



2023 MIDDLE SCHOOL WATER ESSAY CONTEST

REP YOUR WATERSHED

District-wide Winner: \$500 | County Winners: \$100

Deadline: October 20, 2023

Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders in Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale counties are invited to participate in the Metro Water District's annual essay contest.

Essay Topic

Metro Atlanta has a unique water story. You may know that water keeps metro Atlanta going and growing. It has been an important part of the success of our economy and central to our region's culture and history, which are some of the many reasons we work so hard to protect our water. In fact, since the creation of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District over 20 years ago, the per capita water use has dropped by more than 30%, thanks in part, to the water conservation efforts of metro area residents, utilities, schools, and businesses.

For the 2023 Middle School Essay Contest, we want you to get to know the river basins your communities are located in.

The Metro Water District has created digital [River Basin Profiles](#), an interactive tool that allows you to virtually explore the watersheds of the metro Atlanta region. Use the tool and your own research to help you learn more about your watershed and answer one of the following essay topics:

1. Research the river basin where you live and write about what makes your river basin important to you and your community's history, culture, or geography. What do you think is important for the people in your community to know about your river basin?
2. Write about the importance of learning about our water resources in Georgia. How can you encourage others to learn about your river basin? How does learning about your river basin make you a better steward of water resources?



Guidelines

- ◆ Essays must be typed. If there are special circumstances requiring a hand-written essay, please contact education@northgeorgiawater.org.
- ◆ Each essay must be submitted with an entry form.
- ◆ Plagiarized essays will not be considered.
- ◆ All essays must be received no later than **October 20, 2023**.
- ◆ Essays must be submitted online at northgeorgiawater.org/essay. If there are any special circumstances requiring essays be submitted by mail, please contact education@northgeorgiawater.org.

Prizes

One winner from each of the 15 counties as well as the City of Atlanta will receive \$100. The District-wide winner will be selected from among the county and city winners to receive an additional \$400 for a total prize of \$500.

Judging

Entries will be judged on their creativity, clarity and content. Essays without complete name and contact information will be disqualified. A judging committee will be comprised of staff from the Metro Water District, utility partners, and Georgia Project WET.

Awards Reception

County and City of Atlanta winners will be notified in November. There is an awards and recognition ceremony planned for the morning of December 14, 2023. District staff will notify winners about the ceremony, as details are still being finalized.

For more information

Go to NorthGeorgiaWater.org/Essay or see the contest information flyer for more information.

Teachers: We strongly encourage (but do not require) you to perform the "What's Your Standard" activity from Georgia Project WET's Urban Watershed (visit northgeorgiawater.org/essay for a link to the activity) with your class to help them gain a better understanding of the natural and manmade infrastructure that keeps our water flowing. You can also check out www.discoverwater.org/ for nine activities (in English and Spanish) that cover topics such as conservation, hygiene, fresh/salt water, watersheds and more.

