



2023 MIDDLE SCHOOL WATER ESSAY CONTEST

REP YOUR WATERSHED

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 20, 2023.

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?

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. Use the [River Basin Profiles](#) to explore the watersheds of the metro Atlanta region.
- ◆ 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 inside their home, most of which is used for drinking, bathing, washing clothes and dishes, and flushing toilets.
- ◆ Visit mydropcounts.org for more information on water conservation in our region.
- ◆ Visit cleanwatercampaign.org for more information on stormwater pollution prevention in our region.
- ◆ Visit 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 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 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 projectwet.georgia.gov.

