

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 educational program designed to teach wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The program combines scientific and wildlife management principles with the visual arts. This non-traditional pairing of subjects brings new interest to both the sciences and the arts and help's connect children with their natural world. After learning about wetlands and waterfowl conservation, students are encouraged to create realistic drawings and paintings of any North American waterfowl species to submit to their state Junior Duck Stamp Contest.

What is the Junior Duck Stamp Contest?

Each state holds a contest for different age groups, then submits one Best of Show to be entered in the national contest. At the national level, students with the top three art entries and the top conservation message receive cash awards. In 2008, over 31,000 students participated in the Junior Duck Stamp Contest and the first place artist received \$5,000. Additionally, each year the first place national art award winner, his or her art teacher and a parent are invited to participate in the First Day of Sale Ceremony for both the Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp.

Each year the winning entry from the national contest is made into the Junior Duck Stamp sold for \$5. Proceeds generated from the sale of Junior Duck Stamps are returned to state coordinators to support the program. 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, at a different

location each year. In 2008, the world famous San Diego Zoo hosted the contest.

Who participates in the Junior Duck Stamp Contest?

The Junior Duck Stamp Contest is open to all U.S., school children in kindergarten through twelfth grade, whether home schooled or in public school. Participation in the Junior Duck Stamp Program is largely dependent on dedicated teachers and parents who incorporate the program into various learning environments. The program is administrated 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.

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 at many national wildlife refuges.

When did the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program get started?

In 1989, a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation was used 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 program and produce the Junior Duck Stamp. In 2001, the U.S. Postal Service began selling Junior Duck Stamps in



2008 - 2009 Junior Duck Stamp

Seokkyun Hong / USFWS

its USA Philatelic Catalog, greatly increasing stamp sales and providing more revenue for environmental education activities and program materials. On January 10, 2006, the President signed the reauthorization of the Junior Duck Stamp Act, authorizing the program for an additional five years.

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.

"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

"It is our responsibility to protect and

preserve our precious natural habitats with fever and reverence – inaction means destruction.” Brett Cooper, 18, Nebraska

What teachers say about the Junior Duck Stamp Program.

“This contest has done so much good for our students. I think it is very worthwhile. All of my students are more aware and knowledgeable about our Hawaiian wildlife.” Karen, Middle School Teacher, Oahu, Hawaii

“The Program not only teaches, it builds confidence.” Karrie Schmidt, Junior Duck Stamp Program State Coordinator, South Dakota

Buy Junior Duck Stamps

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

United States Postal Service
www.usps.com
1-800-782-6724 or 1-800-STAMP24

Amplex Corporation
www.duckstamp.com
1-800-852-4897

National Wildlife Refuges
www.fws.gov/Refuges

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Federal Duck Stamp Program
(703) 358-2000
<http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck>**

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