

## Theme Overview:

The theme for Stewardship Week 2009 is  
"DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil"

We know less about life in the earth under our feet than we do about the far side of the moon. Yet every plant and animal you can think of depends on this vast hidden ecosystem.

Each shovel of soil holds more living things than all the human beings ever born. Lots of species are still waiting for scientists to identify and name them. This is a world where fungi lay traps for thread-like worms. Bacteria dine on toxic chemicals. The smaller the creature, the stranger are its habits.

Dig into soil and meet its tiny and helpful residents. Think of soil as a thin living skin that covers the land. It goes down into the ground just a short way. Even the most fertile topsoil is only a foot or so deep. Soil is more than rock particles. It includes all the living things and the materials they make or change.

The most important soil organisms are very, very tiny. You cannot put a radio collar on a bacterium and follow it around. Many species look alike but all have found different ways to make a living.

To find out more DIG IT! And learn more secrets of soil

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please visit the NACD's poster contest webpage at

[www.nacdnet.org/stewardship&education](http://www.nacdnet.org/stewardship&education)



The existence of man depends  
on six inches of topsoil and the  
water that falls on it . . . . .

**SAVE THEM!!**

**OSAGE COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**In the USDA building at:  
1315 East Main  
Linn, Mo. 65051  
Phone: 573-897-3797  
Fax: 573-897-4107**

**OSAGE COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## 2009 POSTER CONTEST

**This Year's Theme: DIG IT!  
The Secrets of Soil**



**1315 East Main  
Linn, MO. 65051  
(573) 897-3797**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Osage County Soil and Water Conservation District is again sponsoring their annual poster contest. Students in third, fourth and fifth grades are invited to participate. This year's theme is "**DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil**". Third grade students will compete in one division. Fourth and fifth grade students will be combined into a second division. A winning poster will be chosen from each school in both divisions. The school winners will receive a \$50 savings bond and go on to compete with the divisional winners from the other schools within Osage County. The grand prize winner in each division will be awarded a bicycle, and will go on to compete with other division winners from across the state. All students will receive participation ribbons.

*Encourage students to be creative!* Younger students will likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, but are encouraged to do as much of the work as possible by him/herself.

Please fill out and return the enclosed form ASAP so we can deliver the poster board. Posters are due by **February 20** and will be picked up by SWCD staff. The SWCD Board of Supervisors will judge the posters later that week. The top contestants from each school will be invited to our Open House scheduled for March 2009 to receive their awards. The grand prize winners will also be announced at that time.

## CONTEST RULES:

- Any media may be used to create a flat or **two-dimensional** effect: paint, crayon, marker, colored pencil, charcoal, paper or other materials.
- "**Dig It-The Secrets of Soil**" theme **MUST** be on all posters—no other theme accepted.
- Poster board provided by SWCD District must be used
- All posters must have completed entry form attached to back of poster: name, parents, home address, social security number
- All posters must be created by an individual student rather than a team of students.

## 2008 OSAGE COUNTY STATS:

In the 2008 Poster Contest, **393** total entries were received from nine area schools! From these entries, the following winners were selected:

### 3RD GRADE DIVISION WINNERS:

(\$50 Savings Bond)

- Sydney Kramer, Sacred Heart-Rich Fountain
- Tyler Muenks, Immaculate Conception Loose Creek
- Gabrielle Eisterhold, Fatima R-III
- Taylor Woodward, Holy Family-Freeburg
- Mikalah Brandt, St. Mary's-Frankenstein
- Kelsey Brandt, St. George-Linn
- Emily Knaebel, St. Joseph - Westphalia
- Lucas Kuhn, Osage R-1—Chamois

### 4TH & 5TH GRADE WINNERS:

(\$50 Savings Bond)

- Emily Muenks, Immaculate Conception
- Jenna Holterman, Holy Family
- Madison Nolte, Osage R-I—Chamois
- Brandy Lueckenhoff, St. Joseph
- Trent Ludwig, St. George
- Kyli Doke, Linn R-II
- Tanner Laughlin, St. Mary's-Frankenstein
- Nathan Winter, Fatima R-III
- Josh Holtschneider, Sacred Heart

### REGIONAL GRAND PRIZE WINNERS: (Bicycle)

*Emily Knaebel, St. Joseph*  
*Josh Holtschneider, Sacred Heart*



**November 2008 :**

**Emily Knaebel** wins 1st place in her division at State Level. Her poster goes on to NACD National Contest, Washington D.C.

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL OUR POSTER  
WINNERS!!!!**



## WHAT MAKES A GOOD POSTER?

- For '09 Contest: One theme that can be read in 10 seconds. "**Dig IT- The Secrets of Soil**"
- Slogan telling viewers to do something and making them want to do it.
- Colors and white space to hold attention.
- Letters large enough to be easily read and words separated enough to make them easily grasped.
- Principles of good design.

## OTHER TIPS TO REMEMBER!

- Remember **Spacing!**
- Plan ahead.
- Use Guidelines (Pencil them in lightly at the beginning and erase when finished.)
- Illustrations and white space add emphasis and attract attention.
- Small lettering is hard to read at a distance. Consider the following lettering heights for readability from 10 feet:
  - easiest to read = 1"
  - easy to read = 3/4"
  - fairly easy to read = 1/2"
  - possible to read = 1/4"
  - cannot be read = 3/16"
- **Boldness** makes a difference.
- Plain lettering is more readable than *Fancy Lettering*.
- Margins should be larger at the bottom and equal on the other three sides.

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