



**US Composting
Council**
*International Compost
Awareness Week*

International Compost Awareness Week
2016 Poster Contest

*Deadline: November 14, 2015
Received by 12 midnight EST*

Join in the fun and enter *your* poster!

Call for Entries: The International Compost Awareness Week Committee of the US Composting Council invites YOU to get involved in ICAW 2016. We're looking for anyone interested in participating in our 14th Annual Poster Contest. The winning poster will be used to promote International Compost Awareness Week, May 3 – May 9, 2015.

POSTER THEME: *Compost! The Soil and Water Connection*

The contest runs from September 1 until November 14, 2015 and is open to anyone who wishes to share their artistic creativity to promote this year's theme. The winning poster will serve as the 2016 International Compost Awareness Week theme. We invite municipal, facility, or state agency representatives and industry professionals to join in the fun, along with students, youth groups, commercial composters, green industry businesses, gardeners, environmentalists, everyone! Whether or not you have celebrated or been involved in ICAW in the past, we want you to participate this year.

It's easy! Here's the deal:

The Poster Contest Winner will have his/her poster reproduced and distributed nationwide. It will be the official 2016 International Compost Awareness Week poster and featured on the US Composting Council Web site. The winning "poster artist" will have his/her name posted on the USCC website and will be included on all print material and in any USCC press releases in association with our Annual ICAW Celebration.

The successful poster winner will receive a \$500 savings bond prize. The three contest divisions are: grades 3-7, grades 8-12, and college - adult.

The contest begins on September 1, 2015 and continues until November 14, 2015. The finalists will be announced on the US Composting Council website with online voting available.

This is YOUR opportunity to display your creative talent and show your belief in the composting and in the benefits of using compost!

Official Guidelines:

1. Fee: Free!
2. Entries per person: Entries are limited to ONE SUBMISSION PER ARTIST.
3. Submitting your entry: You must complete the entry form application and checklist, and submit your poster via email to: uscc@compostingcouncil.org with "Poster Contest - Name of artist" in the subject line. A short paragraph on why you chose to participate in ICAW 2016 and explanation of your poster concept must be included with your email submission.
4. Design: The poster must include the words International Compost Awareness Week May 1-7, 2016 along with the poster theme – Compost! The Soil and Water Connection
5. The concept and images of the poster should be based on "compost use" or address the "benefits of recycling organic residuals." We will especially look for images that demonstrate that compost is a key to water conservation. When compost is added to bare soils as a thin layer, it is an effective barrier against evaporation of soil moisture, a method called top- or side-dressing. According to a Washington State University, compost also reduces plants' needs for water by increasing how much water can be held by the soil - only a 5% increase in organic material quadruples the soil's water holding capacity..

When creating your poster, please remember that the winning poster will be reproduced and distributed nationally. The US Composting Council logo along with sponsor logos will be added to the poster below the winning image.
6. Only ORIGINAL artwork will be considered. Please check your spelling; misspelling the theme will disqualify your poster!
7. Posters that include personal or corporate information or product endorsements will be disqualified.
8. Copyrighted Images/Subjects: Copyrighted, trademarked products, packaging, brand names and advertisements may not be used within the poster. Original signed release forms are required for persons, whether public or private citizens, who are photographed and appear on the poster. Release forms can be as simple as a paragraph stating "permission" from "subjects" with a printed list of names of the individuals appearing and signed by the individuals. If the subject is under 18 the release form must be signed by a parent or guardian. *This rule will be strictly enforced.*
9. Electronic Resolution and Format: Artwork is to be submitted in electronic format with a resolution of 300 dpi and in jpg format. (Note: *Poster Winner*

will be requested to resubmit poster at higher resolution for reproduction purposes.) Poster should measure no larger than 12" wide X 17" high and be vertical (portrait) in orientation.

10. Judging and winner selection: All entries will be reviewed by the judges and the best three identified in each division. The divisions are

- Grades 3 to 7
- Grades 8 to 12
- College students and adults

The competition will be judged on the following criteria (40 points maximum):

- *Marketability of poster to multiple audiences* -- 10 points.
- *Creative and original artwork and idea* -- 10 points.
- *Attractiveness in terms of design and neatness of layout* --- 10 points.
- *Overall Impact, all graphics are related to the topic and make it easier to understand the poster theme* – 10 points.

The three top-rated posters in each division will be put to an online USCC member vote; the overall winner will receive a \$500 savings bond.

11. Final poster: The US Composting Council ICAW Committee reserves the right to alter the final poster design or to reject all submissions for the final poster design. All submissions become the property of the US Composting Council and may be used for commercial purposes. No entries will be returned.

12. Deadline: November 14, 2015, 12 midnight EST



**US Composting
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*International Compost
Awareness Week*

International Compost Awareness Week
2015 Poster Contest
Be Loyal To Your Soil—Compost!

ICAW Poster Contest Application

Deadline: November 15, 2014

Received by 12 noon EST

Adult Submission:

Individual Name: _____

College / Company / Organization Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Title: _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Student Submission:

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ School / Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Teacher Name or contact on behalf of student: _____

Relationship to student (if not teacher): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Best time to contact: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Best time to contact: _____

• Included in your email - please describe the message in your poster and why you chose to participate in ICAW 2015 (please limit your description to 150 words.)

• I hereby certify that I am submitting original work and not a copy of published photographs, magazines, book illustrations, or other materials protected by copyright laws. I understand that the US Composting Council will keep my submission. I grant exclusive right to US Composting Council and its designees to utilize my artwork for promotional purposes and to display my art. I agree that my artwork and/or composition may be used, altered, or published as they see fit without additional compensation to me.

Signature of Participant:

_____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent, Guardian or Teacher if Student is under 18 years of age as of November 15, 2014:

_____ Date: _____

ICAW Poster Requirement Checklist

Before you email your poster, be sure to check that all requirements have been met:

- _____ Size is no more than 12" wide X 19" high
- _____ Resolution is 300 dpi in jpg format
- _____ Poster contains the theme title, "Be Loyal To Your Soil—Compost!"
- _____ Poster contains the words "International Compost Awareness Week, May 3-9, 2015"

Note: Please submit your poster to: uscc@compostingcouncil.org with "Poster Contest - Name of artist" noted in the subject line. For any questions, please contact Jeff Ziegenbein, ICAW Chair at 909-993-1981 or email to icaw@compostingcouncil.org