

Dear Educators,

It's time for the Annual Nisqually Watershed Festival Poster Contest! All participating teachers will be entered into a drawing for a FREE trip to the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge!

The 28th Nisqually Watershed Festival will take place on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. This event celebrates the environmental, cultural, historical, and economic stories of this unique river basin in South Puget Sound. On the day of the festival students can take part in the awards ceremony as well as enjoy free nature walks, fun activities and live entertainment at the Refuge.

The deadline for the Poster Contest is Friday, June 2nd 2017. Every poster entered will be displayed in our Visitor Center throughout the festival. Judges choose the top five posters from each grade and these students are given a certificate and prize during a public ceremony at the Festival.

This year's theme is "**Life Under the Water**"! Remember, keep it local! Here are a few websites for inspiration:

- Marine Life
- Pond Life
- Stream and River Life

Here's a link to a great video about how to make a Poster Contest entry from 2016:

- <https://youtu.be/MWib-VGi1jc>

Attached are the contest flyer, the official entry form, design criteria and tips, and information on the watershed. Again, the deadline for the Poster Contest is Friday, June 2nd, 2017.

If you need any extra assistance to make participation possible, please be in touch. We look forward to displaying your entries!

Sincerely-

Davy Clark,  
April Roe, and  
Sheila Wilson



# 2017 Nisqually Watershed Festival Poster Contest

## Grade Levels:

1<sup>st</sup>—6<sup>th</sup>

**Theme:** “Life Under the Water”

## Medium:

Your choice! Please, no words

## Identification:

Copy the entry form, fill it out, and glue to the back of each poster. **Accurate student info is very important for notifying winners!**

## Judging:

Conducted by local artists, festival partners and Refuge staff. They will base their decisions on **originality, accuracy, and artistic skills**. Entries must be received by Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.

## Prizes:



**2012 Best in Show**  
Megumi Miyashita  
Hansen Elementary

Prizes will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners along with 2 “Honorable Mentions” in each grade. “Best in Show” will be used for festival publicity. All entries will be on display for the public during the festival.

## Awards:

Presented during the **Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually Watershed festival, September 30<sup>th</sup> 2017** at the Refuge.

\*Posters can be picked up immediately following ceremony. Posters and prizes will have 2 weeks to be picked up from the refuge visitor center!

All participating teachers will be entered in a drawing for a

FREE trip to the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge!

## **For questions contact:**

Davy Clark (360)753-9467 • [david\\_r\\_clark@fws.gov](mailto:david_r_clark@fws.gov)  
April Roe (360)459-0387 • [aprilroe@nisquallyestuary.org](mailto:aprilroe@nisquallyestuary.org)  
Sheila Wilson (360)438-8715 • [sheila@nisquallyriver.org](mailto:sheila@nisquallyriver.org)



**2011 Best in Show**  
Sariah Abnazziah Yousos  
Lydia Hawk Elementary



**2013 Best in Show**  
Edrick Wzathers  
Hansen Elementary

# 2017 Watershed Festival Poster Contest Entry Form

**Important:** Fill out teacher and school information before duplicating and distributing to students. Glue entry form to the back of each student's poster. Entries will be displayed at the Nisqually Watershed Festival: **Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

**Entry deadline:** Received by **Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**

**Mail or deliver entries to:**

Nisqually Watershed Festival Poster  
Contest c/o  
Davy Clark  
100 Brown Farm Rd  
Olympia, WA 98516

Poster Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this is my original work, and is not a copy of published photographs, magazines, book illustrations, or other materials protected by copyright laws. I grant exclusive right to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its designees to utilize my artwork for reproduction and promotional purposes, and to display my art; also I agree that my artwork may be used, altered, or published as they see fit without compensation to me.

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

# POSTER CONTEST DESIGN CRITERIA & TIPS

## Criteria:

- ! Posters should be 11x17 inches. Please don't frame, mat or fold the posters.
- ! No words, please.
- ! Judging is based on **originality, accuracy, and artistic** skills.
- ! Entries must be contestant's original, hand-done creation. No tracing from photographs or other published works of art.
- ! An individual student rather than a team of students must create all posters.
- ! Although younger students will likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, we encourage each student to do as much of the work as possible by him or herself.
- ! There are no limitations on the use and number of colors.
- ! There is no limitation on the type of media. Students can use paint, pencil, crayon, marker, collage, etc.
- ! Poster designs may not incorporate any copyrighted character such as comic and/or TV, magazine, or newspaper illustration (ex: Sponge Bob, Pokemon, etc.)

