

# NPG 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY STUDENT POSTER CONTEST RULES AND GUIDELINES

## PRIZES TO BE AWARDED

Note: A Total of six prizes will be awarded.

1 Grand Prize Student to receive \$1,250

1 Grand Prize Student's School to receive \$1,250

5 Honorable Mention students to receive \$500

5 Honorable Mention Students' Schools to receive \$500

## CONTEST RULES

- Contest is only open to students in the 9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Without critical changes, U.S. population is projected to reach 438 million people in less than 40 years. Create a poster to display how this projected growth resulting in ***TOO MANY PEOPLE*** will negatively affect the United States socially, economically, or environmentally. All art must include the statement ***TOO MANY PEOPLE*** and illustrate the idea that an overcrowded nation will have a negative impact on our future. (See accompanying information.)
- Posters must focus on overpopulation of the United States – not the world.
- All creative work reflected in the artwork must be original and created by the student submitting the entry.
- Posters must be flat – no three dimensional images. Acceptable mediums include: watercolor, oil, acrylics, pastels, charcoal, and markers. Please make sure pastels and charcoals are protected with a fixative or clear plastic before shipping. Crayons and colored pencils are discouraged because they do not show up well for reproduction. No glitter or other add-ons. Posters may be presented on sturdy paper or poster board, or any other artistic surface.
- All art should be made by hand, not by computer, typewriter, label maker, or any similar mechanical device.
- Posters must be no smaller than 12” by 12” and no larger than 24” by 24”.
- Poster images may be vertical or horizontal.
- All writing on the posters must be hand-lettered and in English.
- Homeschooled winners and their neighborhood school will win as though student attended that school.
- All winners – and their schools – will be acknowledged in a local press release issued by NPG. The winning entries will be posted on NPG's website.
- Posters will be judged on originality, overall impact, effectiveness in conveying the theme, and artistic merit. Winners will be decided by NPG representatives.
- All winning entrants of the Grand Prizes will be required to submit their Social Security Number before checks can be awarded.
- All posters submitted will become the property of NPG and entrants must

agree that artwork submitted, and the name of the artist and the school, can be used for future NPG educational and promotional campaigns. Entrants assign all rights, including all copyrights, to NPG. Posters will not be returned. All submissions are subject to the NPG Privacy Policy available here: [Privacy Policy](#)

- Relatives of employees or directors of NPG are not eligible. Not valid where prohibited.
- Failure to comply with all of the rules above will result in a poster's disqualification.

Questions regarding the poster contest can be directed to: [npg@npg.org](mailto:npg@npg.org) or by calling 1-703-370-9510.

## POSTER ENTRIES

- Registered teachers may submit as many as 20 posters per school.
- All entries must contain the name of the student artist, current grade of student, school name and address, teacher's name, e-mail address and phone number.
- This information must be affixed to the back of each poster submitted.
- Posters should be on poster board or thick paper. They should not be folded. They should be mailed flat (protected by strong cardboard cover) or rolled and place in mailing tubes. Please secure the ends of the mailing tubes.
- Deadline for posters to arrive at NPG is April 30, 2012. Only posters that arrive on or before this date will be judged.
- Posters must be mailed to: Negative Population Growth, 2861 Duke Street – Suite 36, Alexandria, VA 22314
- Winners will be announced by May 25, 2012, and press releases will be issued at that time. For a list of winners, write to NPG, at the address above, after May 25, 2012 or go to [www.npg.org](http://www.npg.org).

## POPULATION INFORMATION AND POSTER THEME IDEAS

Posters should illustrate the comprehensive theme of *TOO MANY PEOPLE* and can focus on population growth, overpopulation, urban sprawl, loss of valuable farmland and wetlands, limited water supplies, energy shortages, air pollution, and destruction of wildlife habitat. One or more themes can be covered in a poster. The information below outlines some of the challenges in these different areas.

### U.S. POPULATION FACTS AND INFORMATION

America's current population is now over 313 million people.

Increased population is due to two factors: fertility and new people entering our country. Today, America has the highest population growth rate of any industrialized country in the world.

From 2000 to 2010, America's population grew by 27.3 million people. Our population is currently growing by almost 3 million people per year. In the coming years, America's population will continue to grow unless we begin to implement policies to reverse this trend.

It took 139 years after our American Revolution in 1776 for America's population to reach 100 million people in 1915. But it took only 52 years – until 1967 – for our population to expand to 200 million people. In 2006, only 39 years later our nation reached a population level of 300 million. If nothing changes, we could reach well over 500 million in the average lifespan of today's students.

