SEDGWICK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2027 ESSAY CONTEST

1. **ELIGIBILITY:**
   A. Students must be in grades five (5) through eight (8). Entrants may be identified with schools, 4-H clubs, Boy or Girl Scouts, church groups, etc. (there are two contest categories: grades 5-6, and grades 7-8)
   B. Home-schooled children may participate in their grade level.
   C. Only one essay from each student may be entered.
   D. Entrants can only enter in one conservation district.

2. **SUBJECT MATTER:** The theme for 2027 is**: "From Source to Sea: Every Drop Has a Journey."**. The title of your essay does not have to be this theme. **It is more important that the subject matter explores the theme**.

3. **ENTRIES:** For identification, a tag with information containing the participants name, home address, age, grade, school and teacher must be attached to the essay on the backside in the lower left-hand corner. The tag must be typed or clearly printed and filled out completely. **No identification is to be on the front of your essay.** Tags are available from your teacher.

4. **DEADLINE:** Entries must be turned in to your school by **Friday, September 24, 2027.** Your classroom may have an earlier deadline so please check with your teacher.

5. **EXHIBITION AND AWARDS:** All entries will be displayed and students with winning entries will be recognized at the Annual Meeting of the Sedgwick County Conservation District in February of 2028. Award winners will be notified by mail, prior to the meeting. The 1st place essay will be sent on to the state competition in November. **Prizes:** 1st place: $25, 2nd place: $15, 3rd place: $10

6. **ESSAY RULES**:
   A. Entries shall not exceed 500 words (not including the title).
   B. Entries must be typed, or computer generated on 8 ½ by 11-inch paper.
   C. Entries must be double-spaced.
   D. DO NOT ROLL OR FOLD

7. **JUDGING:** The judges will select winners according to the score sheet as follows:

   A. Conservation Message……50%
   B. Clarity of Message ……30%
   C. Originality ……10%
   D. Universal Appeal ……10%