



# SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## DIVISION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

523 East Capitol Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501-3182

Phone – 605.773.3623 / FAX 605.773.4003

<http://sdda.sd.gov/conservation-forestry>

August 18, 2014

**TO:** South Dakota High School Guidance Counselors *Cec*

**FROM:** Cec Johnson, Natural Resource Specialist/Speech Contest Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** 2015 Speech Contest: "Technology: Bridging the Conservation Generation Gap"

Each year, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry, assists in sponsoring a speech contest for high school students. Any South Dakota student in grades 9-12 is eligible to compete for \$2,300 in scholarships. Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, including East River Electric Power Cooperative, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative, and South Dakota Rural Electric Association, contribute the scholarship funds. The first place winner receives \$1,100, second place receives \$750 and third place receives \$450.

We would like to see more students participate in this contest. Along with the possibility of winning a scholarship, the students will gain skills in public speaking and increase their knowledge about natural resource conservation.

I have enclosed a copy of the brochure for the 2015 contest. This brochure contains all the rules and deadlines for the contest. Please feel free to make additional copies of the brochure as necessary.

Information about the contest is on our website at:

<http://sdda.sd.gov/conservation-forestry/educational-programs/resource-conservation-speech-contest/>

If you would like more information, please contact your local conservation district. If you are not able to contact your conservation district, please call me at 605-773-3624. You may also email me at [cec.johnson@state.sd.us](mailto:cec.johnson@state.sd.us). Please put "Speech Contest" in the subject line.

**Please share with other staff members and any home-schooled students in your district.**



**\$2,300 in scholarships awarded by**

- **East River Electric Power Cooperative**
- **Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative**
- **South Dakota Rural Electric Association**

State Champion .....\$1,100  
 Second Place.....\$750  
 Third Place.....\$450

*All finalists will receive certificates.*

**Schedule of Events:**

Local conservation district contest:

Must be completed on or before March 28, 2015. Two winners will advance to their respective area contest. Contact your local conservation district for contest times and location.

Area contest:

Must be completed on or before April 11, 2015. Two winners will advance to the state finals.

State Finals:

Fourteen speakers, representing the seven Natural Resource Areas, will participate in the state finals. Three scholarship winners will be chosen - first, second and third places. State finals will be held in Pierre, April 25, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. (CDT) in Room 414 in the State Capitol.

Point Limits	Explanation of Score Sheet Points
20	Speech adheres to the topic and is appropriate to the subject/topic
20	Speech shows originality
15	Good use of emphasis, voice control
15	Clear enunciation and pronunciation
10	Speaker has poise, shows enthusiasm
5	Thoughts and statements are not contradictory
5	Speech is developed around a logical sequence
5	Logical conclusions are, or can be drawn
5	Personal appearance
<b>100</b>	<b>Total maximum score</b>

South Dakota  
 High School Students  
**Win**

**\$2,300**  
**in Scholarships**

Enter the  
 54<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Resource Conservation Speech Contest

2015 Topic:

**“Technology: Bridging the Conservation Generation Gap”**

Sponsored by:



South Dakota Department of Agriculture

The South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Entry Blank

## Contest Rules

1. Any student attending high school (public, private, or home-school), grades 9-12, in South Dakota, is eligible to participate.
2. Entries in the conservation district contest must be accompanied by attached entry blank.
3. Two winners from each district contest will participate in their respective Natural Resource Area contest.
4. Two winners from each of the seven area speech contests will compete at the State Speech Contest.
5. District and area elimination contests must be held on or before the dates listed in the schedule of events (see back page); State Contest date is also listed.
6. East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. will pay scholarships to any college, university or accredited vocational technical school in the State of South Dakota chosen and attended full-time by the winners.
7. Scholarships will be held one year after graduation from high school or one year after release from armed forces.
8. Speeches are to be five minutes in length. Each judge will assess a five-point penalty for any speech less than 4 or more than 6 minutes.
9. Speech must be original, although quotes will be permitted; contestant must write his/her own speech.
10. Notes may be used, but any speech read in text will be disqualified.
11. Each speech should incorporate our natural resources – soil, water, animals, plants and air – as applicable to the theme of the speech.
12. Contestants may, but are not required to, introduce themselves. Score is not affected.
13. No person will be admitted or may leave the room while a contestant is speaking.
14. Speaker's time will be kept by two timekeepers using stopwatches. Time is to be announced at the conclusion of each speech.
15. Judges who have knowledge of speaking and/or conservation should be selected. Each judge will be given copies of score sheets, rules and regulations and other pertinent information of the contest.
16. Score sheets will be totaled and winners announced by contest coordinator.
17. Speakers at district, area, and state contest will draw a number, be introduced and speak in order of the number drawn. After the winners have been selected, speakers will be introduced by name, school and the sponsoring conservation district.
18. All contestants in the state contest must submit one legible copy of their speech at the registration table.
19. Five place winners will be selected. Scholarships will be awarded to the top three. In the event that one or more of the top three winners would choose not to attend a college, university or vocational technical school full-time in the state of South Dakota, then the scholarships will be re-awarded to alternate place winner(s).
20. The first place winner in the state contest will not be eligible to participate in future contests. Other place winners can continue to participate in future contests until graduation or winning first place.
21. Contestants will not be allowed to submit a video of his or her speech in lieu of appearing in person at the local, area, or state contest.
22. No alternate date will be set for the State Finals except in the event of adverse weather conditions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Year in School \_\_\_\_\_

School you attend \_\_\_\_\_

Conservation District \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Used ONLY for contest-related correspondence – we will never sell or share your email address.*

### For further information contact:

Your local conservation district

OR

Resource Conservation and Forestry Division

523 E. Capitol Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501-3182

Telephone: 605-773-3623