



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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World Soil Day, December 5th

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Cornell University, Glendale High School and IES Pontepedriña Secondary School won the FAO soil painting contest



The FAO Global Soil Partnership announced the winners of the World Soil Day 2017 soil painting contest. In October 2017, FAO launched a painting and video competition for young people worldwide to design posters and make videos for World Soil Day 2017. The competition took place in three age groups.

The above 18 group winner is **Cornell University Soil Health Lab's** team from Ithaca, US. Their painting depicts the Three Sisters of Haudenosaunee agriculture in an active, lively painting where the ground represented the roots from which American sustainable agricultural practices developed. Participants from **IES Pontepedriña Secondary School from Spain, Glendale High School from the US, Unidad Educativa Educar 2000 from Ecuador and the Northwestern Senior High School from the US** came 1st to 3rd in the 12 to 18 age group.

More than fifteen groups from around the world registered for the competition.

[Read more](#)





Global Soil Partnership

English

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Soil Painting competition

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The soil under our feet may not be something we think about often, but it is the foundation for everything we need in our life – and it's disappearing. More than fifteen groups from around the world registered for the competition inspired by an event Kirsten Kurtz and the Soil Health Lab's hosted in 2015 for World Soil Day, aims to showcase creativity in illustrating soil's crucial role in sustaining life.



The competition, which was organized by the FAO Global Soil Partnership (GSP), asked children and youth (divided in 3 categories starting from age of 5), to draw and paint a canvas based on the World Soil Day 2017 theme 'Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground'. They then had to shoot a time-lapse video no longer than 1 minute of the art-making process and share it with the GSP Secretariat. Most of the participant entries complied with the selection criteria - they were drawn and sketched using pens, pencils, crayons and painted with soil-derived pigments - some others did not as they were painted with oil, acrylic and watercolour paint, as well as mixed media.

Three winning time-lapse videos were selected as finalists by the jury for categories B (Secondary and High School) and C (College and University). World Soil Day and its advocacy campaigns, including the soil painting competition 2017 show global commitments to support achieving different FAO strategic objectives, in particular advocacy for making agriculture more productive and sustainable and the achievement of #ZeroHunger by 2030.

Experimenting with soil painting ended up being an effective tool for communicating with the public the importance of soil. We have no other choice but to hand together and join forces to save this essential resource and in this case, it was done by turning our attention to its natural beauty.

[Soil Painting competition](#) | [Cornell Chronicle](#)



First Classified for the Soil Painting competition for Group B: IES Pontepedriña Secondary School, Santiago de Compostela, A Coruña, Spain

The project started reflecting on the Galicia Massive wildfires occurred on 15 October 2017 due to drought, high temperatures, hurricane Ofelia, and missing/insufficient land planning. From November 21th the students started searching for different pigments. In November 24 they planned a visit to the burned areas. On the 30th of November they started painting mural and organized a conference on wild fires and their extreme effects.

Authors: Painters - Iria Febrero, Irene García, Silvia Fuentes, Cristina Díaz, Paula Alfonsín, Estela Pintos. Cameras - Laura Caeiro, Lois Morón, Daniel Méndez, Artur Vázquez.



After the Fire_Despois do lume_(FAO-Pontepedriña) from Nicolás Lucas on Vimeo.