



BERKSHIRE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

78 Center St. Suite 206
Pittsfield, MA 01201
Phone: (413) 443-1776 x102 Fax: (413) 448-2617
Email: aimee.annichiarico@ma.usda.gov

2013 National Arbor Day Poetry Contest

**Sponsored by
Berkshire Conservation District**



About the Contest

In celebration of National Arbor Day on April 26, 2013, Berkshire Conservation District is hosting a poetry contest in Berkshire County for children in grades 4 through 12. The poem theme is "In Praise of Trees" and should be at least 12 lines long but no longer than 1 page typed or hand written. The style and topic of the poem is completely up to the student's choosing but we encourage students to write from their own experience in nature, keeping in mind the set theme.

Contest entries will be due on Arbor Day and winners will be awarded with live tree seedlings to plant either in their schools or homes and three Pocket Nature Guides of their choosing. The purpose of this contest is to engage youth in creatively thinking and learning about trees and nature in celebration of National Arbor Day as well as to promote the planting and care of trees in their community.

Contest Rules

The poem theme is ***In Praise of Trees***. Entries should be at least 10 lines long but no longer than 1 page typed or hand written. The style and topic of the poem is completely up to the student's choosing but we encourage students to write from their own experience in nature keeping in mind the chosen theme. Students in grades 4 through 12 may enter. All poems must have a title and include the word "tree" somewhere in the poem. Poems must be the original creation of the student. Students with learning or other disabilities may receive help from an adult in writing and submitting their entry. Entries will be divided into two age groups: grades 4-7 and grades 9-12. Poems will be judged based on:

1. Quality of language and writing (30%)
2. Creativity and thought put into the work (30%)
3. Relevance to the topic and theme of the contest and attention to contest rules (40%)

Entry Instructions

1. Fill out a contest entry form and include it with your entry.
2. Please write your name and your school grade on the back side of your poem.
3. Send entries by **Friday, April 26, 2013** (National Arbor Day) to:

Arbor Day Poetry Contest
C/o Berkshire Conservation District
78 Center Street, Suite 206
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Awards

The winner of each age group will win an assortment of tree seedlings for their own use or to plant at their school as well as three Pocket Nature Guides of their choosing. Awards will be available for pick up at the Seedling Fundraiser Sale Day Event on Saturday, May 4th. Winners will be notified by phone by April 30th.

Arbor Day Poetry Contest

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Entry Form

STUDENT INFO

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent or Guardian Name _____

Home Phone _____ Email Address _____

The poem is an original completed by the student.

The student received assistance from another person due to a disability. If so, please explain on a separate piece of paper and submit with entry.

SCHOOL INFO

School Name _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Public School Private School Home School

Teacher or Principal Name _____

CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONTACT INFO

Name Berkshire Conservation District

Contact Aimee V. Annichiarico Title Administrator

Address 78 Center St., Ste. 206 Phone (413) 443-1776 x 102

City Pittsfield State MA Zip 01201

RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

If you are a contest winner your parent or guardian will be asked to sign a release form when you come to claim your award on Saturday, May 4th so that we may publish the winning poems in an upcoming newsletter. Winners will be notified by April 30th by phone.