



## Win Prizes and Get Awards!

Calling all Middle and High School Artists and Environmentalists

### Get in on *'The Importance of Wastewater Treatment'* Poster Contest

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

#### Great Contest Theme

Ever wondered where the water from your sinks, showers, bathtubs, toilets, washing machines and dishwashers goes when it leaves your home? This used water, or 'wastewater', must be cleaned before it can be released to the environment. At a wastewater treatment plant, this water is treated to remove dangerous, disease causing bacteria and suspended solids before the remaining water, called effluent, is discharged back to the environment. If not for wastewater treatment, untreated wastewater from our homes and businesses would pollute the lakes and streams that we fish and swim in.

#### Show how wastewater treatment plants must protect our waters!

Posters must clearly convey this message.

#### Poster Requirements

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

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

**Size:** Minimum: 16" x 20" Max: 20" x 28"

**Poster:** White Only (No Colored Paper Backgrounds)

*Keep in mind that posters will be on public display and should be easy to see or read. Winning posters will be printed and distributed as an 18" x 24" poster.*

#### Prizes and Awards

Each of the Winners (1 High School and 1 Middle School) will receive a check for \$50.

The eight other students in the top five will receive a check for \$25.

All students in the top five receive an engraved plaque.

All students who participated in the contest will receive a certificate of appreciation.

Both winning posters will be printed and distributed to municipal wastewater treatment plants throughout New York State.

The teachers of the winning students (1 High School and 1 Middle School) will receive an engraved plaque and a Water Test Kit for use in the classroom.

#### Who's eligible?

All Middle and High School students in New York State public and private schools. **One student per poster, please.**

#### Judging Procedure

Department of Environmental Conservation staff will review all posters and pick the top-five Middle School and top-five High School entries. NYWEA membership will vote for the winning Middle and High School poster.

#### Judging Criteria

1. Clear and correct message conveyed by text and artwork
2. Creativity, originality, and artistic quality
3. Visual clarity

**See Other Side for Release Form – Deadline for Receipt of Posters is January 7, 2009**

## Do Your Homework

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

- <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/wuww.html>
- <http://www.nywea.org>
- <http://www.wef.org/education>
- <http://www.epa.gov/owm>
- <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/primer.pdf>

Also we encourage you to contact your local wastewater treatment plant and talk with the operator to arrange a tour of the facility.

## Lesson Plan Ideas

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is a collection of innovative, water-related activities that is designed for use in K-12 classrooms. *To find a Project WET workshop in your area, call Project WET at (518) 475-0291.* We recommend the following activities found in the WET Activity Book if you plan to teach the topic of wastewater:

- Sparkling Water – Develop strategies to clean wastewater.
- Super Bowl Surge – Examine demands on wastewater treatment plants.

## 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 – Robin Yasinsac-Gillespie,  
625 Broadway – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-3506

## 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 the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and may be reproduced.

To see previous winners and for more information, visit our web site at: [www.dec.ny.gov/education/1896.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1896.html) or NYWEA's at: [www.nywea.org](http://www.nywea.org) or call NYSDEC's Robin Yasinsac-Gillespie at (518) 402-8177.

## RELEASE FORM: Please Print Clearly \*Attach this form to the back of each poster\*

Check the appropriate box: ( ) Middle School ( ) High School

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

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

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Student's Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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\*\*\*