

Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

2019 Middle School Water Essay Contest

HOW DO YOU VALUE WATER?

Submission Deadline: October 25, 2019.

Can you imagine a day without water? A day without safe, reliable water and wastewater services? We are fortunate in the Atlanta region to have clean, well-managed water resources right at our fingertips.

The water professionals who work at the utilities and water authorities of the 15-county metro area work hard to provide water and wastewater services so that we don't have to worry about meeting a basic human need. It is imperative that we do not take these services for granted and that we ensure a commitment to investment in water infrastructure now and in the future. How do you #valuewater?

Successful essays will consider the following questions and topics:

- ◆ Think about all the things you do in a day that require water. What would your day look like if you had no water?
- ◆ 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. How does treated drinking water get from the source (rivers, lakes, and streams, or in some areas wells) to your home and back again? The Human Water Cycle is the process of how water from the source is treated, carried to your home, and then once used, treated again and returned to the source. Google "human water cycle" for more information.
- ◆ In the 15-county Metro Atlanta region there are over 50 drinking water and wastewater systems. When your family pays your monthly water bill, remember that much of that money pays for infrastructure (treatment plants, pipes, pumps, etc.) updates, maintenance, and repair, as well as water and wastewater treatment.
- ◆ How many gallons of water does it take to produce blue jeans or your cell phone, or to grow your favorite food?
- ◆ Visit your local treatment facility and interview a water professional.

Successful essays will show an understanding of the type of information found at these sources:

Value of Water: www.thevalueofwater.org

Clean Water Campaign: www.cleanwatercampaign.org

My Drop Counts: www.mydropcounts.org

Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District: www.northgeorgiawater.org



Teachers, want to dive a little deeper?

We encourage you to perform the Just Pipe Up! 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 value of water and investment in infrastructure. 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 <https://projectwet.georgia.gov/>.



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