The Clean Water Campaign/waterSmart Essay Contest

To promote better water quality and conservation practices in the Atlanta area, the **Clean Water Campaign** and **waterSmart** are helping to kick off the new school year with an essay contest that explores the important issues of water quality and conservation.

Who's Eligible:
Sixth, Seventh and Eighth graders from Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett counties.

Deadline:
Friday, October 11

Award Date:
Thursday, October 24

Essay Requirements:
A strong connection between water quality and water conservation has not been linked, and we would like to hear how the Atlanta area's young adults would make this link.

Participants will be required to submit a 300 to 500-word paper (typed or handwritten) about how people can protect water quality and conserve at the same time. Here are some suggested questions the students may address in their essays:

1. What messages would you address about water pollution and conservation?

2. What kind of plan would you create to implement the protection of our water resources at home?

3. What would you want the public to do to prevent water pollution and promote conservation?

4. What would you want legislators to do about water quality and conservation? And what concerns would you want to tell them?

5. What would our lives be like with very little water? Or with polluted limited water resources?

6. How would you begin making a difference in your community?

7. What are the benefits from protecting the quality of our water supply?

In addition, participants should draw a symbol that they think would best represent water quality and conservation.

The raindrop mascot will visit schools within the five (5) counties surrounding metro and present a certificate to the students. The top prize will be awarded to one of the students presented with a certificate. The Clean Water Campaign and WaterSmart will be using selected judges for this event.

Submission Details: Can submit by mail as a group within school or organization or separately to:

Water Essay Contest
40 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303

Or for those submitted electronically, email at cleanwater@atlantaregional.com.

Awards:
One student from each county will receive a visit from "Mr. Raindrop," the Clean Water Campaign's mascot. Mr. Raindrop will present the selected student with a special certificate of merit. From the five students receiving a certificate, one will receive the grand prize - a $100 Cash Prize!

Review of entry: WaterSmart and the Clean Water Campaign use selected judges to review criteria based upon, in large part, the above suggested questions.

Thanks for the in-kind support of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

*The **Clean Water Campaign** is a cooperative, multi-agency public education initiative spearheaded by 20 local governments and managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Its mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions in the Atlanta region.*

The **waterSmart** program was initiated by the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority to educate metro area residents about "state of the science" methods for conserving water while maintaining beautiful lawns and landscapes. waterSmart tips were developed in conjunction with the Georgia Water Wise Council and the Cobb County Extension Service.