International Compost Awareness Week
2020 Poster Contest

Deadline: November 1, 2019
Received by 12 midnight EST

Join in the fun and enter your poster!

Call for Entries:
The International Compost Awareness Week Committee of the Composting Council Research & Education Foundation (CCREF) invites YOU to get involved in ICAW 2020. We’re looking for anyone interested in participating in our 18th Annual Poster Contest. The winning poster will be used to promote International Compost Awareness Week, May 3 – 9, 2020.

POSTER THEME: Soil Loves Compost

The contest runs from September 1 until November 1, 2019 and is open to anyone, third grade and up from anywhere in the world, who wishes to share their artistic creativity to promote this year’s theme. The winning poster will serve as the 2020 International Compost Awareness Week visual display. We invite municipal, facility, or state agency representatives and industry professionals to join in the fun, along with students, youth groups, commercial composters, green industry businesses, gardeners, environmentalists, Everyone! Whether or not you have celebrated or been involved in ICAW in the past, we want you to participate this year.

It’s easy! Here’s how it works:
The Poster Contest winner will have his/her poster reproduced and distributed nationwide. It will be the official 2020 International Compost Awareness Week
poster and featured on the Composting Council Research & Education Foundation’s website. The winning “poster artist” will have his/her name posted on the CCREF website and will be included in any CCFEF press releases in association with our annual ICAW Celebration.

The successful poster winner will receive a $500 prize. The three contest divisions are: grades 3-7, grades 8-12, and college - adult. The best rated from each division will be considered in the final vote for the winning design.

The contest begins on September 1, 2019 and continues until November 1, 2019.

This is YOUR opportunity to display your creative talent and show your belief in composting and in the benefits of using compost!

**Official Guidelines:** Please read carefully. Entries that do not follow the requirements will be eliminated from the contest.

1. **Fee:** Free!
2. **Entries per person:** Entries are limited to ONE SUBMISSION PER ARTIST.
3. **Submitting your entry:** You must complete the online entry form application and checklist, and submit your poster online. Please include a short paragraph on why you chose to participate in ICAW 2020 and explanation of your poster concept.
4. **Design:** The poster must include the words International Compost Awareness Week May 3 – 9, 2020 along with the poster theme – Soil Loves Compost. Please make sure everything can be easily read from a distance. Do not add additional words to your poster. Failure to follow these instructions will disqualify your poster!
5. The concept and images of the poster should be based on “compost use” or address the “benefits of recycling organic residuals.” We will especially look for images that demonstrate that organic materials are a key component to healthy soils and for keeping soils and the environment healthy in the future. When creating your poster, please remember that the winning poster will be reproduced and distributed nationally in the United States. The Composting Council Research & Education Foundation’s logo, along with sponsor logos, will be added to the poster below the winning image.
6. Only ORIGINAL artwork will be considered. Please check your spelling; any misspellings will disqualify your poster!
7. Posters that include personal or corporate information or product endorsements will be disqualified.

8. **Copyrighted Images/Subjects:** Copyrighted, trademarked products, packaging, brand names and advertisements may not be used within the poster. Original signed release forms are required for persons, whether public or private citizens, who are photographed and appear on the poster. Release forms can be as simple as a paragraph stating “permission” from “subjects” with a printed list of names of the individuals appearing and signed by the individuals. If the subject is under 18 the release form must be signed by a parent or guardian. *This rule will be strictly enforced.*

9. **Electronic Resolution and Format:** Artwork is to be submitted in electronic format with a resolution of 300 dpi and in jpg format. (Note: *Poster winner will be requested to resubmit poster at higher resolution for reproduction purposes.*) Poster should measure no larger than **12” wide X 17” high (in inches) and be vertical (portrait) in orientation.**

10. **Judging and winner selection:** All entries will be reviewed by the judges and the best three identified in each division. The divisions are
   - Grades 3 to 7
   - Grades 8 to 12
   - College students and adults

   The competition will be judged on the following criteria (40 points maximum):
   - *Marketability of poster to multiple audiences* -- 10 points.
   - *Creative and original artwork and idea* -- 10 points.
   - *Attractiveness in terms of design and neatness of layout* -- 10 points.
   - *Overall Impact, all graphics are related to the topic and make it easier to understand the poster theme* -- 10 points.

   The three top-rated posters in each division will be put to an online vote for USCC members and CCREF supporters; the overall winner will receive a $500 prize.

11. **Final poster:** The Composting Council Research & Education Foundation’s ICAW Committee reserves the right to alter the final poster design or to reject all submissions for the final poster design. All submissions become the property of the Composting Council Research & Education Foundation and may be used for commercial purposes. No entries will be returned.

12. **Deadline:** November 1, 2019, 12 midnight EST