ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

2021 VIDEO CONTEST

THEME WATER POLLUTION? WE HAVE A SOLUTION!

Clean drinking water is a critical resource for us all. This year's theme invites you to explore the causes of drinking water pollution and potential solutions with your students!



PARTICIPANTS

Illinois 5th through 8th grade students

ENTRY GUIDELINES

- Deadline to submit: February 1, 2027
- Limit video to 60 seconds or less; focus on water pollution and how to prevent it
- One submission per group/classroom (minimum of 5 students per group)
- Upload submission to YouTube; submit link, entry form, and release form by email

AWARDS

You could win recognition on our Illinois EPA social media and a science kit!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kristi Morris (Springfield) - kristi.morris@illinois.gov
Eli Dollarhide (Chicago) - eli.dollarhide@illinois.gov

Illinois EPA's Video Contest

Water Pollution? We Have a Solution!

Theme: Clean drinking water is a critical resource for us all. This year's theme invites you to explore the causes of drinking water pollution and potential solutions in a fun and encouraging way.

Video Contest Rules:

- Length up to one minute (60 seconds) max; can include live filmed components, animations, text slides, etc.—be creative!
- Participation occurs at the classroom/group level. Groups can include homeschool units, 4-H clubs, scout troops, school clubs, etc.
- Each school classroom or group with a **minimum of five students** may submit one video for judging
- **Participation is open to 5th through 8th grade students**; teacher/adult will be main point of contact
- Videos are uploaded on YouTube; entry form with link and consent form must be submitted to: **EPA.contest@illinois.gov** no later than **February 1, 2027**
- Any inappropriate material will be automatically disqualified
- All work must be original and cannot contain copyrighted material, including background music
- Videos will be judged on their message, creativity, and originality

Note: Winning videos will be used for Illinois EPA educational purposes and played on social media and posted on websites, etc.

Helpful Steps:

- Plan your script and props before you film
- Think about your cast: who/what will you show to communicate your message?
- Decide what kind of camera/phone you will use to record and practice filming
- Edit your project: programs like iMovie; Adobe Express; OpenShot, TikTok, and CapCut are all useful for editing
- Upload on YouTube (details here: https://www.youtube.com/creators)
- A positive and helpful/upbeat message is received better than a negative tone
- Focus should be on Illinois

Awards

- You could win recognition on social media and Illinois EPA's website
- The top three winner groups will receive classroom science kits and a group certificate

If you have any questions, please contact: Kristi Morris (kristi.morris@illinois.gov) or Eli Dollarhide (eli.dollarhide@illinois.gov). For more information or to download the participation packet, please visit: https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/education/contest/video-contest.html.

Educational resources to support teachers and students:

- Illinois EPA curriculum units:
  - *Why is the Pond Green?* https://pathways.mste.illinois.edu/curriculum/surface-water
  - *How Does My Environment Affect Me?* https://pathways.mste.illinois.edu/curriculum/environmental-justice
  - What is nonpoint source pollution? https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/nonpoint-sources/what-is-nonpoint-source-pollution.html
- US EPA
  - Drinking Water Activities for Students and Teachers: https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-activities-students-and-teachers
  - Lesson Plans, Teachers Guides, and Online Resources for Water: https://www.epa.gov/students/lesson-plans-teacher-guides-and-online-environmental-resources-educators-water
  - How's My Waterway?: https://mywaterway.epa.gov/
- Illinois Extension Water Video Series: https://extension.illinois.edu/videos/water
- Project WET (Water Education Today): https://www.projectwet.org/
- Illinois-Indiana Sea Grants Loanable Activity Kits (including water quality and an Enviroscape model): https://iiseagrant.org/education/loanable-kits/
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's Education Resources: https://mwrd.org/education/k-12-learning
- Illinois American Water's Education Center: https://www.amwater.com/ilaw/Water-Wastewater-Information/Water-Learning-Center/water-education-center

Video Contest Entry Identification

School Name:

Group Name:

Educator/Contact Name:

YouTube Username:

Link to YouTube Video:

Address: City: Zip:

County: Email:

Phone number: Grade(s):

Number of students (minimum of 5):

Student names:

Group statement from the students about why the theme is important to them:

Please email to: EPA.contest@illinois.gov

Video Contest Appearance and Material Release Form 2027

In consideration that (group/class name), _____ at (school/organization) _____ in (city) _____ has entered the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's *Water Pollution? We Have a Solution!* Video Contest and said video is the property of the Illinois EPA. I hereby give my consent to the Illinois EPA to publish the **group/class name, school, city, and video** on the Illinois EPA's Internet site and social media for educational, informational, marketing, or other purposes deemed necessary.

I hereby waive any right that I may otherwise have to inspect or approve the finished product, or the manner of its use chosen by the Illinois EPA. I also release, discharge, and agree to hold harmless the Illinois EPA to whom this consent and waiver is given from any liability by virtue of any blurring, distortion, alteration, or use in composite form, whether intentional or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the taking of said video or in any processing, or in the distribution. I understand that I shall receive no compensation whatsoever in connection with the foregoing, beyond participation. I hereby waive all rights of privacy in connection with the use of the class name, school, city, photo, or video. I also waive any and all rights, whether explicit or implied, in the material and consent without reservation to the Illinois EPA using, distributing or otherwise making available the material to other parties as it sees fit.

It is the group leader and/or teacher's responsibility to make sure that all the participating students have been allowed by their guardians/parents to participate in this contest.

Teacher/Group Leader Name (over 18 years of age)

_____

Email

_____

School/Group Name

_____

Address

_____

Signature_____**Date**_____