

# CONSERVATION EDUCATION DISTRICT OF THE YEAR

## 2007 Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts Awards

### Purpose and Eligibility

The purpose of the District of the Year contest is to recognize the outstanding conservation education efforts of our nation's conservation districts.

### Requirements

To enter the contest, you must:

- Fill out the entry form and have it signed by the district board chairperson.
- Submit a typewritten narrative which addresses the ten items under "Content of Narrative."
- Include a copy of your annual report.
- Be concise and write as you would speak.
- Include the entry form, narrative and all supporting materials in a standard, one-inch three-ring binder. The binder does not need to be completely filled. Videos and CD-ROMs should not be included.

### Content of Narrative

Narratives must be typewritten and double-spaced on one side only of 8½" x 11" paper. Type must not be smaller than 12 point (elite). Narratives must address the ten items listed on this page. The response for each item must not exceed two pages and should be treated as a separate section. On every page, identify by number, in the upper right-hand corner, the item to which the response applies. Supporting materials should be located after each response.

1. What do you consider the district's most important educational activity during the year? What were the benefits and effects?
2. Describe your conservation education assistance to schools, colleges and universities. Describe materials, technical help and other assistance provided; list projects completed or underway; list scholarships provided to students.
3. List any workshops, training sessions, conservation tours, scholarships or other activities provided for teachers, and note district involvement in each.
4. State the district's involvement with youth groups and organizations. Name them and outline the most significant educational programs or projects. Explain your adult soil and water conservation education program. Identify materials, instructors, technical help, tours or other services the district provided.
5. Explain your adult soil and water conservation education program. Identify materials, instructors, technical help, tours or other services the district provided.
6. Name any local conservation organizations receiving district educational assistance. Describe the type of help, programs or projects provided by the district.

7. Describe district involvement with local, state or federal agencies in conservation education programs.

8. Describe the district's public information program. Include outstanding programs done with newspapers, radio and television and the effect on district programs and on the community.

9. Provide information about your newsletter and include a copy of your annual report. List circulation, frequency and how it is used for educational purposes.

10. Describe other educational activities or programs which may not have been covered by the above items. Identify the district's involvement in the planning or implementation, the number of people affected and other details which indicate its value and scope.

### Judging Criteria

Judging is based on data provided in response to items under "Content of Narrative" and on supporting materials. Decisions of the judges are final.

Important considerations in selecting program winners include:

- Comprehensiveness, scope and quality of conservation education program.
- Attention to a broad spectrum of conservation needs and issues.
- Assistance generated by the district from organizations, agencies and individuals for accomplishing educational objectives.
- Extent of district input into the educational programs of other organizations, including providing motivation, advice, technical assistance and organizational leadership.
- Types and effectiveness of activities informing teachers, youth and other community members about conservation issues.
- Extent of youth and educator involvement with the district's educational program.
- Involvement in and quality of adult education programs.

### Deadline

April 1, 2008—Conservation district nominations must be submitted to the MASCD office.

### Recognition

Conservation districts will be recognized for their conservation education programs on state and local levels by the state association. There is currently no national program.

### Need More Information?

Call MASCD 410-956-5771 or go to [www.MASCD.net](http://www.MASCD.net).

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## ENTRY FORM

### 2007 Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts Awards

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION AND USE THIS PAGE AS THE COVER SHEET FOR YOUR ENTRY.

District \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

District telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of schools in your district \_\_\_\_\_ Number of students in your district \_\_\_\_\_

Our district is primarily: Rural \_\_\_\_\_ Suburban \_\_\_\_\_ Urban \_\_\_\_\_

May MASCD use all or part of your program in its educational and informational activities? Yes\_\_ No\_\_

District Chairperson's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

#### *District Education Committee Members*

List the names and occupations of the district education committee members and indicate whether or not they are district officials.

Member Name	Occupation	District Official
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____

**DEADLINE—APRIL 1, 2008**

**Entries to be sent to MASCD, 53 Slama Road, Edgewater, MD 21037**