

# 2022 MIDDLE SCHOOL WATER ESSAY CONTEST



# RESILIENT REGIONAL WATER

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 21, 2022.**

A clean, abundant water supply is critical to the health and livelihoods of people across the globe. With an increase in extreme weather events, humans face more impacts to the quality and quantity of our natural drinking water supply. In the Metro Water District, we are already seeing more intense cycles of wet and dry periods that threaten our resilience to droughts and floods. For the 2022 Middle School Essay Contest, we want you to explore the connections between the cycle of droughts and floods and your drinking water. We challenge you to get creative in thinking of ways we can be more resilient (the ability to recover quickly from difficult events) in face of these more extreme weather events.

## Please answer one the following essay topics:

1. Research the last major drought or flooding event in Metro Atlanta and tell how people, communities, and businesses were affected. Ask your family or neighbors what they remember about the event, and how they adapted to deal with the drought or flood.
2. Read the resources provided and describe how more extreme drought and flooding events affect our access to clean, safe water. How can the metro Atlanta region be more water resilient (the ability to recover quickly from difficult events) in the face of a changing climate? What are some things you can do at home or in your community to conserve water and combat climate change?

## Successful essays will also show an understanding of the following facts and resources:

- ◆ In metro Atlanta, our drinking water comes from surface water sources: rivers, lakes, and streams. These sources are affected by drought and flooding.
- ◆ Think about all the things you do in a day that require water to keep you safe and clean. The average metro-Atlantan uses around 50 gallons of water a day at home, most of which is used for drinking, bathing, washing clothes and dishes, and flushing toilets.
- ◆ Extreme weather events, like longer droughts or more powerful floods, can make it more difficult to find safe, reliable drinking water. Reducing water use at home and at school is one way to help. Read [this article from UNICEF \(https://www.unicef.org/stories/water-and-climate-change-10-things-you-should-know\)](https://www.unicef.org/stories/water-and-climate-change-10-things-you-should-know) for more information about how droughts and floods affect access to clean, reliable, and abundant water around the world.
- ◆ Visit [www.mydropcounts.org](http://www.mydropcounts.org) for more information on water conservation in our region.
- ◆ Visit [www.cleanwatercampaign.org](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.org) for more information on stormwater pollution prevention in our region.
- ◆ Hear a first-hand account about [droughts, floods, and water quality in Georgia](#)
- ◆ Visit [www.northgeorgiawater.org](http://www.northgeorgiawater.org) for more information about the contest.



## Teachers, want to dive a little deeper?

We encourage you to perform the "What's Your Standard" activity from Georgia Project WET's Urban Watershed (visit [northgeorgiawater.org/essay](http://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 <https://www.discoverwater.org/> for nine activities (in English and Spanish) that cover topics such as conservation, hygiene, fresh/salt water, watersheds and more. If you're not familiar with Georgia Project WET, find out more information about this program, the excellent teaching resources it offers, and how you can participate in trainings at [www.projectwet.georgia.gov](http://www.projectwet.georgia.gov).