



CARING FOR OUR

Watersheds[®]

California

HOW IT WORKS



Answer the question:

What can you do to improve your watershed?

Identify the Problem

- **Research** your watershed and identify an environmental concern
- Work in a group of up to 4 students



What's your Solution?

- Come up with **one realistic solution**
- Explain your idea in approximately 1000 words through an online grant style application (include visuals)
- **Solutions are judged** on innovation and adaptability, impact potential, research and writing, budget, visuals, realistic solution, environmental literacy, and connection to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Submit Online

Proposal Deadline:

January 30, 2026

- Every student gets a gift
- Judges select 10 finalists



Finalists Competition

- Community mentor provided
- 5 minute presentation
- Chance to **win \$1,000 for yourself** and \$1,000 for your **school/club**



\$10,000

Implementation Funding

All realistic entries are eligible.
If you want to take action,
we can help make it happen!

Free watershed presentations, mentorship and funding is available.
Proposal guidelines can be found at CaringForOurWatersheds.com



FINALIST AWARDS

1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place	5 th Place
\$1,000	\$900	\$800	\$700	\$600
6 th Place	7 th Place	8 th Place	9 th Place	10 th Place
\$500	\$450	\$400	\$350	\$300

SCHOOL/CLUB AWARDS

\$11,000 available

In each contest, all finalists win cash for themselves plus a matching cash prize for their school or registered non-profit club. Schools/clubs are also eligible for \$100 for every 10 entries they submit to the contest.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

\$10,000 available

To share between realistic entries. Both finalists and non-finalists are welcome to apply.

ELIGIBILITY

CARING FOR OUR WATERSHEDS: California is open to students in **Grades 9–12** who live in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Watersheds in Yolo, Solano, Sacramento, Colusa, Yuba, Sutter, Glenn, El Dorado, Placer, San Joaquin, Tehama, Butte, Lake, Nevada, Sierra, Plumas, and Shasta counties.

DEADLINES

Friday, January 30, 2026 – Contest entry deadline

Saturday, April 25, 2026 – Final competition

CONTACT

Erica Black, Youth Program Coordinator

Phone: (805) 305-9442

E-mail: ericab@landbasedlearning.org

Center for Land-Based Learning

40140 Best Ranch Road

Woodland, CA 95776-9106

*The Program Coordinator reserves the right to change or adjust reward amounts and contest deadlines based on the level of participation. The first 500 students will receive a participation reward. The first 500 entries will receive a school/club reward. Restrictions may apply.

This program is brought to you by:

Nutrien[®]
Feeding the Future™

