



Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District Environmental Essay Scholarship Guidelines

- Who May Enter:** Any high school senior living in or going to school in Douglas County, planning on attending as a full-time student at an accredited college or university, may submit one essay.
- Topic Question:** How are exotic and invasive species impacting our lakes and wetlands, and what can citizens do to help stop and manage their spread and impacts on water, fish, and wildlife resources?
- Essay Criteria:** Essays must answer the topic question in 1000 words or less and must be completely original compositions. Essays must be typed, using a font size of twelve (12) and one (1) inch margins. One cover page with essay's title, applicant's name, school, and home address must be submitted with the essay. All essays become property of the Douglas SWCD and may be used at their discretion.
- Judging:** Essays will be evaluated according to the following:
Comprehension/Content-How well does the essay reflect a thorough understanding of the topic?
Organization-Does the writing flows logically with clear structure?
Creativity-Were diverse resources and ideas used to develop the topic?
Writing/Style-Was correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, references/citations, and concise language used?
Adherence to contest rules
- Award:** The scholarship is to be used for books or tuition within one year of the award. Winning essay may be published in local newspapers and newsletters.
1st Place- \$500
2nd Place- \$300
- Timeline:** Essays must be postmarked no later than **Friday, February 29, 2008.**
- Sponsors:** Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Douglas County Lakes Association (DCLA).
- Entry:** Send completed essay and cover page to:
Douglas SWCD
Attn: Emily Siira
900 Robert St., Suite 102
Alexandria, MN 56308