

2012 DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District Photo Contest

A picture can be worth even more than a thousand words. Good photographs can lend a helping hand to numerous projects: they strengthen publicity for a fund-raiser, make a newsletter more appealing, and reveal the beauty of wetlands to elementary students. To recognize individuals who use this tool effectively and creatively, DeKalb County SWCD is sponsoring a photo contest. **The deadline for entries is February 23, 2012 by 4:30 p.m.**

CATEGORIES

Photographs may be entered in the following categories:

- **Conservation** Photos of volunteers planting trees or of district personnel advising a farmer could be entered in this category. Shots of erosion, a polluted stream or other conservation challenges are also appropriate.
- **Education** Entries in this category might show a workshop for local teachers or a farmer learning about wetlands. This is also the place to enter your best photos of children taking part in conservation activities.
- **Trees and Plants/Landscapes** Enter anything from a field of wildflowers to a gnarled oak tree. Or a sunset, mountains, park, farmstead or other impressive views are appropriate subjects for this category.
- **Wildlife** In this category, you might show deer running through the woods or a bird nest in an urban neighborhood.
- **Youth Only** This category is designed for youths up to age 18. Photos can be submitted under any of the above categories. Designate on the entry form that it is a youth entry.

GUIDELINES

- The contest is open to amateur photographers (those who make less than 50 percent of their income from photography) who are residents of the United States or its territories. Each participant may enter up to, but no more than, five photographs. **Photos will not be returned.**
- Black-and-white prints, color prints, and prints from digital photos are all acceptable and will be judged together. Do not send photo reproductions from a printed publication. There is no size requirement — **however, we prefer that photos be no larger than 8x10 and that they not be matted.**
- **A completed entry form, photo release and model release form must accompany each photograph submitted.**
- A 3x5 note card containing the following information must be attached to the back of each photo. Include:
 - A. Photographer's name and phone number.**
 - B. Title of photograph.** Please use same title as on entry form.
 - C. Subject.** Names and titles are needed for each person in the photo. (Take care to identify each person and spell names correctly.)
 - D. Location.** If the photograph is of a district technician helping a farmer, identify the farm, county and state. If the photo shows a city park, mention the name of the park and the state.
 - E. Description.** Is the child with the magnifying glass examining a crack in the sidewalk or a line of ants carrying food?
 - F. Date of photo.** Exact dates are not necessary, but at least give the year.
- All entries become the property of DeKalb County SWCD and we reserve the non-exclusive right to use all photographs in publications or for promotional purposes. Entrants should keep extra prints of their photographs.
- One youth winner and one adult winner in each of the four categories will be selected. Winning photos will be displayed at the DeKalb County SWCD 2012 Conservation Awards Banquet. Winners will receive prizes and certificates and be invited to the 2012 Conservation Awards Banquet on March 16, 2012, with a meal being provided for them and their family. Teacher and Principal and their guest will also be invited to attend and meals will be provided.

2012 DeKalb County SWCD Photo Contest Entry Form

Please print out this form, fill it out and mail it in with your photo and the other materials listed in the "**Guidelines**" section of the previous page.

Photographer's name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone Number

Category of this entry Title of this entry (must correspond to title on 3x5 card)

Is this an entry for the youth category? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes please include photographer's age here _____.

All entries must be received by February 23, 2012 by 4:30p.m. If you are mailing place a piece of cardboard in the envelope and write "Photographs: Do Not Bend" on the envelope this will help ensure that photographs arrive in good condition. Send entries to: DeKalb County SWCD, 1350 W. Prairie Drive, Sycamore, IL 60178. For questions, call Sandy at (815) 756-3237, ext. 3

Important:

Please send in the photo release form and model release form with you photos.