



Exciting Opportunity for Green Lake County Students: 2026 Youth Conservation Awareness Poster & Speaking Contest!

Looking for a fresh and fun way to challenge your students this year—while meeting Wisconsin State Education Requirements? The Green Lake County Land & Water Conservation Department invites your students to participate in the annual Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contest! This can be done as a class project or by individual students, and it’s a fantastic way to spark creativity and environmental awareness.

This year’s theme, **Soil. Where It All Begins**, celebrates the incredible power of soil to support life in all its forms. Soil is not just the ground we walk on. It is the starting point for healthy food, clean water, thriving habitats, and resilient communities. From backyard gardens to forests and city parks, everything begins with what is beneath our feet.

Soil does a lot more than grow plants. It holds water, cycles nutrients, and provides homes for billions of living organisms that help keep nature in balance. It keeps roots in place, helps prevent flooding, and supports wildlife and people alike. The trees in our neighborhoods, the food on our tables, and the natural places we love all depend on healthy soils.

When we take care of soil, we are taking care of everything it supports.
That is why soil is where it all begins.

Our staff is available to come and speak on soil health or any other conservation-related topics. Our Soil Conservationist, Olivia Fischer, would love to be a resource to you in your classroom. I’d be happy to help coordinate a presentation or introduction if you are interested.

Contest Divisions

PRIMARY	Grades K-1
ELEMENTARY	Grades 2-3
MIDDLE	Grades 4-6
JUNIOR	Grades 7-9
SENIOR	Grades 10-12
SPECIAL NEEDS JUNIOR	Grades K-6
SPECIAL NEEDS SENIOR	Grades 7-12



How to Enter

1. Learn more about SOIL. Why is SOIL important? How can we protect this vital resource?
2. Sketch a design to illustrate SOIL. Include the words "**Soil. Where it all begins**" (*must be on the poster*) in the poster design and then use crayons, colored pencils, paint, stickers or other flat media to make it colorful.
3. Poster size must be 12" x 18" or 14" x 22"
4. Attach a completed entry form to back of poster.
5. Submit your poster to the Land Conservation office at the Government Center in Green Lake no later than **December 19, 2025**. (*Submission Options: Drop off or schedule a classroom pickup*).

Awards

- Every student/poster will receive a certificate of participation.
- 1st through 3rd place at the county level will receive a check in the mail (1st- \$25, 2nd- \$20, 3rd- \$15)
- 1st place county level posters will also receive a check award from their placement at the Area Level.
- 1st through 3rd place will be announced in April 2026 during the County Board of Supervisors meeting.
- 1st through 3rd place will be displayed at the Green Lake County Fair in August of 2026.
- 1st through 3rd place will be posted on the county website.

