

# 2017 Arbor Day Essay Contest



*Sponsored by McDonald's Restaurants of South Dakota, South Dakota Dept. of Agriculture, Resource Conservation & Forestry Division, and The South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts*

**The Contest is open to all South Dakota fifth and sixth grade students.**

## RULES

Essays or poems must be 250 words or less and submitted as originally written by the student. They can be typed or handwritten.

The central theme of any essay or poem should be the importance of Arbor Day and trees -- why we celebrate Arbor Day in South Dakota, and why it is important to plant and care for trees across the state. Students are encouraged to focus on personal experience and to remember that originality and effectiveness are major factors in judging.

All essays must have the student's name, grade, school, city, and teacher's name printed or typed clearly on the front.

## DEADLINES

All schools should have their winner's essay or poem into their local Conservation District by end of business **Friday, March 24, 2017**.

Local entries will be judged, and only those selected as first place winners will be forwarded to the state contest by **April 7, 2017**.

YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICE IS:

## PRIZES

Every student who enters will receive a certificate from **McDonald's** for a free dessert item and a packet of tree seeds along with instructions on how to grow his/her own tree, courtesy of **the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry**.

In addition to engraved plaques provided by SDACD, the following cash awards provided by **McDonald's Restaurants of South Dakota** will be presented on or around South Dakota's official Arbor Day to the three state winners:

**FIRST PLACE \$100\***

**SECOND PLACE \$75**

**THIRD PLACE \$50**

\* An award of \$150 will be presented in the name of the first place winner to his/her school for use toward the purchase of educational equipment or supplies. The first place winner will also receive a handsome, lined jacket courtesy of McDonald's.

## JUDGING

Judging will be based on the following categories: Originality and Creativity, Clearness and Effectiveness, Spelling and Punctuation, Appropriateness of Theme, Accuracy of Information, Neatness, and Grammatical Usage.

**South Dakota's Traditional Arbor Day is the last Friday in April – April 28, 2017.**