



4H Essay Contest

Grade 7 & 8

Sponsored by: **KEEP SEVIER BEAUTIFUL**

Your essay is due at your February 4H meeting. On your essay include your name, address, grade, school and the name of your teacher.

Winning essays will be announced on March 31, 2020.

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

INSTRUCTIONS

After reading "Recycle This Book", the information from "Keep Sevier Beautiful", and "What Do I Do To Help Save The Environment?" write an informative essay in which you compare and contrast the authors' views on recycling. Include information from the texts to write about the subject knowledgeably. Use details from all passages to help you write your essay. Also, remember to use correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing your essay.

Recycle This Book
100 Top Children's Book Authors Tell You How They Recycle
Edited by Dan Gutman

"I was thinking-what's the biggest problem facing the world? Terrorism? Poverty? Drugs? Crime" No. In my opinion, the biggest problem facing the world is the world itself. Because if we mess up the planet, none of those other problems is going to matter. Well, I hate to tell you this, but we are messing up this planet."

Scary stuff like global warming, the energy crisis, melting ice caps, rain forests being burned, species becoming extinct, floods and hurricanes are just some of the things you've heard. We've got to do something. You've got to do something. Why you? You'll have plenty of responsibilities because it will be your world.

You may think it wasn't your fault, but your parents and grandparents may not be around to help fix the problems they helped to create. If you start now and change negative behaviors to some positive behaviors you can start with solutions that leave the Earth in better condition than when you arrived. There are hundreds of solutions-right here in your hand. Talk to family and friends and discuss how to conserve gas, save energy, and reduce waste.

First look at changing attitudes, and then by changing laws. Attitudes and laws about the environment can change and kids can lead the way. Kids often teach parents and grandparents how to use computers, cell phones, and other technologies. Teenagers create our music and help determine what kinds of television and movies to get popular. Kids make a difference.

Change is hard. People are going to have to change, whether we want to or not. It's just a question of whether we change now, when we still have time, or later, when it may be too late. Don't be like in the movie the *Titanic*, when the lookouts didn't see the ice burg until they were almost upon it. We are on a collision course with environmental disaster, and we are running out of time to steer around it. Each day we delay will make change more difficult. Begin now to make life changes

such as reducing waste, recycling, litter prevention and energy saving. Don't stop there. If you tell three friends, and they tell three friends, and they tell three friends, forty kids will get the message. It's crucially important that every kid get the message. Here's your chance to prove you can accomplish anything you put your mind to.

Keep Sevier Beautiful **By Karen Miller**

Keep Sevier Beautiful motivates and educates Sevier County residents and guests to take greater responsibility for improving our community's environment. Keep Sevier Beautiful encourages residents and guests to recycle many items such as plastic, metal, cardboard and paper. Keep Sevier Beautiful works hand-in-hand with Sevier Solid Waste, Inc. to keep 63% of our waste out of the landfill. Sevier County, each day, receives over 300 tons of garbage at Sevier Solid Waste facilities. That is enough solid waste, or garbage, to fill a Boeing jet!

A large portion of the 63% waste kept out of the landfill is due to Sevier County having a large compost facility that takes organic waste (such as paper and food waste) and turns it into grade A compost that is used throughout the Southeastern United States for farmers and soil erosion control. But that leaves 25% still going to the landfill and only 12% being recycled. Sevier County residents need to realize that increasing our recycling rates will help to keep landfills to a minimum and our county staying beautiful. We need to begin now to make changes before we have mountains of landfills!

Many Sevier County residents believe that the compost facility sorts out the recycled materials such as the plastic, metal and cardboard, but that is not what happens. If you do not sort out the plastics, metals (soda/food cans) and other recyclable materials they will go through the compost facility process, but they do not turn into compost as they are Nonbiodegradable. The items that should have been sorted and taken to be recycled (plastic, metal, cardboard, etc.) will now end up in the landfill. This means if you do not sort and recycle you are not helping our environment. What you do with your garbage does matter!

What Do I Do To Help Save The Environment?

By Seymour Simon

If I were to get rid of my car, stop using my computers, use sunlight to read instead of electric lighting, stop heating my house in winter and cooling it in summer, nothing I can do alone will save the environment.

So here are the little things I do that, if enough of us do them, will help to save our environment. The rule is: The less power we use, the more environmentally friendly we are. I've turned down the thermostat in my house in the winter and in my water heater all year long. I've opened windows in hot weather instead of using an air conditioner. I've switched off lights, turned off my computer, and shut down any other electronic device unless I'm using it. I've cut down on paper bills and paper checks by paying my bills online. I walk instead of using my car whenever I can. Most of all, I think about what I'm doing and try to cut down or eliminate doing anything that's wasteful or harmful to the environment.

All of these things sound like doing nothing much, but if we all do them, maybe, just maybe, things that we do, thousands and thousands and millions and millions of us, can help to save our environment.