



Food waste is a problem everyone can tackle, including our nation’s youth. As part of [Winning on Reducing Food Waste Month](#), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is launching *Ace the Waste: a student competition for food waste reduction ideas*. This competition calls on students to develop creative solutions to reduce food loss and waste in this country. Eligible participants are students aged 11-18 years old. One winner will be selected from each of two categories – ages 11-14 and ages 15-18.

The competition is open to students in all 50 states, U.S. Territories, and Tribes. Participants should submit their ideas for reducing food loss and waste anywhere along the supply chain, from the farm to the dinner table and beyond. Topic ideas may include:

- **Preventing food waste** - such as ideas to prolong the storage life of food; improve efficiencies in the processing of food and its distribution; and create new products from unharvested or unsold crops (like so-called “ugly fruit and vegetables”) or from food processing by-products.
- **Recovering wholesome, excess food to feed people** – such as innovative approaches for getting excess food to people who need it and measuring the value of food donations.
- **Recycling food scraps to keep them out of landfills** – such as ideas to connect food waste generators with recyclers and to create animal feed, compost, and energy.
- **Raising awareness** -- such as ideas about how to make students more aware about the amount of food being wasted and inform them about how to reduce it.

To participate in Ace the Waste!, students may submit 1-2 page written proposals or 1-2 minute videos. Students submitting written proposals must provide the information requested in the form below, either use the form or answer the questions in a 1-2 page Microsoft Word or PDF document. Students sending videos should also provide the information requested in the form below, though they can answer the questions about their food waste reduction idea in their video. For video submissions, please send a 1-2 minute video in one of the following formats: .mov, .mp4, .wmv. Please also provide a transcript (in either MS Word or PDF) or closed captioning.

Proposals will be judged on impact potential; originality and creativity; clarity of expression; and adherence/appropriateness to theme. **The deadline for both written and video submissions is Friday, May 24, 2019 at 5:00 pm EDT.** Please submit your Ace the Waste! proposals to youth@osec.usda.gov.

Judges will include representatives from USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The winner will be honored with recognition on USDA’s social media accounts and websites, receive a certificate of appreciation, and will have the opportunity to discuss their proposals with USDA leadership.

Winners will be notified by June 12, 2019. All decisions are final. Send your submissions and any questions to youth@osec.usda.gov. Thank you.



Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

City and State of residence: _____

Are you working with a partner? or team? You are not required to have a partner, but if you do, please list names and email addresses for up to three partners.

Age Group Entry: One winner will be selected from each of two age categories. Please check your age group:

_____ 11-14 years _____ 15-18 years.

What is your idea for reducing, recovering, recycling or raising awareness about food loss and waste? (limit 500 words)

What steps would you need to take to implement your idea? (limit 500 words)

Why do you think your idea would work? (limit 500 words)

Parental Permission for Minors (youth under the age of 18)

I give permission for my child to participate in USDA's Ace the Waste! competition. I understand that USDA will not provide travel or accommodations from my location to Washington, DC should my student be selected as the winner of the competition.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date