



## Judging Background

Caring for Our Watersheds asks young people, "What can you do to improve your watershed?"

Students research their local watershed, identify an environmental concern and come up with a solution to the problem. Then the class submits a proposal explaining their idea.

We need judges to read proposals to help us **identify** 10 finalists from the Chesapeake Bay watershed and to judge presentations in person and **select our overall winners** from the 10 finalists.

## Proposal Judges

Classrooms submit a written proposal (approx. 1,000 words) that incorporates videos, artwork, models and/or diagrams to illustrate their solution. Entries are judged on innovation, environmental impact, comprehensive scope, budget, and if their solution is realistic.

The judges will grade proposals based on a rubric. The scores from the judges will determine the top 10.

Time Requirement: Approximately 8 hours reading and grading.  
(Between March 13<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>).

## Finalist Judges

The ten finalists will make five minute verbal presentations to a panel of judges at the Caring For Our Watersheds Summits. Entries are judged on innovation, environmental impact, comprehensive scope, budget, and if their solution is realistic.

The judges will rate groups from 10<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup>.

Time Requirement: Full work day on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Earth Force will provide lunch.

## Who is Qualified to Judge?

Volunteer judges need to be knowledgeable about the community and local environmental issues. We prefer a mixture of judges who have backgrounds in engineering, policy making, and youth engagement to provide a wide spectrum of perspectives to students.

## Contact Information

Alexis Thorbecke, Program Manager

Phone: (240) 305-1423 | E-mail: [athorbecke@earthforce.org](mailto:athorbecke@earthforce.org)