

ALAMEDA COUNTY CLEAN WATER PROGRAM POSTER CONTEST

For 3RD & 4TH Grade Students



"Keeping Helpful Bugs in the Garden"



Deadline for Entries: April 30, 2021



When people use pesticides in the garden, those chemicals can wash into gutters and storm drains with water from garden hoses, sprinklers and rainfall. From there, the polluted water flows untreated into local creeks, groundwater, and the San Francisco Bay, where it harms fish and other wildlife. Each spring, the Alameda County Clean Water Program reminds residents how important it is to use non-toxic methods to control unwanted pests in the garden and yard; this year we want your help creating posters to encourage your neighbors to keep helpful bugs in the garden! The helpful bugs take the place of harmful pesticides.

Helpful Bugs Need Our Help! In addition to polluting our watershed, pesticides used in the garden and yard not only eliminate unwanted bugs, but also kill useful bugs such as spiders and ladybugs, which eat the unwanted bugs in the garden, like aphids. Bees pollinate the plants we are growing for food, and they need help, too. It's been reported that there has been a significant decrease in native bee populations in California, and there are studies that link this decline to an increase in the use of pesticides.

Prizes

- First place winners for each grade will receive a "Bee Smart School Garden Kit" for their science class from the Pollinator Partnership, which includes: plant seeds, 10 lesson plans with reproducible worksheets, materials for lesson plan activities, reproducible handouts, pre- and post-assessment tests for students, and access to an online component. The curriculum includes California School Standards as part of each lesson plan (please visit <http://www.pollinator.org> for more information about these great kits).
- Science teachers of First Place artists for each grade will receive a \$50.00 Lakeshore Learning gift card for class supplies.
- First place posters will be displayed on the Alameda County Clean Water Program's Facebook page and partner websites and social media pages upon request.
- All classes who participate will receive Alameda County Clean Water Program "Slappy and Quackers" activity guides while supplies last.



Contest Rules

- Entries must be the original artwork of students in 3rd-4th grade.
- Each poster must be uploaded with the following information: **Student Name, Grade, Teacher's Name, School.**
- Students may use watercolors, poster paints, markers or ink.
- Poster must have the theme, “**Keeping Helpful Bugs in the Garden**”. It should include a brief message on the picture that supports this theme. The image should be large enough to be easily seen, the text must be legible, and the theme understandable. Posters will be judged on originality, artwork, spelling and message delivery.



Ideas: How bugs can be helpful in gardens, using alternatives to pesticides, plants that are attractive to helpful (beneficial) bugs, spraying pesticides to get rid of unwanted bugs can harm helpful bugs in the garden, show how pesticides can be washed from gardens to storm drains and creeks.

- By submitting artwork, the artists grant the Alameda County Clean Water Program permission to reproduce and display his or her name and artwork for other environmental education and promotional activities.
- Winner's teachers will be contacted in early May.



Teachers and Parents/Guardians

- Photos of completed entries can be uploaded to dropbox [here](#).
- **For more information contact Allison Rodacker at allison.rodacker@acrcd.org.**

Please visit the Clean Water Program website for more helpful resources at www.cleanwaterprogram.org.

Good luck, and we look forward to receiving your entries!



This activity is part of the County's Clean Water Program, in our efforts to help reduce stormwater pollution and protect the health of local creeks and the Bay.