

“May the Forest Be With You Always”

The theme for the 2024 Poster Contest is “May the Forest Be With You Always.”

This theme focuses on forests and their importance in how they help with soil and water conservation. So, why focus on forests? Forests are very important to soil and water conservation. They store carbon, produce oxygen, provide food for people and wildlife, provide habitat for wildlife, act as filter strips for some nutrients, prevent soil erosion, and so much more.

Trees are made of carbon and they store it so it won't release into the atmosphere. When one tree dies, they decay and the carbon is released into the soil and atmosphere. So it is important that we have live forests to store the carbon. Many trees produce fruit or nuts as well. The fruit and nuts are food sources for people and wildlife. They are also home to so many plants and animals. Some forests act as barriers to pesticides or too much fertilizer. They block the extra runoff from going into creeks, rivers, and other watersheds. Trees also produce oxygen for us to breath. They take in carbon dioxide and through a process called photosynthesis, they turn the carbon dioxide into oxygen for us to breath! So when you take a deep breath in, the forest is with you, always.