## Design Tips:

- ! Judges will also be considering how this image will look when resized (smaller) and made black and white, both of which may happen to make copies of fliers for the festival.
- ! Consider having your students research their watershed, habitats or wildlife to gain a deeper understanding. They must depict a real organism or habitat or feature found in the watershed; it is helpful when they are recognizable, but they do not need to look realistic.
- ! Talk to students about how to use colors and white space to grab the attention of the viewer. The image should fill up the whole paper. Posters with words, phrases, or slogans are disqualified.
- ! Avoid putting too many elements on the poster. Keep it simple and clean. Explain that posters are created to make a clear, uncluttered statement.
- ! Ask students to consider their audience: it will be on public display for people of all ages at the Watershed Festival to celebrate our environment and our community.

# What is the Nisqually River Watershed?



A watershed is the area of land which is connected because all the water in that area eventually drains into the same body of water. We all live in a watershed. In the Nisqually River Watershed, the water from rain and melted snow travels through creeks, streams and groundwater systems until it collects in the Nisqually River. The river finally drains into Puget Sound.

Flowing 78 miles from its source at the Nisqually Glacier on 14,410-foot Mount Rainier to its delta at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, the Nisqually is a direct link between the summit snows of Washington's highest peak and the marine waters of Puget Sound.

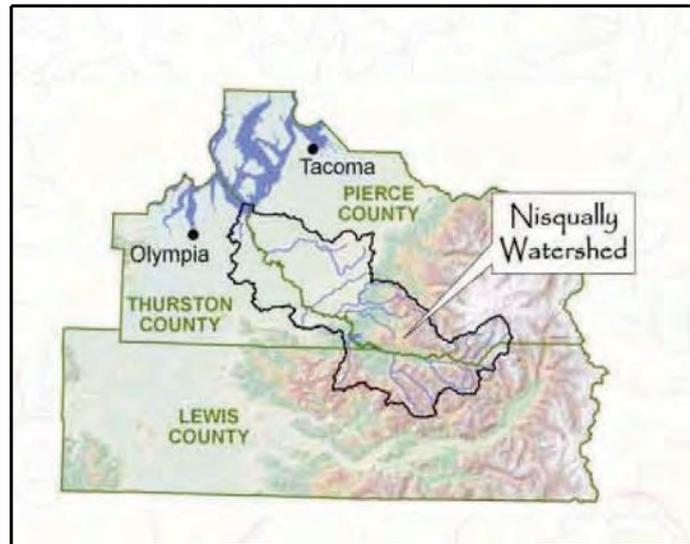
One of the most pristine rivers in Washington State, the Nisqually journeys through an amazing variety of habitats;

from subalpine meadows and old-growth Douglas fir forest, through forested foothills and across lowland prairies, to its estuarine reaches and tidal mudflats. Each habitat supports different plants and animals and is an important part of the overall watershed ecosystem.

The watershed also encompasses a broad range of human land uses: rural communities, national and state parks and forests, public and private timberlands, municipal hydropower projects, farmlands, the Nisqually Indian Reservation, Joint Base Lewis McChord Military Reservation, and the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.

The Nisqually River Watershed is a land of wind and wildlife, glaciers and storms, towering firs and tiny banana slugs. It is also a land greatly affected by human decisions and activities. Though the Nisqually is one of the least developed rivers in southern Puget Sound, it faces an uncertain future due to increasing human development all along the river.

New homes and expanding cities can bring humans into conflict with wildlife. If not properly planned for, all the waste and rainwater run-off from our factories and roadways can end up in the river and in Puget Sound. It's up to us to live in ways that are harmonious with the natural environment and remember that all our actions have an impact on the world around us – we can choose whether that impact is positive or negative!



## Additional Resources:

- Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge [www.fws.gov/Billy\\_Frank\\_Jr\\_Nisqually](http://www.fws.gov/Billy_Frank_Jr_Nisqually)
- Nisqually River Council [www.nisquallyriver.org](http://www.nisquallyriver.org)
- Mount Rainier National Park [www.nps.gov/mora](http://www.nps.gov/mora)
- Nisqually Reach Nature Center [www.nisquallyestuary.org](http://www.nisquallyestuary.org)