

# Family Stream Day 2013 Poster, Poem, Photography and Essay Contest



**2013 Theme:** This year's theme is '*Stream Dreams and Aquatic Adventures.*' We hope this theme will prompt students to explore the waters of Loudoun County and to develop works of art that capture relationships in and around our waterways. Streams are beautiful areas to play, splash, and skip stones, for boating and fishing, as well to sit quietly and simply enjoy the sound and feel of water passing by. We hope that participating students connect with the beauty of water, develop their understanding of the local ecology, and produce artwork that is inspired by new explorations.

**Background:** Loudoun Watershed Watch (**LWW**) and the Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance (**LESA**) are once again hosting the annual Family Stream Day. This event affords all citizens of Loudoun County an opportunity to enjoy a variety of hands-on, family friendly activities that are both fun and educational and which provide valuable insights into the health, preservation, and enjoyment of county streams. The Family Stream Day Poster, Poem, Photography and Essay Contest affords county teachers from all subject areas a wonderful teaching opportunity in which they can encourage students to take some time to consider where their household water comes from, how they can take small, personal actions at home and at school which will preserve, protect, improve county streams.

**Family Stream Day Event:** Family Stream Day 2013 will be held Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am to 3 pm at Loudoun Water, located at 44865 Loudoun Water Way in Ashburn. Details of the specific activities and exhibitors are posted at: [LoudounNature.org](http://LoudounNature.org).

## **Family Stream Day Contest Guidelines:**

The contest is open to all Loudoun county students in grades K-12 (public, private, and home school).

- **Entry Evaluation:** Judges will consider the following when evaluating entries while applying appropriate considerations for entrants' grade level:
  - How well the entry demonstrates the student's grasp of how they are connected to, and connected by county streams and how healthier streams lead to healthier communities;
  - How well the entry conveys a personal statement about how the student feels about local streams – their health or lack of health, their importance as a source of the water we use at home, and as places where they can enjoy the special magic of being outdoors and in or near water; and
  - Creativity and originality in composition.
- **Posters:** Maximum size is limited to 11" by 17".

- **Essays and Poems:** May be hand printed or typed, but must fit on two sides of one 8.5" by 11" (standard letter size) piece of paper, and if typed, have 1.5 line spacing and use 12 point font or larger.
- **Photographs:** Limited to one photograph per student. Photos should not be larger than 8" by 10" or smaller than 4" by 6". They may be standard or digital format and either color or black and white. Photos must be accompanied by a student statement (it may be brief, but the above essay restrictions apply) explaining how the image relates to the contest theme.
- **IMPORTANT: The following information must appear** on the back of each hard copy submission or in the text of the forwarding email:
  - **Student's Name**
  - **Grade**
  - **Age**
  - **School Name**
  - **Teacher's Name**
- **Submission Deadline:** All entries must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Entries may be mailed or hand carried to: Loudoun Water, 44865 Loudoun Water Way, Ashburn, VA 20147 Attn: Mr. Micah Vieux or emailed to Mr. Vieux at [MVieux@loudounwater.org](mailto:MVieux@loudounwater.org).
- **Disposition of Entries:** All entries become the property of the sponsoring organizations and may be used at their discretion. The sponsors reserve the right to alter a poster's design for printing purposes. Students may request the return of their original submissions and if so, they may pick them up at the FSD Event.
- **Prizes:** A Top Entry Prize of a \$25 gift certificate will be awarded to the best entry (poster, essay, poem or photo) in each of the following categories which may be adjusted depending on the mix of entries:
  - Elementary (Grades K-5)
  - Middle School (Grades 6-8)
  - High School (Grades 9-12)

Additionally, the top 50 entries overall, as determined by the judges, will receive a certificate of recognition. School principals will be notified of the winners in their schools by October 14th so that students may be notified in turn and make plans to attend Family Stream Day if they wish.

These prizes (generously donated by the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy) will be awarded at the FSD 2013 Event at Loudoun Water on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Students do not need to be present to win but are encouraged to attend. Students who wish to obtain their original submissions should plan to pick them up at the event.

**Resources:** Both Teachers and Students are encouraged to use the online resources relating to county streams and watershed science available at the sponsors' websites as well as the other websites listed below:

- **Loudoun Watershed Watch:** [www.loudounwatershedwatch.org](http://www.loudounwatershedwatch.org) Great resources and tools related to county streams and watershed science. An eye-opening site with appeal for both students and teachers.
- **Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance:** [www.loudounnature.org](http://www.loudounnature.org) The Environmental Resource Guide may be downloaded from the site and lists the resources made available to citizens, students and teachers by LESA member organizations.
- **Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy:** [www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org) and in particular their Stream Monitoring Page at [www.loudounwildlife.org/Stream\\_Monitoring.htm](http://www.loudounwildlife.org/Stream_Monitoring.htm).
- **The Nature Generation** (formerly the Newton Marasco Foundation): [www.natgen.org/](http://www.natgen.org/) and of special interest to science teachers at all grade levels, their great new downloadable Environmental Education games that are in the style of the TV game shows, *Jeopardy* and *Who Wants To Be a Millionaire* at [www.natgen.org/teach/classroom-games-toolkit/](http://www.natgen.org/teach/classroom-games-toolkit/).

**Contacts:** For more information, please contact:

Mr. Hayden Mathews, LESA Chair, at [riverstories@comcast.net](mailto:riverstories@comcast.net),