

2nd Annual Earth Day Essay Challenge Fact Sheet

What? Vermont Attorney General T.J. Donovan wants to hear from young Vermonters about the environment. For the second year in a row, the Attorney General's Office is holding an Earth Day Essay Challenge and asking 5th and 6th graders all around Vermont to submit essays on the environment.

Who? The 2nd Annual Earth Day Essay Challenge is open to any 5th or 6th grader in Vermont.

When? The 2nd Annual Earth Day Essay Challenge will be announced by press release and on social media on January 31, 2022, and will run from February 14, 2022, through **April 8, 2022**. (Note: deadline has been extended from April 1 to April 8)

Essay Topics: 5th and 6th graders are encouraged to be creative and write about their thoughts on Earth Day and Vermont's environment. Suggestions include: What do you love about Vermont's environment - clean air, wildlife, lakes, rivers, and mountains? How do you enjoy Vermont's environment? What do you care most about with the environment? What does Earth Day mean to you? What are your concerns about the future of Vermont's environment? How does Vermont's changing environment impact outdoor recreation, winter sports, wildlife habitat, farming, our health, or other things? What do you think we should do to help protect the environment? You do not need to cover any or all of these topics—these are just ideas!

What Else? All essay submissions will be posted on the Attorney General's Office's public website unless a participant requests that their essay not be posted. Essays will be posted on Earth Day 2022 (April 22) with the participant's first name only, their school, and their grade. Last year's essays can be viewed at <https://ago.vermont.gov/earth-day-essay-challenge/>

Participants will also be entered in a drawing to have Attorney General Donovan pay a virtual visit to their classroom.

The Attorney General's Environmental Protection Division will read all essays and provide individual feedback to each student who submits an essay. (Please indicate in your submission if you do not want to receive feedback.)

For Teachers: 5th and 6th-grade teachers who have students participating in the essay challenge and who would like to have an Environmental Protection Division attorney speak with their class virtually about the environmental work of the Attorney General's Office during the event period (February 14 through April 8) may contact Natasha Sala at natasha.sala@vermont.gov.

How to Submit? Essays should be no more than 1,000 words. Please include your name, school (or indicate home school), grade, and teacher with your submission. Essays can be submitted to the Attorney General's Office by email to natasha.sala@vermont.gov or by mail to:

2nd Annual Earth Day Essay Challenge
Office of the Vermont Attorney General
Environmental Protection Division
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