

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION V O T E R S

Earth Day Poetry Contest

For kids 6 – 12

Descriptions for Teachers

Washington Conservation Voters is the statewide political voice for the environment. We work to elect environmentally responsible candidates to state and local offices. Working with our allies in the community, we advocate for strong environmental policies and hold our elected officials accountable during the legislative session. Through our political work we are strengthening laws that safeguard the health of our communities, the beauty of our state and our economic future.

Before every legislative election cycle, we release our Legislative Scorecard. This publication is the tool that sheds light on the effectiveness of legislators on environmental issues. With the Scorecard, we give voters the information that they need, thereby holding our elected officials accountable.

The Legislative Scorecard is a tool for legislators to know how well they are doing on protecting the environment; it is a “report card” for their work. This is also a key tool for voters to know how their legislators are performing on issues that are important to all Washington residents.

We know that the most important reason to protect our environment and have legislators who do the same is to ensure that Washington is a healthy, safe and beautiful state for generations to come. **That’s why this year we’re featuring the work of Washington children as part of our Legislative Scorecard.**

We’d like to feature poems from Washington kids age 6-12 on the front and back covers of the Scorecard as well as inside the Scorecard. April is Earth Month and Earth Day is on April 22nd. **For this Earth Day, we’re asking Washington kids to share why the earth is important to them in our Earth Day poetry contest.**

The Legislative Scorecard is sent to every legislator in the state and is seen by thousands of people in Washington.

Contest Guidelines

Subjects (these are examples only – kids should be encouraged to think broadly about the environment but choose one subject for the poem and write a poem that excites them).

- Why we should protect the earth
- Stop global warming
- Keep our Earth clean
- Clean up Puget Sound
- Protect our land/forests/water/air etc

Deadlines

Participants are encouraged to organize contests/events and submit entries on Earth Day (April 22). Additional entries must be submitted by 5pm, April 30, 2008.

Rules

8 - 10 lines max

Poem must have title, author, age, and school

Please include contact information for the author for notification purposes (contact information will not be published).

Submit to Sudha@wcvoters.org with the subject line "Earth Day Poetry Contest"

If email submission is not possible, send in via mail to Sudha Nandagopal, Washington Conservation Voters PO Box 1907 Seattle, WA 98111. All submissions must be received no later than 5pm on April 30th.

Example poems (for teachers):

So Just Clean it Up!

By Allie Young, Burien ~ 9 years old

*Clean up the earth,
so it could be a sparkling
clean place for us all!
Clean up the earth,
so we can see the gorgeous
blue and green on our planet.
The blue and green will shine
in our eyes if we clean it up.
So Just clean it up!*

The Earth is Ours!

By Alex Richter – 9 years old

*We must keep our planet free
From messy trash and debris
With air that's clean and fresh and clear
For all to breathe from year to year.
We must never ever abuse
Our sweet Earth that's ours to use.*

Acknowledgment and Prizes

- First place will be on the cover of the annual legislative scorecard
- Second place will be on the back cover of the annual legislative scorecard
- Third place will be inside the publication of the annual legislative scorecard
- Depending on the subject matter of individual poems and overall response to the contest, we may feature additional "honorable mention" poems inside the publication.

The authors of the poems that are selected for publication will be asked to be at the "Legislative Scorecard" release press conference in late May or early June. The first place winner will recite his/her poem at one of the special Washington Conservation Voter events.

We will strive to publish as many of the poems as possible on our website at www.wcvoters.org

Please contact Sudha Nandagopal, Communications Manager at Washington Conservation Voters if you have questions. P: 206-631-2624 or E: Sudha@wcvoters.org

Submitted poems will become the property of Washington Conservation Voters for use in the Legislative Scorecard and associated materials.