Soil Horizons Student Paper Contest

Soil Horizons is pleased to announce its annual paper contest for students at the graduate and undergraduate levels. The winner of each category will receive a one-year student membership to Soil Science Society of America, which includes a subscription to Soil Horizons, and the winning papers will be published in Soil Horizons.

Topics
Any topic related to soils, agriculture, field ecology, soil survey, or history of soils is appropriate. Topics should be related to the scope of Soil Horizons and may be research results or non-research topics. Topics may include:
- Soil survey problems
- Innovative methods and equipment
- Landscape and soil research studies
- Case studies from consulting work
- Issues in soil taxonomy systems
- Profiles in history
- Travelogues from soil expeditions

Style
A suggested limit is 800 to 2000 words for the main body of the manuscript (excluding title, captions, references, etc.). Use of original photos, illustrations, and/or tables is encouraged. Research papers must follow the typical Soil Horizons format for content (Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusions) and have citations and references. Writing must follow the protocols of the SSSA Style Manual found at https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/style.

Scope
The topic must be either research results or original information; the article should be the original efforts of the submitter. While faculty members can provide some review and be a junior author, the submission must represent the work of the student. The students are requested to have a faculty sponsor to help coordinate the submission if there are multiple entries per institution. Only one entry is allowed per person.

Who
There are two categories, undergraduate and graduate. The article should be written while the student is an undergraduate or graduate student at an accredited institution within the current academic year. In cases where there are multiple entries from a single institution, sponsoring faculty advisors are requested to help judge local entries, but more than one entry per institution is permitted.

Selection of Winners
Submitted articles will be evaluated by the editorial board, and winners of each category (as well as runner ups) will be published. Criteria for selection of the winners will be originality, creativity, interest, and quality of writing (grammar, punctuation, style, logic, organization).

Submit your entries by February 28, 2014.

Submissions
Submit manuscripts online at the Soil Horizons Manuscript Central site (http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/soilhorizons). To be considered for the contest, applicants must (i) select “Special Submissions” as the Manuscript Type and (ii) include a cover letter requesting that the paper be evaluated as an entry in the graduate or undergraduate student paper contest.

Questions
Questions should be directed to Phil Smith, associate editor and student contest coordinator (philip.smith@ca.usda.gov), or Lisa Al-Amoodi, Managing Editor (lalamoodi@sciencesocieties.org).