

We are so excited you are considering having your child or entire class enter the **Alameda County Unincorporated Area's Clean Water Program POSTER CONTEST for 3rd and 4th graders!** We aim to spread the message to the community to **Keep Good Bugs in the Garden** to reduce pesticide use and help keep waterways clean. Below are the contest rules along with information to discuss about the importance of keeping waterways clean. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Allison Rodacker at allison.rodacker@acr.cd.org. Get creative and good luck! Our fun Clean Water Program activity guides will be sent to all classes that participate. Winners will be announced in late April 2025 with winning posters displayed online and at the Castro Valley Library!



KEEP GOOD BUGS IN THE GARDEN

When people use pesticides in the garden, those chemicals can wash into storm drains with water from garden hoses, sprinklers, and rainfall. From there, the polluted water flows untreated into local creeks and the San Francisco Bay, where it harms fish and other wildlife. Each spring, the Alameda County Unincorporated Clean Water Program reminds residents how important it is to use less-toxic methods to control unwanted pests in the garden and yard; this year we want your help creating posters to encourage your community to “Keep Good Bugs in the Garden!”

Contest Rules

Step 1: Watch this short Fred and Izzy video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1SrrHFjg3c>, discuss the below concepts, and brainstorm poster ideas (things to draw).

- Pesticides pollute our watershed - helpful bugs take the place of harmful pesticides.
- Pesticides kill unwanted bugs AND useful bugs such as spiders, ladybugs, (which eat unwanted bugs like aphids), and bees that pollinate the plants.
- Choose plants for your yard that attract helpful bugs.
- Weed by hand in the garden.

Step 2: Follow ALL the contest rules to be considered for first prize:

- Poster must be created on 8 1/2 x 11 white paper.
- Posters must be drawn horizontally.
- Please include this wording on your poster: "Keep Good Bugs in the Garden."
- Students may use the Fred and Izzy characters (from the video) in their artwork.
- Posters submitted with copyrighted characters or images (e.g. Mickey Mouse) will not be considered for a top prize.
- Artwork should be original, creative, bold, and thoughtful.
- Students may use colored pencils, crayons, markers, paint, ink, fabric, poster paint, or pencil.
- Please write on the back of posters: Name, Grade, Teacher, School
- One entry per student.
- **Teachers: if your entire class participates, please mail all posters at once to be entered to win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card!**

Step 3: Mail your poster with Name, School, Teacher's Name, and Grade on the back, on or before Friday, March 28th to the address below. All submitted posters will be property of the Alameda County Unincorporated Area Clean Water Program. Thank you for your participation!

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

Clean Water Poster Contest
Attn: Allison Rodacker
Alameda County RCD
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