

# McCormick

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Biggest Achievement of 2023

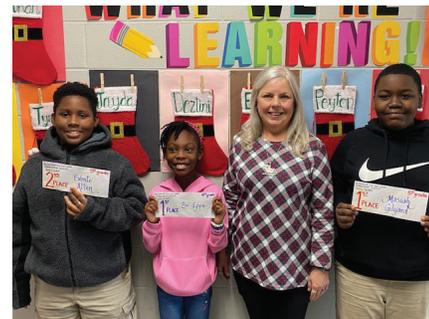


McCormick Soil and Water Conservation District Chairman Bob Edmonds, presented a check to Dr. Timothy Keown, president of the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe (pictured above). The school is the only residential high school for agricultural education in America. It is a place where students don't just learn about the world in a classroom, they get out and experience it, getting their hands dirty as their young minds are focused on the future. These are the future leaders of the nation. It is an amazing, unique place, a brand-new establishment created within the state's oldest public school founded in 1797. It was declared a Governor's School in 2020. It is taking its place alongside the other two Governor's Schools in the state. The district is proud to sponsor the school each year.

### Other Notable Accomplishment

McCormick County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored a nature themed poetry contest open to fourth and fifth grade students at McCormick Elementary School.

The winning students were (left to right): Evonte Allen (second place, 5th grade), Zoe Epps (first place, 4th grade), Bonnie Brown (associate commissioner), and Masiah Gilyard (first place, 5th grade). Not pictured: Landon Chamberlain (second place, 4th grade).



### Conservation by the Numbers

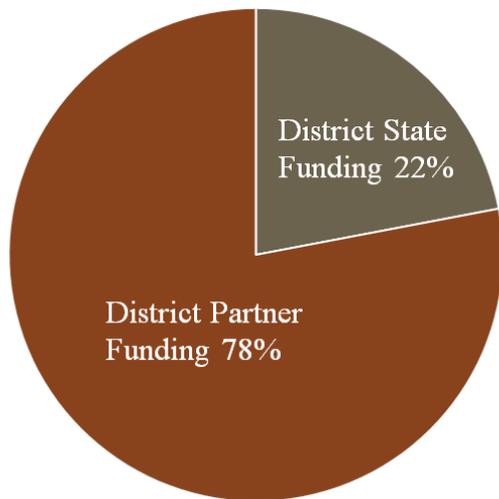
- 27,317 acres in McCormick County were enrolled in conservation programs
- Assisted with implementation of more than \$450,000 for conservation practices in McCormick County

### 2024 District Plans

- Award scholarships to and sponsor FFA at the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture
- Host a photo contest
- Sponsor SC Envirothon

# South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2023 Impact

## State FY24 Conservation District Funding



**For every \$1 of state appropriated funds to Conservation Districts, \$3.40 on average is leveraged to implement conservation programs in South Carolina.**

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Conservation Districts assist with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill Programs which brought more than **\$55 million** to South Carolina's private lands for conservation implementation in federal FY23.

**More than 190,000 students** were reached by conservation district youth oriented programs such as school gardening, seed libraries, SC Envirothon, Arbor Day and Earth Day events, stormwater education, scholarships, and conservation related contests, etc.

**More than 2 million adults** were educated on conservation topics including Farm Bill Programs, pollinator promotion, stormwater mitigation, invasive species control, prescribed fire, water quality and conservation, habitat restoration, land easements, etc.

**More than 10,000 acres** statewide were impacted by conservation rental equipment available through conservation districts (no-till drills, prescribed fire equipment, hog traps, etc.).

SC Envirothon State Champions from Spartanburg Day School represented South Carolina at the 2023 international NCF-Envirothon Competition competing against teams from the US, Canada, Singapore and China.

Programs involving land easements, habitat restoration, invasive species removal, water conservation, watershed improvement, litter removal, and conservation education are just a handful of the vast conservation topics implemented statewide by Conservation Districts.