Visual Presentation Contest

Purpose
This will give students some practice in preparing visual presentation materials that communicate an agronomic, crops, soils, or environmental sciences story with the intent of educating a small audience on a technical topic. Skills and experience in developing electronic visual presentations are important in many careers. Professionals in cooperative extension, classroom and outreach education, research and industry frequently prepare and present electronic visual presentations. Employers appreciate, recognize and reward proficiency in the use of standard presentation software in communicating an educational message.

Awards and Recognition
Prizes of $325, $150 and $75, will be awarded to the top three placing entrants at the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA annual meetings. For group entries, prize money is distributed equally among the students in the group. The winning entries will be posted on the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA website and will retained by ASA, CSSA, and SSSA for use in promoting the contest, the SASES and the Societies.

Eligibility
Contestants must be a member of an active chapter of the Students of Agronomy, Soils and Environmental Sciences (SASES). Contest entries can be made by an individual student or a group of two students. The student(s) must be an undergraduate student. Each individual or team will be eligible to submit only one entry. If entrants have made a submission while maintaining undergraduate status, their submission will be judged even if they graduate before results are announced. The club advisor must submit a letter of eligibility for each contestant entering the national contest. Contestants must add narration to the presentation as if presenting in person. For help with this, see the guide on the contest web page.

Rules/Procedures
A. Entries must be submitted as an mp4 or wav file.
B. Entries should be free-playing presentations less than 3.5 minutes in length.
C. Topic of the presentation should be generated from a senior thesis, internship experience, an independent study project, etc. The presenter should be able to use his or her own data to draw specific conclusions.
D. Guidelines for winning presentations:
   i. Microsoft PowerPoint is the recommended presentation format. Other formats and programs may be allowed with approval of the contest chair. You must secure approval at least one week prior to the contest deadline.
   ii. The presentation should communicate a message concerning an industry or research topic appropriate for a farm, soils, or environmental sciences audience or readers of a popular farm or trade magazine. The message should include original data or research from the presenter.
   iii. The title should be informative, generate interest in the topic, and reflect the subject to be presented.
   iv. The presentation should contain a relevant introduction, body, results, and conclusion.
   v. Professional animations on slides are allowed, but are not required. Each slide should be self-explanatory.
   vi. All presentations MUST include at least four (4) digital images that are the original work of the contestant. These photos should be captioned or labeled to make it clear they are work of the contestant.
   vii. Each presentation entry will consist of at least six, and no more than 16 separate slides. Each slide must contain necessary citations.

Submission
Entries must be uploaded by the deadline to be considered. Students are encouraged to test the presentation for all requirements including voice and transition before uploading. The organizing committee will not be responsible for any technical failure, which can lead to disqualification or lower scoring. Qualifying presentation entries will be sent to a panel of judges within seven days of the contest closing date. Judges will evaluate and score each entry individually prior to ASA, CSSA, and SSSA annual meetings. The winning presentation will be retained by ASA, CSSA, and SSSA and will be used to promote the contest for the following year. All entries must be submitted through the website at www.acsmeetings.org/undergraduates

Judging
Judges will evaluate the presentations based on the following criteria:

1. Entries
   Complete, free-playing presentations less than 3.5 minutes in length.  5
2. Message
   Clearly addresses a current topic of high interest to farmers, scientists, and/or trade magazines.  5
3. Quality
   The title should be informative and generate interest in the topic.  5
   Include four sections: introduction, body, results and conclusion.  10
   All sections are cohesive.  10
   All Image sources are cited. Includes four original photos relevant to the topic.  5
   Any animations or slide transitions are professional. Each slide is self-explanatory.  5
   Layout of the slides and quality of the images are appealing to the viewer.  5
   Correct spelling and grammar.  5
   Entry consists of at least 6, and no more than 16 slides.  5
4. Technical Accuracy
   Statement of the Problem or Topic  10
   Methodology  10
   Results  10
   Conclusion  10
   Total  100

Contacts
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