

34th Annual Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest



Open to Georgia students in K-5th grade



State Botanical Garden of Georgia
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



The [Georgia Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#), [State Botanical Garden of Georgia](#) and [The Environmental Resources Network, Inc. \(TERN\)](#) encourage you and your students to participate in the **34th annual Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest!** As part of DNR and TERN's "Kids for Conservation" initiative, this art contest provides a unique opportunity for kindergarten through fifth-grade students to explore the wonders of Georgia's native animals and plants through the 2023-24 theme: **What's That? Habitat!**



A **habitat** is a plant or animal's home. It's the place where they can find everything they need to survive, such as food, water, shelter and space. Some species, such as raccoons, cardinals and mosquitofish, are very adaptable and can live in a variety of habitats. Others, such as bog turtles, gopher frogs and shoals spider-lily, require specific habitat types to thrive, so they only be found in certain areas. Habitats filled with **native** plants (either in the wilderness or in your backyard) attract more wildlife because they offer nutritious foods that the insects and animals like and are used to eating.

Some animals only eat plants (and are called **herbivores**), some only eat meat (**carnivores**) and some eat both plants and meat (**omnivores**). Plants can make their own food through a process called photosynthesis, so they are referred to as **producers**. Since animals eat plants and/or other animals, they are called **consumers**. What about animals that eat dead and decaying things, like earthworms and pillbugs? Those are called **decomposers**.

By participating in the Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest, you can help students gain a better appreciation of wildlife and the habitats they need to survive, as well as how our actions can help or harm them. See the Teacher Tips on the next page to help you get started!

We look forward to working with you and your students! If you have any questions, please visit georgiawildlife.com/PosterContest or contact one of the state contest coordinators:



Linda May – (706) 319-0211, linda.may@dnr.ga.gov

Audrey S. Mitchell – (706) 583-0894, astadler@uga.edu



Teacher Tips

Contest Rules: Start with a Local Contest at Your School



While following the **Poster Contest Rules and Guidelines**, instruct your students to design their own artwork based on this year's contest theme:

What's That? Habitat! Artwork should depict at least one identifiable animal or plant species native to Georgia. Include a description on the

Poster Contest Entry Form, thereby demonstrating that the student understands their subject. Then arrange for a local competition of their artwork at your school or within your group (i.e., homeschool group, after-school camp, scout troop, etc.). School or group judges will select first-, second- and third-place winners (award ribbons and Give Wildlife a Chance certificates are available for free — refer to **Contest Awards** section for details).

Participating schools or groups will then choose one first-place winner from each division and email photographs of the winning entries with accompanying entry forms to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.

The deadline to compete in the state-level contest is **March 8, 2024**. State entries will represent one or more of the four division categories described in the **Poster Contest Rules and Guidelines** section. First-, second- and third-place winners will be chosen as state-level winners from each division level, and the winning artwork will be announced and showcased on Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division and State Botanical Garden media in May 2024.

Supporting Activity (Source: National Park Service)

Ask students what they need to live. Have them name only essential resources. Classify their answers as food, water, shelter or space (include air in space). Explain that these things make up the habitat where we live. Wildlife need habitat, too.

To help students remember the components of habitat, teach them the following song and hand movements, to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

1. Food, water, shelter, space... Makes a happy living place,
2. I live in my habitat... Eating bits of this and that.
3. Food, water, shelter, space... Makes a happy living place!



Food (hands on stomach), **Water** (hands to lips), **Shelter** (hands making roof above head), **Space** (hands outstretched), **Makes a happy living place** (fingers point to smiles, head rocking side to side)

Challenge students to identify each living thing in the following song lines (replacing line 2 above):

- I live on a silken bed... Eating insects in my web. (spider)
- I live curled inside my shell... Leaves and grasses serve me well. (snail)
- I live high up in a tree... Fruits and bugs can't hide from me. (songbird)
- I live in the deep blue sea... Spouting water when I breathe. (whale)
- I make food out in the sun... My toes are long but I can't run. (plant)



Poster Contest Rules & Guidelines

Sponsorship and Judging



The 34th annual **Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest** is sponsored by the [Georgia Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#), [State Botanical Garden of Georgia](#) and [The Environmental Resources Network, Inc. \(TERN\)](#).

The theme changes yearly, but the contest is an ongoing educational effort to help children and teachers gain awareness and appreciation of Georgia's native animals and plants. The 2023-24 theme is **What's That? Habitat!**

Artists as well as wildlife and plant professionals will judge the contest entries based on artistic interpretation, originality, visual impact and contest theme.

Eligibility

The contest is open to Georgia students in kindergarten through fifth grades. Homeschool groups, public schools and private schools are encouraged to participate. Artwork must be produced by individual students; group drawings are not permitted. Schools/groups may enter one poster from any or all divisions:

- Division 1: Kindergarten
- Division 2: First and Second Grades
- Division 3: Third and Fourth Grades
- Division 4: Fifth Grade



Each school/group may enter **no more than a total of four posters** to the state-level contest (one entry per division). State-level entries are normally the artwork of the first-place school or homeschool group winners.

Entry and Format Requirements



All state-level artwork entries must be submitted electronically.

Any size flat artwork is fine as long as it can be photographed well (photos may be taken with a smart phone or digital camera). Collages and other three-dimensional artwork are not eligible.

For each state level entry, submit a full-frame photo of the artwork and a photo or PDF of the completed Entry Form (last page) via email to Audrey S. Mitchell at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia no later than **March 8, 2024**: astadler@uga.edu



Contest Awards

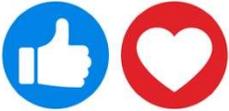
Certificates & Ribbons: Educators may request Give Wildlife a Chance certificates for all students who participate in their local school competition, as well as first-, second- and third-place ribbons to present to class, grade level or school group participants.



Email Audrey S. Mitchell (astadler@uga.edu) with the following information:

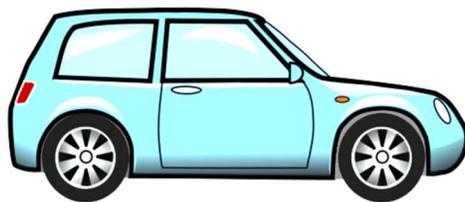
- School name
- Contest coordinator's contact information (email and street addresses, phone #)
- Total number of students participating in the contest by grade level
- Number of certificates, first place, second place and third place ribbons needed

State-Level Awards: The artwork of first-, second- and third-place winners in the state-level contest will be showcased on Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division and State Botanical Garden social media. Winners will also receive state-level award ribbons and may be recognized in other ways.



Special Perk for Teachers & Parents of State Winners!

The teacher and one parent of each state-level winner will receive a **free wildlife license plate**, thanks to TERN! Details will be emailed to the winning students' teachers and parents. To see wildlife tag options, visit gadnr.org/license-plates.



Thanks for participating!

**Thirty-fourth Annual
Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest
Entry Form**

What's That? Habitat!

Email Deadline: March 8, 2024



Student's Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ Division (circle one): 1 2 3 4

Poster Description: _____

Contest Coordinator: _____

School or Homeschool Group: _____

Street Address: _____

Coordinator's Email: _____

Coordinator's Phone #: _____

Parent's Email: _____

**For each state-level poster contest entry,
email a photo or PDF of this completed form
along with a photo of the artwork to:**

Audrey S. Mitchell at the State Botanical
Garden of Georgia - astadler@uga.edu

