

Arbor Day Poster Contest and Free Seedling Giveaway



This poster by Rain Vasey of Sussex County was the Overall State Winner in the Delaware Forest Service's 2015 Arbor Day Poster Contest. This year's contest is open to all children in grades K to 5.

"Trees are Terrific...and Forests are Too!" That's the theme of the [Delaware Forest Service's 2016 Arbor Day Poster Contest](#), which is open to all children in grades K to 5 in Delaware public, private, home, and charter schools. After-school programs and youth groups are also eligible. The deadline for poster submission is April 8, 2016. For more information, email contest coordinator [Ashley Peebles](#) or call 302-698-4551.

Teachers and schools can register for the contest, sign up to receive free tree seedlings for their school, and access the [2016 Arbor Day Poster Contest Guidelines](#) at the [Arbor Day Poster Contest Event Brite Registration Link](#).

A total of 12 winners will be selected: one from each county (New Castle, Kent, and Sussex) in four separate grade categories (grades K, 1 to 2, 3 to 4, and 5). From these county winners, an overall State Winner will be chosen.

County winners receive:

- \$25.00 gift card
- ceremonial tree planting held at the winner's school
- invitation to the [State Arbor Day Ceremony \(attended by the Governor\)](#)
- "Tree inspired" children's book
- winning posters will be reprinted on canvas and framed for display as a keepsake

- winning posters will be displayed online
 - The State Winner will receive all of the above plus an additional \$25.00 gift card.
- A [complete gallery of the 2015 Poster Contest Winners](#) can be viewed [online](#).

Judging will take place at the Delaware Department of Agriculture and winners will be announced in early April.

Posters will be evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5 on the following criteria:

1. Use of Theme
2. Originality
3. Neatness
4. Artistic Expression

This year's theme is designed to increase knowledge about forests and forest resources and the Arbor Day contest can be a great supplement to a K-5 science unit. The goal is to help children learn about the numerous benefits of trees and their direct impact on community health and well-being. Schools are a perfect setting to incorporate the role of urban trees into the everyday curriculum. Trees provide beauty while providing habitat and food for wildlife. They also improve air and water quality, muffle noise, enhance property values, moderate air temperatures, mitigate soil erosion, and reduce energy consumption.

All participating classes will receive free loblolly pine seedlings! Seedlings will be delivered just in time for planting in late-April.