

ANTRIM CONSERVATION DISTRICT

STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

*In pursuit of Antrim Conservation District's mission "to promote the exploration and conservation of Antrim County's natural resources," the Antrim Conservation District is hosting its 2nd Annual Essay Contest. The contest will encourage students of grades 7-12 to think outside the box and research solutions to natural resource issues that plague Antrim County. Participating students must live in Antrim County or attend school in Antrim County, and each student may submit only one essay. Essay entries are due by **Friday, November 8th at 4:30pm**. Entries may be submitted electronically to McKenzie at mckenzie.fox@macd.org or mailed/dropped-off to the ACD office at 4820 Stover Rd. Bellaire, MI 49615. ACD staff will be available to do presentations in classrooms of county schools during the month of October about the topic issues and the essay contest. For questions or to inquire about a classroom presentation, please contact McKenzie at (231)533-8363 x4 or mckenzie.fox@macd.org or Emma at ecostantino.acd@gmail.com.*

ESSAY FOCUS QUESTIONS:

Using your knowledge of conservation and research of the issues, write an essay proposing a way to solve one of the following natural resource issues in Antrim County:

1. Rising water levels/Flooding

Rising water levels and flooding have been a concern for residents of Antrim County in the recent past. These higher water levels pose a risk to infrastructure, people's homes and basements, and the shorelines along the lakes and other waterbodies. How can we combat rising water levels to protect our county?

2. Invasive species

Invasive species are plants and animals that were not originally in a geographical area and pose a risk to the environment, economy, and/or human health. Invasive species that pose a high risk in Antrim County include Japanese knotweed, phragmites, and oriental bittersweet. How can we combat these invasive species (can focus on one or multiple) and prevent harm from occurring?

3. Dumping of trash at recycling sites

Dumping of trash at recycling sites in Antrim County is a recurring problem. This littering is expensive and illegal. What can we do to prevent or reduce this illegal dumping from occurring?

ACD staff will be available to come into middle and high school classrooms throughout the month of October to introduce these topics and the essay contest.

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:

Essays must be a minimum of 2 pages, maximum of 5 pages, typed, double-spaced with size 12 and Times New Roman style font. Photos and/or diagrams are encouraged (not included in page limit). **Please include contact information (email and/or phone number) and GRADE on or with your essay.** Essays will be rated via a point system and rubric, with extra points given for creativity of the solution. See rubric for more information.



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AWARD DETAILS:

Winning essays will be chosen within 2 age categories, grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. Contest winners will consist of 1st and 2nd place overall within these two age categories. 1st place winners within each age category will receive a cash award of \$350, and 2nd \$150. Awardees will be invited to attend ACD's Annual Meeting on December 4th for an award ceremony. The winning essays will also be published in area newspapers over the year of 2020.

