



Chemists Celebrate Earth Day: Air—The Sky's the Limit Illustrated Haiku Contest

As part of their Chemists Celebrate Earth Day celebration, the American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring an illustrated haiku contest for students in grades kindergarten-12.

A haiku is a three-line poem with five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third. Haikus typically have nature-related themes and do not rhyme, as in the example below.

*Submerged rocks stare back
through the glistening water
streaming clean and clear.*



Possible topics related to the atmosphere and chemistry include:

- ⌘ Wind flowing through valleys, canyons, and over mountains
- ⌘ Wind Power— conversion of wind energy.
- ⌘ Environmental chemistry—keeping the air clean.
- ⌘ Air Pollutants—fumes from cars and factories
- ⌘ Properties of Gas—temperature, density, pressure
- ⌘ Gas Phases—water vapor or steam.
- ⌘ The various layers of the atmosphere.

Winners will be selected in each of the following categories:

- K – 2nd grade
- 3rd – 5th grade
- 6th – 8th grade
- 9th – 12th grade

National Prizes:

- 1st Place in each grade category – \$250
- 2nd Place in each grade category – \$150

For more information about contests in your area, contact the American Chemical Society Office of Community Activities at 800-227-5558, x6097 or earthday@acs.org.

Chemists Celebrate Earth Day Illustrated Haiku Contest

ACS Local Sections are encouraged to participate in the Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) illustrated haiku contest by inviting area kindergarten–12 grade students to compete.

Contest Rules

- Poems must conform to the haiku style. Students in grades K-2 may be more free with their syllables; however, no poem may be longer than 25 words.
- The topic of the haiku and the illustration must be related to the CCED theme, “Air- The Sky's the Limit” and should reflect some aspect of the air. Possible topics are listed on the first page of these guidelines.
- All entries must be original works without aid from others.
- Each mailed poem must be submitted and illustrated on an unlined 8.5” x 11” sheet of paper (of any type). The illustration must be created by hand using crayons, watercolors, other types of paint, colored pencils or markers. The text of the poem should be easy to read and may be printed with a computer, before the hand-drawn illustration is added, or the poem may be written on lined paper which is cut out and pasted onto the unlined paper with the illustration.
- Only one entry per student will be accepted.
- All entries must have the following information included with the entry: student’s name, grade, home address, telephone number, school name, school address, teacher’s name, email, and school telephone number (both addresses are used for sending prizes; please provide complete information).
- All illustrated haikus and/or digital representations of the haikus become the property of the American Chemical Society (ACS).
- Acceptance of prizes constitutes consent to use winners’ names, likenesses and entries for editorial, advertising and publicity purposes.

Coordinator Information

- ACS CCED Coordinators determine how many entries per school will be accepted into the local contest.
- ACS CCED coordinators will identify and submit a maximum of one winning entry in each of the four (4) grade categories to the national contest (entries from areas not covered by any ACS Local Section’s territory will be handled on a case-by-case basis).
- When coordinators submit entries to the national contest, the following information must also be included with each entry: local section name, coordinator name and email address.
- National contest entries must be *received* by the ACS in Washington, DC by Friday, at 5 p.m. EST April 10, 2009. National winners will be announced on or before April 22, 2009.
- ACS is not responsible for lost, damaged, or delayed postal shipments and electronic submission is encouraged.

Entries will be judged based upon:

- Relevance to and incorporation of “Air—The Sky's the Limit” theme
- Word choice and imagery
- Colorful artwork
- Adherence to haiku style
- Originality and creativity
- Overall presentation