



2022 MIDDLE SCHOOL WATER ESSAY CONTEST

RESILIENT REGIONAL WATER

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

Deadline: October 21, 2022

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

A clean, abundant water supply is critical to the health and livelihoods of people across the globe. With an increase in extreme weather events due to climate change, 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.

Students should write a 300-500 word essay that addresses one of the following 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?

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 21, 2022**.
- ◆ 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 15, 2022. District staff will notify winners about the ceremony, as details may change due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information

Go to NorthGeorgiaWater.org, gpb.org/water, and h2Opportunity.net, 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.

