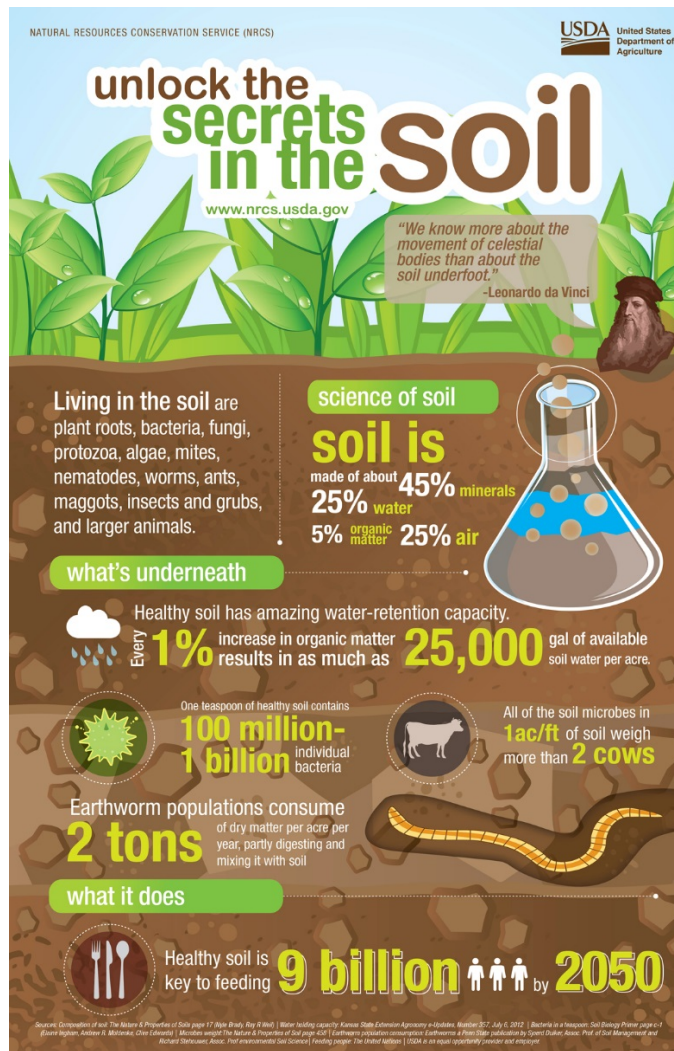


**Manatee River Soil and Water Conservation District**  
**Speech Contest**

**TOPIC: Healthy Soils Are Full Of Life**



**Speech Competition Date = Monday, November 14, 2016**  
**at 6:00 pm**

**Contest will be held at the Manatee County Extension Office**  
**1303-17<sup>th</sup> St. W.**  
**Palmetto, FL 34221**

**Sponsored by: Manatee River Soil and Water Conservation District (MRSWCD)**

This speech contest is designed to develop leadership through public speaking activities and stimulate interest in conserving our natural resources.

**Eligibility:**

Open to any student regularly enrolled in any high school, middle school, home school, or virtual school in grades 6 through 12 in Manatee County. All eligible students are encouraged to participate\*. *The overall local winner is eligible to compete at the area and state level, with prizes at each level.*

\*This event serves as a qualifying event for FFA and 4-H organizations to receive a MRSWCD Conservation Award.

**Awards:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place.....\$150
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place.....\$100
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place.....\$75

To increase recognition for middle school students who are competing along with high school students in this competition, the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place middle school students will be awarded ribbons. A possible scenario is provided here; if the top scoring middle school student places 2<sup>nd</sup> overall they will receive \$100 and also be awarded a ribbon for 1<sup>st</sup> place among middle school students.

Each teacher that has a participating student in the contest will be entered into a drawing (one entry per teacher) for a \$50 gift certificate to an educational supply store. One teacher will be selected.

**Special Requirements:**

The speech must be an original work, created by the student.

**Deliver a double spaced copy of the speech, by 5 pm on Monday, November 7, 2016 in one of the following ways:**

Email: [gail.somodi@fl.nacdn.net](mailto:gail.somodi@fl.nacdn.net)

Mail or hand deliver\* to: **MRSWCD  
USDA/NRCS  
6942 Professional Parkway East  
Sarasota, FL 34240**

\*to arrange hand delivery call Gail Somodi, Speech Contest Coordinator, at 907-0011 Ext. 3142

The name of the contestant will not appear on their speech. They will be identified by a cover page containing their name, speech title, parent/guardian name, home address, school name and address, and Association of Florida Conservation Districts Area III.

**Time Limit:**

**Each speech will be between 6-8 minutes in length.** Time under or over these limits, respectively, will cost the contestant two points for each 15 seconds or parts thereof.

**Selection of Judges:**

1. Three judges will be selected for each contest. One of the three, where possible, will be a English or speech teacher and at least one will have an agricultural background. Each judge is to score each contestant.

2. A timekeeper will be designated. He/she will record the time used by each contestant in making their speech and note under-time or over-time, if any, for which deductions should be made.

**Judging:**

The following items and point system will be used by the judges to score each contestant.

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
<b>Content</b>	Choice of subject (relevance to topic)	10
	Treatment (material used and accuracy of statements)	20
	Originality (subject matter and treatment)	<u>20</u>
	<b>Total Content Points.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Composition</b>	Organization, cohesiveness, grammar, style	<u>10</u>
	<b>Total Composition Points.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Delivery</b>	Voice (enunciation, modulation)	10
	Personal Appearance (neatness, posture)	10
	Communicative expertise (ability to convey meaning)	10
	Stage presence (gestures, visual contact)	<u>10</u>
	<b>Total Delivery Points.....</b>	<b>40</b>
	<b>Total Possible Points.....</b>	<b>100</b>

Contestants may use notes while speaking. Visual and audio aids may not be used.

1. Prior to the contest, the judges will be provided word-processed copies of contestants' speeches, which contestants will supply, as previously stated. Judges will read and score the manuscripts on the score sheets that will be provided to them prior to the contest.
2. At the time of the contest, judges will seat themselves apart from one another in different sections of the room, in which the contest is held. They will score each contestant upon delivery of his-her speech using the score sheet, which will be provided.
3. Contestants will be assigned numbers for the order in which their speeches will be given based on when the speech contest committee receives their manuscript. The program chairperson shall introduce each contestant by number.
4. The contestant will **not** wear attire that will identify him/her with any organization.
5. When all contestants have finished speaking the judges will return to a joint session with the chairman of the contest. Scorecards will be completed and the winners will be determined. The chairman of the contest or the chairman of the MRSWCD will announce the winners.

**Special Consideration:**

To give equal consideration to each speaking contestant, as well as the viewing listeners in attendance, it will be necessary to limit movement of the audience. Applause will be held until after the ending of the final contestant's speech. Photographs will be taken only during the time allotted after the presentation of winners' prizes.

**Deadline: Deliver a double spaced copy of the speech, by 5 pm on Monday, November 7, 2016.**