

June 20, 2015

To: 4-H Leaders, FFA Advisors, Maryland High School Guidance Counselors and Staff,  
Home school Educators

From: Mr. Paul Spurrier, Chairman MASCD Western Maryland Speak-Off Chairman  
Mr. Denny Remsburg, District Manager, Frederick Soil Conservation District

The Western Maryland Region of the Maryland Soil Conservation Districts is sponsoring an **Education Speak-Off** for students ages 14-18 years in grades 9-12. Students who reside in Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, Carroll and Howard counties are invited to participate. The student may be enrolled in a public, private or home school program, or they may be a member of a 4-H Club, FFA Chapter, Envirothon team or other environmental club or program. The Speak-Off will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2015 at the Washington County Extension Office, Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro, MD starting at 9:00 AM.

The theme for the speak-off is **"Soils/Soil Health."** One source of information on the topic which students can use in developing their speech can be found at the National Association of Conservation Districts website: <http://nacdn.org/education/resources>. There are many additional sources as well. Speeches must be five to seven minutes in length and the original work of the student.

Cash awards will be presented to the top five speakers in the following amounts.

First prize-\$150, Second prize-\$125, Third prize-\$100, Fourth prize-\$75 and Fifth prize-\$50.

The student who wins the regional Speak-Off will be asked to present their speech at the MASCD Annual meeting in July 2016.

This event is sponsored by: The Western Maryland Soil Conservation Districts, Rural Maryland Council, Frederick Co. 4-H programs.

To enter the contest, the student must complete the application form and return it along with a copy of their bibliography to: Mr. Denny Remsburg, District Manager, Frederick SCD, 92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 230, Frederick, MD 21702. Registration forms must be received by November 6, 2015.

The registration form and a judging criteria sheet are attached so that students can prepare their speech to address critical components. As always, if you or the students have questions concerning the application, bibliography or speech, please feel free to contact Denny at [dremsburg@comcast.net](mailto:dremsburg@comcast.net)

Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
Western Maryland Region  
Conservation Education Speak-off  
Saturday, November 21, 2015 starting at 9:00 AM  
Washington County Extension Office

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Select One: 4-H \_\_\_\_\_ FFA \_\_\_\_\_ Home School \_\_\_\_\_ High School Science class \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Adult Leader, Advisor, Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Speak-off Theme for 2015: Soils/Soil Health

Information on the topic can be found at <http://www.nacdnet.org/education/links>

To enter the Speak-off, return the following materials no later than **FRIDAY, November 6, 2015:**

\_\_\_\_\_ registration form \_\_\_\_\_ bibliography

To: Mr. Denny Remsburg  
District Manager, Frederick SCD  
92 Thomas Johnson Drive  
Suite 230  
Frederick, MD 21701

Email: [dremsburg@comcast.net](mailto:dremsburg@comcast.net)