The population of the United States is growing faster than any other industrialized nation in the world. If we are going to remain a global leader, as well as a prosperous and healthy country, we must halt, and eventually reverse, our population growth. Right now, only China and India have populations larger than the United States.

If you were to count all 313 million people in the United States – taking one second per person – it would take more than 9 years. During the time you were counting, our nation's population would increase by almost 30 million people

If you lined up all 313 million residents of the United States back to back (with each person taking up 12 inches) the line would stretch for nearly 60,000 miles. That's enough to more than twice circle the earth at the equator or cover the distance between New York and Los Angeles 20 times.

## **LIFESPAN INFORMATION**

An American child born in 2010 currently has a projected life span of 78.3 years. Continued new breakthroughs in science and medicine during the coming decades have the potential to add years to this number. A longer lifespan for each generation will only compound the looming population crisis!

## **OVERPOPULATION**

The majority of students in school today could see America's population grow from the current 313 million people to more than 500 million people – and perhaps more – in their lifetimes. That's far **TOO MANY PEOPLE**. Those extra tens of millions of people will be fiercely competing for limited resources that are essential to a decent quality of life including land to grow crops, clean air, clean water, and energy to power our nation's economy. America's cities, schools and roads will be vastly overcrowded. And more and more people will be doing greater damage to the natural habitat of the animals who share our world.

## **URBAN SPRAWL**

Many of our nation's cities and suburban areas are facing population explosions where **TOO MANY PEOPLE** are living in too small an area. Population growth creates havoc and directly affects our quality of life. Small and large communities all across America face overcrowded

schools, gridlocked traffic, housing shortages, overburdened hospitals, increased crime and many other costly problems. These problems are only going to get worse in the coming decades with tens of millions more people unless we start to rein-in population growth.

## **LOSS OF VALUABLE FARMLANDS AND WETLANDS**

Right now, more than 2,800 acres of irreplaceable and productive farmland all across the United States are paved over every day for new houses, businesses, highways and other uses and that number will greatly increase if America gains *TOO MANY PEOPLE*. Once lost, such rich, fertile acreage is almost impossible to reclaim. The important crops and livestock we raise on America's valuable farmland and grazing land are crucial to our future as they help feed people not only in our country but also in other nations.

## **LIMITED WATER SUPPLIES**

America's population continues to grow, but there is only a limited amount of fresh water available to sustain human and animal life. Our nation has made great strides in controlling pollution in recent years but we critically need to address the supply of water that will be available for human and agricultural needs in the future. *TOO MANY PEOPLE* in many areas, especially in America's West and Southwest, where population is growing faster than any other place in the nation, will put a major drain on rivers and natural aquifers. Long-term droughts will create major water crises.

## **ENERGY SHORTAGES**

*TOO MANY PEOPLE* mean increased demand for oil, gasoline, natural gas and coal to run our cars, trucks, airplanes, factories, businesses and homes. Only a few decades ago, when America's population was much smaller, we produced almost all of the energy we needed. The larger our population becomes the more we will have to depend on foreign countries for our energy supplies. Meanwhile, we will continue to put great strains on our environment as we work to maximize our domestic oil, coal and natural gas production to accommodate more and more people in the future.

## **AIR POLLUTION**

Decades of neglecting to pay attention to the quality of our nation's air have led to dirty and harmful air pollution all over the United States. It is a problem that extends far beyond big cities because weather patterns spread pollution far and wide. *TOO MANY PEOPLE* means more air laden with pollutants that will further distress humans, animals, plants, trees and bodies of water. If our nation finds it so hard to cope with this problem today, what can we expect in the future when tens of millions of additional people will be contributing to the problem?

## **DESTRUCTION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT**

There are already more than 1,000 species in the United States that are threatened with extinction because *TOO MANY PEOPLE* are encroaching on and damaging their natural habitat.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, from 2000 to 2030, housing development is projected to increase on about 21 million acres of rural, private land surrounding national forests and grasslands scattered across the country, which will result in excessive pollution of our streams, rivers, bays and estuaries also presents a crisis for marine life.

NPG's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Student Poster Contest is sponsored by Negative Population Growth and the tens of thousands of NPG members who are working together to halt, and eventually reverse, America's population growth so that we will leave a prosperous and livable nation to future generations. Negative Population Growth is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

*NEGATIVE POPULATION GROWTH \* 2861 DUKE STREET \* SUITE 36 \* ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314*