



Calling all Middle School Artists and Environmentalists

# Announcing the ‘Create A Watershed Super Hero’ Poster Contest

Sponsored by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation & New York Water Environment Association

## Contest Theme

What you do at home and in your community affects everyone downstream. This poster contest is meant to encourage students to learn about their role in the watershed they live in and how to conserve and protect our water resources, now and for future generations.

## Show how “Creating a Watershed Super Hero can be an inspiration for positive environmental action”!

Posters must clearly convey this message.

## Poster Requirements

Posters must contain original hand-drawn artwork - no computer-generated posters or graphics. Copyrighted characters (such as Superman, Batman, etc.) and clip art **will not be accepted**.

**Material:** You may use any type of media, including watercolor, pen and ink, crayon, chalk and markers.

**Size:** 8 ½” x 11”, landscape layout

**Background:** White only, no colored paper backgrounds

Posters will be on public display and should be easy to see or read. Winning posters will be compiled for distribution as part of a 2025 calendar.

## Prizes and Awards

Each participant receives a Certificate of Recognition.

The top 14 posters will be included in a 2025 calendar which will be distributed throughout New York State.

The 14 winning students receive their framed poster and an invitation to a local NYWEA chapter event.

## Who’s Eligible?

All Middle School students in New York State public and private schools are eligible to enter the poster contest. **One student per poster.**

## Judging Procedure

DEC and NYWEA members will review all posters and pick the top 30 entries. NYWEA membership and DEC staff will vote for the 14 winning posters.

## Judging Criteria

- Clear and correct message conveyed by text and artwork
- Creativity, originality, and artistic quality
- Visual clarity

## Please Remember...

- Entries must meet poster requirements
- Fasten the attached release form to the back of the poster.
- All submitted artwork becomes the property of NYSDEC and NYWEA and will be reproduced.

See Other Side for Release Form.

Deadline for Receipt of Posters is Friday, January 12, 2024



## Do Your Homework

We encourage you to research the topic of "Watershed Protection" so the posters reflect the contest theme. The following websites may help you in your research:

- NYSDEC - <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/26561.html> - information about watersheds
- NYSDEC - <http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/43661.html> - learn how to help keep water clean
- NYWEA – [www.nywea.org](http://www.nywea.org) – Including the new 'Value of Water Children's Book'
- USGS Water Science School – <http://water.usgs.gov/edu>
- EPA Kid's Corner – <https://www.epa.gov/watershedacademy/kids-corner>

## Lesson Plan Ideas

A lesson plan for "We all live in a Watershed", a PowerPoint for teachers and a worksheet for students was developed (posted on <https://www.dec.ny.gov/education/32108.html> ). The lesson includes locating a watershed and identification of possible pollution sources in the watershed. The lesson is designed for students to brainstorm solutions to reduce and prevent pollution within the watershed.

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is a collection of innovative, water-related activities designed for use in K-12 classrooms. For more information of Project WET in New York State, visit DEC's web site at [www.dec.ny.gov/education/1902.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1902.html). Additional resources are available on Project WET's national web site at <http://www.projectwet.org>.

## Hot Topic

What activities can humans undertake to improve the environment? Specifically, there are lots of actions that people can take to protect water—proper fertilizer application, septic tank maintenance, planting vegetation along the shoreline (buffer), clean up pet waste, plant rain gardens, pump-out boats properly, and help prevent sewage spills (don't dump fats or grease; don't flush diapers, baby wipes or personal hygiene products). We are all stewards of the environment! What would your Super Hero do to make your watershed better?

## Release Form

Each poster must have a release form securely fastened to the back of the poster. **A poster not accompanied by a completed release form will not be eligible for judging.**

**Mail To:** NYSDEC – Calendar Contest  
625 Broadway, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-3508

To see previous winners and for more information, visit our web sites at [www.dec.ny.gov/education/32108.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/32108.html) and [www.nywea.org](http://www.nywea.org) or call NYSDEC's Cassandra Davis at (518) 402-8086.

## RELEASE FORM: Please Print Clearly

**\*\*\* Attach this form to the back of each poster\*\*\***

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS POSTER WAS CREATED ENTIRELY BY THE STUDENT ABOVE AND IS THE STUDENT'S ORIGINAL ARTWORK. I AGREE THAT IT MAY BE OFFERED FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY OR PUBLICATION AT SOME TIME DURING OR AFTER THE CONTEST. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS POSTER BECOMES THE PROPERTY OF THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND MAY BE REPRODUCED. THE ONLY INFORMATION THAT WILL BE RELEASED IS THE STUDENT'S NAME, GRADE AND HOMETOWN.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**\*\*\* Attach this form to the back of each poster\*\*\***