

The University of Scranton
Earth Day Essay Contest
Celebrate Earth Day 2025
“Students for a Sustainable World”

Area students in grades 5 through 12 are invited to participate in the University of Scranton’s environmental essay contest as part of Celebrate Earth Day 2025 initiative.

The University’s Sustainability Office and its Society for Sustainability and Conservation will host an “Evening of Environmental Science” on Thursday, April 24, 2025, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm in the Loyola Science Center lobby. The informal event will include interactive science experiments and displays presented by university students and faculty members. Light refreshments will be served.

The event will also feature an exhibit of the students’ essays and conclude with an awards ceremony at which time the essay winners will be announced. All contestants will receive a certificate, and finalists will also be awarded Earth Day medals. Participants, families, and teachers are welcome to attend.

The essay contest is sponsored by the University of Scranton. The University reserves the right to choose which essays will be on exhibition and to make photocopies of the essays for public display. If an in-person event cannot be held due to CDC guidelines or University policy, the event will be conducted virtually.

The theme for this year’s essay contest is:

“Students for a Sustainable World”

Possible topics (but not limited to): Conservation, recycling, bees, access to healthy eating, factory farming, renewable energy, eliminating single-use containers, gardening, public transportation, community, vertical planting, plant-based meals, composting, LEDs, biking, gardening, and walking.

Requirements: Student essays need to clearly explain their position on their specific topic and include information on the topic’s impact on the environment. The essay should provide a clear understanding of the topic and the theme.

- **5th and 6th Grade essays must be 200-400 words**
- **7th, 8th, and 9th Grade essays must be 300-500 words**
- **10th, 11th, and 12th Grade essays must be 500-700 words**

Each essay must be typed. **Plagiarized submissions or hand-written essays will not be accepted.** Submissions must include the essayist’s name, age, address, phone number, and email. If the submission is part of a school or class project, please, also include the school’s name, grade, and teacher’s name. All essays must also include the total number of words in the essay. Please supply the essay as a PDF and **do not use Google documents.** There is no charge for submissions.

Student Essay submission information:

-Electronically - The deadline is April 4, 2025. Please email to Susan.Falbo@scranton.edu.

-Snail mail - The University of Scranton, Office of Sustainability, Smurfit Arts Center, 445 Madison Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510, Attn: Earth Day Essay Contest. Submissions must be postmarked on or before April 3, 2025, to be considered.

Submissions may be picked up immediately following “Evening of Environmental Science,” April 24, 2025, at the Loyola Science Center lobby.

Judging:

Essays will be judged based on the following:

- 75% - Content. Important points to remember: essays must show a clear understanding of sustainability, your specific topic, and the impact on the environment.
- 15% - Grammar, spelling, etc.
- 10% - Form. Submissions must include all items listed under **Requirements** as listed above.