

2025 Arbor Day Creative Writing Contest



Sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Resource Conservation & Forestry Division and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts

The Contest is open to all South Dakota fifth and sixth grade students.

RULES

Creative writing entries must be 250 words or less and submitted as originally written by the student. They can be typed or handwritten.

The central theme of any creative writing entry should be the importance of Arbor Day and trees -- why we celebrate Arbor Day in South Dakota, and why it is important to plant and care for trees across the state. Students are encouraged to focus on personal experience and to remember that originality and effectiveness are major factors in judging.

All creative writing entries must have the student's name, grade, school, city, and teacher's name printed or typed clearly on the front.

DEADLINES

All schools should have their winner's creative writing entry into their local Conservation District by end of business **Friday, March 21, 2025**.

Local entries will be judged, and only those selected as first place winners will be forwarded to the state contest by **April 4, 2025**.

YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICE IS:

Beadle Conservation District
1386 Lincoln Ave SW
Huron, SD 57350

PRIZES

Every student who enters will receive a packet of tree seeds along with instructions on how to grow their own tree, courtesy of the **South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry**.

In addition to engraved plaques, SDACD will provide the following cash awards, which will be presented on or around South Dakota's official Arbor Day to the three state winners:

FIRST PLACE \$125*

SECOND PLACE \$100

THIRD PLACE \$75

* An award of \$150 will be presented in the name of the first place winner to his/her school for use toward the purchase of educational equipment or supplies.

JUDGING

Judging will be based on the following categories: Originality and Creativity, Cleanness and Effectiveness, Spelling and Punctuation, Appropriateness of Theme, Accuracy of Information, Neatness, and Grammatical Usage.

South Dakota's Traditional Arbor Day is the last Friday in April – April 25, 2025.