



## OCCA Campership Sponsor Program Essay Contest Basic Information

- The OCCA Campership Sponsor Program Essay Contest is open to all Otsego County children who are ages 11-13 (*must be 11 by December 1, 2020*).
- Essays must be solely the work of the participant. Essays must be no longer than 750 words and must be typed or written in legible handwriting. Participants should address the following question in their essay: **“How can I reduce my carbon footprint and why is it important to do so?”** Contestants are encouraged to use an online Carbon Footprint Calculator (see <https://www.conservation.org/carbon-footprint-calculator#/>, <https://www.terrapass.com/carbon-footprint-calculator>, for examples).
- Entries will be accepted electronically or in hard-copy format through 11:59 p.m. on **December 20, 2019**. Winning essays will be chosen by January 15. The participant’s name, age, grade, and school which he or she attends must be on the top of the page on which the essay is written or typed. Essays that are missing any of this information will be ineligible for this contest.
- Online Submissions: Send all email submissions with attached essay document to Jeff O’Handley at [programdirector@occainfo.org](mailto:programdirector@occainfo.org) (please put “Essay Contest” in the “Subject” line). All entries must be received by OCCA by 11:59 pm EST on December 20, 2019.
- Hard Copy Submissions: Essays sent by mail (Otsego County Conservation Association, PO Box 931, Cooperstown, NY 13326) or delivered to the OCCA office (7207 State Highway 80, Cooperstown) must be received by OCCA by 11:59 pm EST on December 20, 2019.
- Winners will be selected by a panel of judges by January 7, 2020. All essays will be judged according to the criteria listed below.
  1. Understanding of the issue/question
  2. Originality
  3. Clarity and effectiveness of style and organization
  4. Adherence to format and length rules
- Parental permission to qualify for DEC camp is required and should be indicated by attaching the form below to the student essay. Students who cannot or do not want to attend camp are still eligible to enter their work in the essay contest (parental permission not required).
- Winners of OCCA-sponsored DEC camperships will be notified immediately, and will receive the code from OCCA by which to register for DEC camp.

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I am aware that my child (student’s name) \_\_\_\_\_, is competing in OCCA’s Campership Sponsor Program Essay Contest to win a week-long stay at DEC Environmental Education Camp.

Parent’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_