

# BARRON COUNTY

## DEPARTMENT OF LAND SERVICES

David Gifford, Director

---

### LAND INFORMATION \* SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION \* ZONING

---

Barron County Government Center  
335 East Monroe Avenue  
Room 2104  
Barron, WI 54812

715-537-6375  
715-537-6315  
Fax: 715-537-6847  
[www.barroncountywi.gov](http://www.barroncountywi.gov)

October 5, 2020

TO: Fifth and Sixth Grade Teachers  
Seventh and Eighth Grade Teachers  
High School Teachers of English, Biology, Agriculture,  
Earth Science, Forensics and Conservation

FROM: Tyler Gruetzmacher, County Conservationist

RE: Environmental Speaking Contest

As you know, public speaking is an important skill to learn. The 2021 Barron County Environmental Speaking Contest is an excellent opportunity for your students to practice their speaking skills while learning about the environment. The contest will be held virtually via Google Classroom during the school day on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Time and details will be determined.

All contestants will receive a certificate of participation and a book: Elementary Division - bird identification book, Junior Division - a book on Wisconsin wildlife, and Senior Division - a copy of "A Sand County Almanac", a conservation classic written by Aldo Leopold. The top three speakers in each division will receive a trophy and a calendar imprinted with the 1<sup>st</sup> place speech contest winners. The first place speakers will then go on to the Area Contest, which will be held in February. Winners from the area contest will go onto the state contest held on March 3, 2021. All levels will be virtual.

Attached are names, addresses and phone numbers of several agencies your students may be interested in contacting. Also attached is a list of environmental issues and possible speech topics. The Wisconsin DNR website is [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us), and conducting a search on a given topic will yield numerous sites with helpful information.

I hope your students will be interested in entering the contest. It will prove to be an educational experience.

Due to an increase in contest participants, the number of entries from each school may be limited. **Please contact** Rachel Ault at 715-537-6377 **by January 5, 2021** with the approximate number of participants from your school. Depending on the number of entries in each division, schools may have to have a local completion.

**Actual entries must be turned in to SWCD by January 12, 2021.**

*This activity is approved and is on the Association of Wisconsin School Administrator's Advisory List.*

## **Major Environment Issues/Possible topics for speeches**

### **Non – Point Water Pollution**

Agriculture runoff (manure and soil), Urban runoff, Construction site erosion

### **Groundwater Pollution**

Nutrient management plans for farmers, Nitrogen fertilizer on lawns, Underground fuel storage

### **Soil Erosion & Soil Depletion**

Soil conservation on Wisconsin farms, Farmland losses to development

### **Wetlands**

Loss of wetlands in Wisconsin, Wetlands role in flood control

### **Loss of Biodiversity**

Loss of wildlife habitat, Destruction of the rainforest, Deforestation and watershed management, Forestry in Wisconsin, Forest land losses to development

### **Exotic Species**

Purple loosestrife, Eurasian Milfoil, Rusty Crayfish, Zebra Mussel

### **Global Climate Change / Global Warming**

The greenhouse effect, Carbon sequestration, Sources of carbon dioxide, The automobile and global warming

### **The Energy Crisis and Alternative Energy Sources**

Solar energy, Wind energy, Hybrid electric vehicles, Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, Ethanol, Flexible fuel vehicles

### **Threatened & Endangered Species**

The Endangered Species Act, Endangered Species in Wisconsin

### **Barron County Threatened Species**

**Mammals** - none

**Birds** - Trumpeter Swan, Yellow Throated Warbler, Snowy Egret, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow Rail, Le Conte's Sparrow, Barn Owl, Red Shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Bald Eagle;

**Reptiles & Amphibians** - Ornate Box Turtle, Wood Turtle, Blandings Turtle, Butler's Garter Snake, Bullfrog;

**Fish** - Ozark Minnow, Greater Redhorse, Least Darter, Weed Shiner, Lake Herring;

**Insects** - Pygmy Snaketail Dragonfly;

**Plants** - Robbins Spikerush, Torrey's Bulrush, Spotted Pondweed, Assiniboine Sedge, Squashberry, Canada Gooseberry.

## REFERENCES

### **Department of Natural Resources**

Forester: Janette Cain 715-637-6865

Fisheries Biologist: Aaron Cole 715-637-6864

### **Soil & Water Conservation Dept**

County Conservationist: Tyler Gruetzmacher

715-537-6315

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

District Conservationist: Patrick Richter

715-537-5645, ext. 3

### **Solid Waste Incinerator**

Plant Manager: Ray Zeman

575 10 1/2 Avenue

Almena, WI 54805 715-357-6566

# 2021 Conservation Speech Contest Guidelines

## FORM A



State Contest – **Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021** at  
Hyatt Regency, Green Bay, WI



### Contest Division

1. Elementary Division... (3-5 minute speeches, **required**).....Students enrolled in grades 5-6.
2. Junior Division..... (4-6 minute speeches, **required**).....Students enrolled in grades 7-8.
3. Senior Division..... (5-7 minute speeches, **required**).....Students enrolled in grades 9-12.

### Subject Matter

Speeches must promote the conservation of natural resources and the protection or enhancement of environmental quality. Topics should address soil and water conservation issues. Emphasis should be placed on the subject as it relates to your locality or to the state of Wisconsin.

Authenticity and accuracy of information is important, and the speaker should demonstrate familiarity with the subject matter. Feel free to contact Natural Resource professionals as they can provide knowledge on numerous topics. The internet is a rich resource, however not all internet sources are reliable. When using the internet consider your source.

All speeches should be backed up by facts. Both sides of an issue should be presented in a fair and non-accusatory manner. Using names of people or businesses for slander will not be accepted and shall result in disqualification.

### Sanction

All contest materials distributed by counties should include the following statement of sanction: “This activity is approved on the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators Advisory List.”

### Visual Aids

Use of visual aids (posters, charts, etc.) is prohibited; however, notes may be used.

### Speeches

A speech, in part or whole, used in this contest in previous years may not be used again. However, speeches used for other speaking events may be used. Group presentations are not allowed.

### County Contest

An individual student may only enter in one county level speech contest, either in the county in which they reside or in the county in which they attend school. If the county an individual lives in does not host a speaking contest, the individual may seek permission from another county to enter their contest. The winners of each division in each county may compete in the area association contests. **Students must compete in a county and/or area contest to qualify for the state contest. All contest entry forms must be signed by a parent or guardian.**

### Area Contest

Local county winner will advance to their area contest. Please view our website for your area contest dates, <http://wisconsinlandwater.org/events/youth-poster-amp-speaking-contest> . The results of the area contest (including the parental/guardian signature, legible names, addresses and counties of residence of the winners) shall be sent by the area contest coordinator to all county contest coordinators immediately following the contest for state contest set-up and publicity purposes.



# 2021 Conservation Awareness Speaking Contest County Level Entry

## Form A

**\*\*Please fill out completely and legibly\*\***

COUNTY ENTRIES DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF SPEECH \_\_\_\_\_

### STUDENT

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State WI Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/guardian name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED** Signature of parent or guardian certifies that the information provided is accurate and allows local land conservation departments, WI Land+Water, and NACD to utilize the photos for educational or promotional purposes:

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### LOCAL MEDIA

Name of your local newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### SCHOOL

Public School  Private School  Home School

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State WI Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

### COUNTY LAND/WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT (to be filled out by local rep)

County \_\_\_\_\_


Area \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State WI Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please**  
  
**Appropriate Level**

**Elementary**  
 • 5-6 grades

**Junior**  
 • 7-8 grades

**Senior**  
 • 9-12 grades

