

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL

**WATER CONSERVATION
ART & POETRY CONTEST
2008**



Entries are to be submitted by: Monday, March 17, 2008

Award Ceremony: Thursday, May 8, 2008 - National Drinking Water Week

This program is aligned with New York State Learning Standards and New York City Performance Standards for elementary and middle school students.



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

2008 WATER CONSERVATION ART & POETRY CONTEST

GUIDELINES

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is pleased to announce the 22nd annual Water Conservation Art and Poetry Contest. This year, for the first time, we are inviting fourth grade students to join fifth and sixth graders to creatively express their understanding of New York City's water supply, our wastewater treatment system, and the importance of water conservation. Students are encouraged to create original art and to compose poetry that reflects an appreciation for New York City's precious water resources.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

All fourth, fifth and sixth grade students attending New York City public, independent and parochial schools can enter the contest.

WHAT ARE THE CONTEST THEMES?

This year's contest has four central themes (listed below). Each entry should address one or more of the focus questions found below the themes, or an original idea that relates to NYC's water resources. If you would like support or educational materials to help you incorporate contest themes into your curriculum, please call the DEP Education Office at (718) 595-3506 or email us at educationoffice@dep.nyc.gov. We're happy to help.

• WATER - A PRECIOUS RESOURCE FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

- How do trout and other aquatic wildlife depend on forests to keep water healthy?
- What can we do to help keep water clean?
- What are the unique properties of water that make it special to all of us?
- Why should we drink tap water rather than bottled water?
- Why is Jamaica Bay important and how can we help protect it?

• THE NEW YORK CITY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

- How has New York City's water supply changed over time?
- How do watersheds help to supply us with water? Why are they important?
- Where does New York City's drinking water come from and how much is used daily?
- How is water distributed throughout New York City?
- Why is the historic High Bridge important?
- How do we make sure our water is safe to drink?

• THE NEW YORK CITY WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

- What happens to the water we use after it goes down the drain?
- How do wastewater treatment plants work?
- What is the Staten Island Bluebelt and why is it important?
- Why is it important to dispose of waste properly?
- Why do we need to keep storm drains clear and litter off our streets?
- How has New York City's harbor water quality improved?

• WATER CONSERVATION

- How much water is used daily? How can we conserve water in our everyday lives?
- Why is water valuable to us?
- What are fire hydrants for and why must they be used properly?

WHAT ARE THE RULES?

Follow these simple rules to make sure all student entries are eligible for judging.

- ① All entries must focus on 2008 Art & Poetry Contest themes.
- ② Each school may submit up to TWO entries per grade: 4th, 5th and 6th grades.
 - Additional entries will not be judged and students may be disappointed.
 - We are happy to provide Certificates of Appreciation to additional school winners. Please email your request to us at educationoffice@dep.nyc.gov.
- ③ Students may work in small groups.
 - Each student must fill out an identification card that lists all other group members.
- ④ Entries must be no smaller than 8.5" x 11" and no larger than 22" x 28".
- ⑤ Entries must be mounted (glued or taped) on heavy duty paper or poster board.
- ⑥ Artwork and poetry may be submitted in any medium - crayons, paint, pencil, pen, etc.
- ⑦ All entries must have a complete, accurate identification card attached to the back.
 - Teachers should check these identification cards to make sure all information is correct. This information is used for notifying students, parents, teachers and principals about the Award Ceremony.

HOW WILL THE ENTRIES BE JUDGED?

Entries will be judged on creativity in interpreting one or more of the contest themes, accuracy of information, originality, and skill. An impartial panel of judges selected by DEP will review the entries. One art and one poetry entry from each borough will be selected as Borough winners. All other entries will be designated as City-wide winners. Both Borough and City-wide winners will be honored at the Award Ceremony.

WHO WINS?

Every entry correctly submitted to DEP is a winner. Up to two entries will be accepted from the 4th, 5th and 6th grades from each school. All winners will be honored at a special award ceremony at **The Cooper Union on May 8, 2008** during National Drinking Water Week. At the Ceremony students will receive a certificate and small gifts in appreciation of their participation. Winners, teachers and principals will be notified by letter in April.

WHEN IS THE DEADLINE?

All entries must be received by 4:00 p.m. on March 17, 2008. Each school should send ONE package with no more than SIX entries. All packaging should be flat. Send entries to:

Min Kan, Environmental Educator
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 19th Floor
Flushing, N.Y. 11373-5108

HAVE FUN!

WINNING POETRY

Aqua, Water, H₂O

When hydrogen and oxygen are combined,
Together create aqua defined.
In the sky and on the ground,
Water is everywhere to be found.
The Earth has more water than it has land,
But places exist where there's only sand.
Aqua is vital for dirt and for thirst,
Water is required! It comes first!
Individuals from nations rich or poor,
All need water some less and some more.
Use H₂O carefully day after day,
Even with a flowed-over bay.

In every continent, for ever race,
Water is considered a blessing of grace.
Aqua is used in all of the seasons.
Winter, spring, summer, and fall.
When there's too little water, everyone frowns,
But when too abundant, water drowns.
So whether in city, village or town,
Water is certainly the Jewel in the "Jewel in the Crown".

By Nidhi
P.S 179, Brooklyn

How I work

I work quite fine you don't need to move an inch.
I work by myself, you need not to flinch.
Parts of me start on the ground and moves to the sky.
It moves by vapor of course, you might know why.
Part of me is liquid and it gets hot, it steams a lot.
And when it steams, it goes in the air.
You may wonder what it does up there.
I'll you what and I'll tell you how.
The steam goes in the air and makes a cloud.
The cloud fills up drops me down.
How does it drop me down you say?
It drops me down 4 different ways.
Here are all 4 for you to see: Rain, snow, hail and sleet.
"Wow!" you say, "such amazing things you do."
I know they are, I really, really do.
Now you know what I do, but you ask, "Who am I?"
I'm the water cycle; I touch all from land to sky.

By Starshae
P.S. 38, Queens

The Staten Island Bluebelt

Staten Island gets many storms
When the weather I scold or the weather is warm.

The Bluebelt is a way to drain
So our land does not flood after the rain.

The open spaces of ponds and streams
Are places for people and wildlife to play and dream.

People can help with the Bluebelt solution
By keeping our wetlands free from pollution.

One way you can help the Bluebelt from being spoiled
Is to make sure you recycle your motor oil.

When you wash your car, use biodegradable soap
That you won't let go down the sewer I hope

And finally, you can make a difference
By being a part of the Adopt-a-Blubelt System.

You can ask local companies to make a donation
To make the Staten Island Bluebelt the best in the nation.

By Kerri
P.S. 53, Staten Island



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Emily Lloyd, Commissioner

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Visit our website at:

www.nyc.gov/dep