.

<http://twri.tamu.edu/docs/education/2012/em112.pdf>

WPPs are locally developed, comprehensive plans that focus and coordinate activities and resources to manage water quality in a defined geographic area. They are a coordinated framework for implementing prioritized and integrated water quality protection and restoration strategies driven by specific environmental objectives.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/water/watersheds/>

History of the Watershed Program

- Watershed and Natural Resource Planning
- Watershed Rehabilitation
- Watershed Design and Construction
- Operation and Maintenance

[http://tws.tamu.edu/files/2013/10/TWS-Curriculum-Handbook\\_2015\\_COMPRESSED.pdf](http://tws.tamu.edu/files/2013/10/TWS-Curriculum-Handbook_2015_COMPRESSED.pdf)

The resource provides information on the importance of watershed stewardship, facts about the World's Water as well as Texas water facts. The resource defines a watershed as well as presents of Texas watersheds. On a broader scope, water use in the U.S. is presented. Rounding out the publication's content includes information on how Texans use watersheds, natural watershed functions and features.

<http://articles.extension.org/pages/39162/why-is-a-healthy-watershed-important>

Discusses why a healthy watershed is important

<https://www.epa.gov/hwp/benefits-healthy-watersheds>

Discusses benefits of healthy watersheds

- [Ecosystem Benefits and Services](#)
- [Economic Benefits](#)
- [Physical and Mental Health Benefits](#)

<https://water.usgs.gov/edu/watershed.html>

A watershed is an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet such as the outflow of a reservoir, mouth of a bay, or any point along a stream channel. The word watershed is sometimes used interchangeably with drainage basin or catchment.

**Specific Instructions:** The speech must be between *six and eight minutes in length*. For specific rules and requirements relating to the contest, consult the Degree Check Guidelines.

# Objective of the Speech

The objectives of the speech are as follows:

1. The speaker is expected to present information on the importance of watershed stewardship, facts about the World's Water as well as Texas water facts. The speaker should be able to clearly define a watershed. On a broader scope, the speaker should present information on how Texans use watersheds, as well as information on natural watershed functions and features.
2. The speaker is expected to explain the importance of a healthy watershed including the benefits of a healthy watershed.
3. The speaker is expected to present a brief history of the Watershed program in Texas, and then couple the applicability of what was learned to watershed projects in the local soil and water conservation district.
4. The speaker is expected to demonstrate knowledge about the framework of a coordinated watershed protection plan and how this plan was developed on the local level.

## Speech Outline

### Introduction

- Introduce the theme "*Watersheds – Our Water, Our Home*". Consider incorporating a reflective thought based upon what was learned during research for the preparation of the speech.
- Set the tone of the speech with some thought provoking quote regarding a philosophical view for the conservation of soil and water resources.

### Body of Speech

- From interviews and discussion with local soil and water conservation district personnel (USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel, a soil and water conservation district employee, or a conservation district director) discuss ways in which the local soil and water conservation district, along with agricultural producers cooperating with the

SWCD, contribute to good land management in the local community which in turn contributes to a healthy local watershed.

- Present a perspective on current and future water supplies for Texas in contrast to increasing population demographics. Where will be the greatest demand and how will such projections be met?
- Discuss how good land stewardship contributes to the environmental and economic health to the local community, state, and nation. Give examples of public benefits derived from a healthy viable agricultural sector.

## **Conclusion**

- In reflecting on what you have learned do you believe that your generation has a key role in responsible future decisions and actions that impact the future of the state and nation's land and water resources?

*\* It is not required that the above prompt questions be addressed in the speech as chronologically listed. The student has the flexibility to rearrange the prompt questions in a manner that permits a smooth flow of delivery. The student also has the flexibility to introduce other concepts into his or her speech that he or she feels relevant to the presentation.*

# Soil and Water Conservation District Consultation Affidavit

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ consulted with  
the \_\_\_\_\_ Soil and Water Conservation  
District in preparation for the 2018 Soil and Water Stewardship Public Speaking  
Contest (“*Watersheds – Our Water, Our Home*”).

\_\_\_\_\_

(Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_

(SWCD Representative Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Date)

*(This form should be submitted along with the speech.)*





**How to find your local soil and water conservation district: Follow the below steps.**

1. Click on the link  
<https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/swcds/locatormap>
2. Click on the region number in which your county is located.
3. Find the name of your county and click on it. Up pops the name of your SWCD, and information on how to contact the district, or the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Field Representative who assists the district.