

Junior Duck Stamp Program

Fact Sheet

What is the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program?

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is a dynamic education program designed to teach wetland and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The program combines scientific and wildlife management principles with the visual arts bringing new interest to both the sciences and the arts.

After learning about wetland and waterfowl conservation, students are encouraged to create drawings and paintings of waterfowl to submit to their state Junior Duck Stamp Contest. The winning art from each state is judged in a national contest. In 2011, more than 27,000 students participated in the Junior Duck Stamp Contest.

What are the prizes?

At the national level, students with the top three winning art entries and the top conservation message receive cash awards. The first place art entry receives \$5,000. The second and third place winners receive \$3000 and \$2000 and \$500 is awarded to the conservation message winner. Additionally, each year the first place national art award winner and a parent are invited to participate in the First Day of Sale Ceremony for the Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp.

When and where is the Junior Duck Stamp Contest held?

Each year, students submit their artwork in mid-March (earlier for some states). State contests are held in March and April; the national contest is held in late April. In 2011, the contest was held at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Philadelphia. A location for the 2012 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest has not yet been selected.

Who participates in the Junior Duck Stamp Contest?

The Junior Duck Stamp Contest is open to all school-age children in kindergarten through 12th grade, whether home schooled, in public school or non formal education groups. Participation in the Junior Duck Stamp Program largely depends upon dedicated teachers and parents who incorporate the program into various learning environments.

The Junior Duck Stamp program is administered by state and regional coordinators, most of whom are employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state natural resource agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations.

What happens to the winning art?

Each year, the winning entry from the national contest is made into the next Federal Junior Duck Stamp and sold for \$5. Proceeds generated from the sale of Junior Duck Stamps are returned to state coordinators to support the program and continue to provide conservation education throughout the United States. In past years, sales of Junior Duck Stamps have raised nearly \$200,000 annually.

Help celebrate the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program 20 Year Anniversary!

In 2012, the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program will celebrate its 20 year anniversary. In recognition of this event the Federal Duck Stamp Office will release a new interdisciplinary curriculum for public educators. Please call Duck Stamp Office for a copy. The public educators curriculum will be released in September, 2011



2011 - 2012 Federal Junior Duck Stamp
by Illinois artist Abraham Hunter; age 17

for the new JDS contest year. The curriculum will be available on the Junior Duck Stamp website - <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck> and on CD. Supplemental guides for the new curriculum for home school and informal educators will be released in 2012.

When did the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program get started?

In 1989, a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation helped to create a conservation and arts curriculum named the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program. In 1994, Congress passed the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act authorizing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to sponsor the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program and produce the Junior Duck Stamp.

In 2001, the U.S. Postal Service began selling Junior Duck Stamps in its USA Philatelic Catalog, greatly increasing stamp sales and providing more revenue for environmental education activities and program

materials. On October 13, 2009, the President signed the reauthorization of the Junior Duck Stamp Act, authorizing the program for an additional five years.

How can I buy a Junior Duck Stamp?

Federal Junior Duck Stamps are sold through the U.S. Postal Service's Philatelic Catalog, Amplex, and National Wildlife Refuges. The Federal Duck Stamp Office does not sell duck stamp products, but it does allow licensed vendors to produce and sell products bearing the images of both Federal and Junior Duck Stamps. To license the Junior Duck Stamp image, contact the Federal Duck Stamp Office (703) 358-2007.

What students say about the Junior Duck Stamp Program?

The program teaches students about waterfowl and wetland habitats, increases their appreciation for natural places and instills a sense of responsibility and land stewardship.

"In researching the Tundra Swan, I realized how limited their habitat is and how important it is to keep the environment clean."

Amy Galipeault, 18, Vermont.

"Growing up in the sportsman's paradise of Louisiana, we are raised to have an appreciation for the wildlife and their homes. This contest has enhanced my love for the outdoors."

Evan Austin, 14, Louisiana.

Buy Junior Duck Stamps!

To purchase a Federal Junior Duck Stamp and support environmental education, please contact:

United States Postal Service
<http://www.usps.com>
 1-800-782-6724 or
 1-800-STAMP24

Amplex Corporation
<http://www.duckstamp.com>
 1-800-852-4897

Many National Wildlife Refuges
<http://www.fws.gov/Refuges>
(Call to make sure they sell the stamp!)

What educators say about the Junior Duck Stamp Program

"The Junior Duck Stamp Program uses Science, Art and Language Arts to connect children with nature. It taps into children's creativity while bringing the outdoors into the classroom." Toni Westland, J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Florida.

"When I see the artwork come in, I'm inspired by the creativity of our young folks. When I think of the research, education, and work that goes into each piece of art, I'm hopeful for the future of our natural resources. It's an all-around awesome program!" Lorrie Beck, Great Plains Nature Center, Kansas.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program
 4501 N. Fairfax Dr. MS 4075
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<http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/>
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**Conservation
 Through the Arts**
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Philadelphia students study waterfowl on wetlands at John Heinz NWR, PA as an outdoor activity after the 2011 Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Photo: Lavonda Walton/USFWS

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2011 Junior Duck Stamp Contest at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Pennsylvania. Photo: Lavonda Walton/USFWS