

Trees in Mythology!

**Poster Contest Submissions Accepted Now Through 5:00 PM Central Time,
March 27th, 2026**

Dear Fifth Grade Teacher,

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry invite you to enhance your curriculum and integrate learning goals by participating in the annual South Dakota Arbor Day Poster Contest.

An inter-disciplinary curriculum guidebook has been designed to correlate with all state and federal educational standards. The *"Trees are Terrific in All Shapes and Sizes"* guidebook provides all the necessary information, classroom exercises, and assessment guidelines you need to educate your students about the benefits of trees and their inherent value to communities, people, and environmental health.

The guidebook is available for download and print at:

<https://danr.sd.gov/Conservation/Forestry/Education/ArborDayPoster/default.aspx>.

Once your students experience the coursework, they have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the concepts by creating an interpretive poster and participating in the contest.

The curriculum guide incorporates principles of science, language arts, civics, and art into a fun, hands-on lesson plan that your students are sure to enjoy. The top 12 artists will receive a certificate of accomplishment and their posters featured in the annual South Dakota Arbor Day Poster Calendar. The top three artists will receive additional prizes along with their certificates and posters highlighted in the calendar. (Please see reverse side for contest rules and prize details). We encourage you, your fellow fifth-grade teachers, and your school's art teacher to participate in this fun and educational program.

If you or your colleagues have any questions regarding the contest, please contact me.

Sincerely,

John Hartland
Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator
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Sioux Falls, SD 57110
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South Dakota Arbor Day Poster Contest Rules

1. **Eligibility:** All South Dakota 5th grade students are eligible to enter their schools' poster contests. *Each school may submit only one poster to the State Arbor Day Poster Contest.*
2. **Originality:** Posters must be original. Copyrighted cartoon characters, TV figures, and photographs are not acceptable.
3. **Medium:** Posters may be drawn in marker, crayon, colored pencil, paint pens, watercolor, ink, acrylic, or tempera paint. Bright colors that reproduce well are best.
4. **Presentation:** Posters may be on poster paper or drawing paper. The posters will not be accepted for judging if they are matted, framed, or laminated. Posters must be flat, and it is preferred that the posters not be folded or rolled.
5. **Size:** Posters cannot be smaller than 8½" x 11" and cannot be larger than 14" x 18". Oversized or undersized posters will not be accepted.
6. **Theme:** This year's theme is "**Trees in Mythology**". The poster should reflect the theme, students do **not** need to write the theme on the poster. Stencils, computer-generated text, clipart, and press-on letters are not acceptable.
7. **Signatures:** Posters must be signed by the student in the lower right-hand corner on the front of the poster with the Student's first and last name.
8. **Entry Forms:** Complete one School Report Form and attach it to the back of the poster.
9. **Posters will not be returned because of mailing costs.** If you would like your school's posters back, they will have to be picked up or other arrangements made. Posters will be discarded on August 1, 2026.

POSTER ENTRY DEADLINE: MARCH 27th, 2026

PLEASE!

All posters submitted must adhere to the contest rules to avoid being disqualified. There is no specific procedure for selection of your school's winner. If you would like suggestions, contact John Hartland at 605.362.2830 or John.Hartland@State.sd.us

At the state level, a panel of judges representing natural resources, education, communications, and the arts will be convened to select the top 12 posters.

State Prizes!

First Place Prizes:

- \$125 cash prize
- Certificate of achievement
- Special recognition and poster distributed across the state and country
- Winning student's teacher gets \$175 for supplies for the classroom

Other prizes:

- Second place receives \$100 cash prize and a certificate of achievement
- Third place receives \$75 cash prize and a certificate of achievement
- The top 12 posters will be featured in the annual South Dakota Arbor Day Poster Contest Calendar. Certificates of achievement will be presented to the top 12 artists.