

SERT VIDEO CONTEST

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can enter the contest?

All Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students and staff may participate in the SERT Video Contest. All MCPS schools may enter the contest and submit up to three (3) videos per category.

How many people can work on one video?

There is no limit to the number of students and staff who can work together on a video but everyone must represent the same MCPS school.

What's the difference between the two categories?

The main difference is the video length. Public Service Announcements (PSAs) must be 30-60 seconds in length, short and to-the-point like a commercial. Conservation Clips may be 1-5 minutes long and should be more informative.

Can I use any music, lyrics, photos or other copyrighted materials that I find online?

No copyrighted materials (music, images, etc.) may be used for this contest unless you own the copyright or have a license to use the material. Written permission must be obtained and provided upon request for all copyrighted materials. Get creative and compose your own music or use the stock soundtracks that are provided by some video editing software.

How do I submit my video?

Once you have perfected your video, upload it to a video sharing site like [Vimeo](#), [Google Drive](#), [YouTube](#), or [Flickr](#). Better yet, ask your principal to grant permission for it to be posted on your school's website! Make sure that the video plays well, has a good title, and is viewable by anyone with the hyperlink. Don't use privacy settings.

How many entries can I submit?

Each school may submit three entries per category. Schools are encouraged to conduct their own judging and submit their best entries. Videos will be entered under the name of the school—not a student or staff member. If more than three entries are submitted for any category, the SERT program will determine which videos will be entered into the contest.

When is the deadline for submissions?

All entries must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2020. Remember to include the permission slips along with the entry form.

How will videos be judged and by whom?

SERT staff will judge the entries and score the videos based on their content, creativity, and quality. Additional MCPS staff members will be invited to serve as guest judges.

How many winners will there be?

A total of six (6) awards will be presented to winning schools. One entry representing each school level (elementary, middle, and high) will win in each of the two categories (PSAs and Conservation Clips).

When will winners be announced?

Winning schools will be notified by email no later than March 31, 2020. The list of winners will be published on our website, Twitter, and in the April 2020 issue of our newsletter, [SERT Spotlight](#).

Who do I contact if I have more questions?

Contact the SERT program by phone (240-314-1090) or email (SERT@mcpsmd.org).