

2026 Conservation Speech Contest Guidelines



State Contest
Wednesday, March 4th, 2026
Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI



Contest Divisions

1. Elementary Division... (3-5 minute speeches, *required*) Students enrolled in grades 5-6
2. Junior Division..... (4-6 minute speeches, *required*)..... Students enrolled in grades 7-8
3. Senior Division..... (5-7 minute speeches, *required*) Students enrolled in grades 9-12

Subject Matter

Speeches must promote the conservation of natural resources and the protection or enhancement of environmental quality. Topics should address soil and water conservation issues. Emphasis should be placed on the subject as it relates to your locality or to the state of Wisconsin.

Authenticity and accuracy of information is important, and the speaker should demonstrate familiarity with the subject matter. Feel free to contact Natural Resource professionals as they can provide knowledge on numerous topics. The internet is a rich resource; however, not all internet sources are reliable. When using the internet, be sure to consider your source!

All speeches should be backed up by facts. Both sides of an issue should be presented in a fair and non-accusatory manner. Using names of people or businesses for slander will not be accepted and shall result in disqualification.

Visual Aids

Use of visual aids (posters, charts, etc.) is prohibited; however, notes may be used.

Speeches

A speech, in part or whole, used in this contest in previous years may not be used again. However, speeches used for other speaking events may be used. Group presentations are not allowed.

County Contest

An individual student may only enter in one County level speech contest, either in the County in which they reside or in the county in which they attend school. If the County an individual lives in does not host a speaking contest, the individual may seek permission from another County to enter their contest. The winners of each division in each County may compete in the Area Association contests. Students must compete in a County and/or Area contest to qualify for the state contest. All contest entry forms must be signed by a parent or guardian.

Area Contest

Local County winner will advance to their area contest. Please view our website for your area contest dates, <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/our-work/youth-education/poster-speaking-contest>. The results of the Area contest (including the parental/guardian signature, legible names, addresses and counties of residence of the winners) shall be sent by the Area contest coordinator to all County contest coordinators immediately following the contest for State contest set-up and publicity purposes.

The Area association committees and coordinators are responsible for arranging the participation of its three winning speakers (1st place in each division) in the state contest.

Contest Scheduling

County and Area Association contests should be completed by **Friday, February 6, 2026**.

State Contest

State contest entry forms for each area contest winner must be received at the WI Land+Water office no later than **Friday, February 6, 2026**.

The state contest will be held in the morning of Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI.*

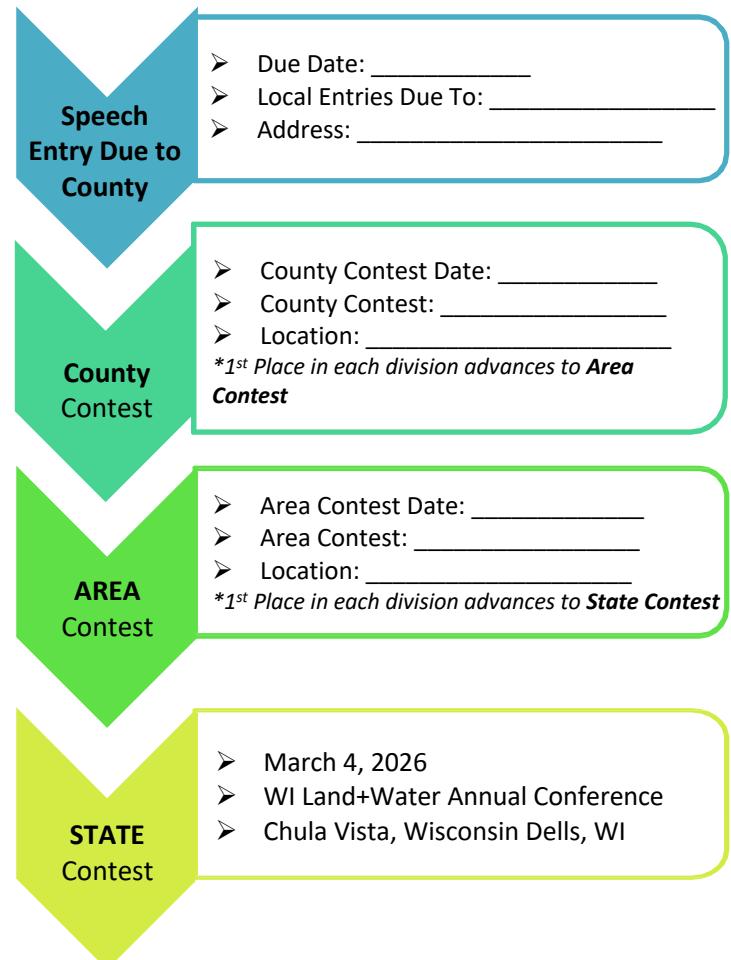
Registration will be from 9:00am-9:30am.

First place winners in each division are invited to present their winning speeches at the 2025 WI Land+Water Annual Conference Luncheon that same day at **11:00am**.

State contest RSVP must be completed by **Monday, February 9, 2026** and emailed to kim@wisconsinlandwater.org.

**If you are planning to come in the night before and wish to book a hotel room. Please contact the Chula Vista Resort directly and mention WI Land+Water Annual Conference to receive the state rate at the Chula Vista Resort.*

All state contest entry forms must be completely filled out and signed by a parent or guardian and emailed to kim@wisconsinlandwater.org no later than Monday, February 9, 2026 in order for the student to be eligible to compete.



2025 State Speech Winners



Adalyn Howe
Columbia County
Elementary Division

Lydia Visger
Columbia County
Junior Division

Briella Brusveen
Columbia County
Senior Division



2026 Conservation Awareness Speaking Contest County Level Entry

****Please fill out completely and legibly****

COUNTY ENTRIES DUE: _____

TITLE OF SPEECH _____

STUDENT

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address _____

City _____ State WI _____ Zip _____

County where you live _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Grade _____ Age _____ Parent/guardian name (printed) _____

REQUIRED Signature of parent or guardian certifies that the information provided is accurate and allows local land conservation departments, WI Land+Water, and NACD to utilize the photos for educational or promotional purposes:

X _____ Date _____

Please check the appropriate grade level.

Elementary
5-6 grades

Junior
7-8 grades

Senior
9-12 grades

LOCAL MEDIA

Name of your local newspaper: _____

Newspaper Telephone Number: _____

Newspaper Email: _____

SCHOOL

Public School Private School Home School

Teacher Name _____

School Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State WI _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____



COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT (filled out by Land Conservation staff or YE Area rep)

County _____ Area _____

Contact _____ Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State: WI _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____