

Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program

Educational Curriculum Guides

As we celebrate over 20 years of the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program, we are excited to announce four new Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) Program guides: the *Educator*, *Youth*, *Homeschool*, and *Nonformal*.

The JDS Program has redesigned its arts and science curriculum, modernizing it to make it more relevant to today's students, educators and communities. It is designed to **spark youth interest in habitat conservation through science, art, math and technology.**

Written, field-tested and evaluated by teachers, environmental educators and biologists, the new curriculum includes such elements as using the Internet as a conservation tool and new scientific information about today's

conservation challenges (e.g., climate change and its impact on wetland habitat). It is multi-culturally relevant and incorporates information to stimulate students' interest in careers in natural resources.

In addition, for the first time, we now offer conservation education tools designed specifically for use in homeschool settings and by those in charge of community after school programs and various other youth activities.

The foundational *Youth* and *Educator* guides provide lesson plans, with exercises, focusing on scientific principles, our



2015-2016 Junior Duck Stamp

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changing natural world, and fun.

The re-designed curriculum, aimed at students in grades 5-8, encourages children to engage with their natural world and develop a deeper appreciation



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<http://www.fws.gov/birds/education/junior-duck-stamp-conservation-program.php>

On Facebook at "Federal-Junior-Duck-Stamp"

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Conservation Through the Arts
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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of natural resources. It stresses wildlife observation, nature journaling, photography, enjoying and exploring the outside world, and investigating the treasures of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The new curriculum and activities meet National Science Education Standards, North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) standards and National Visual Arts education standards for children in grades K-12.

The new curriculum gives students – and teachers – an opportunity to investigate what is fun, unique and mysterious about waterfowl and wetlands in North America.

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is a dynamic arts curriculum that teaches wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school.

The program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into a visual arts curriculum with participants completing a painting or drawing as their visual “term papers.”

Annually, about 29,000 students participate in the Junior Duck Stamp Program. Students create realistic images of any North American waterfowl species. Each state holds a contest for different age groups then submits one “Best of Show” to be entered in the national contest.

The first place art entry nationally receives \$1,000; second place receives \$500 and third place receives \$200. At the national level, a conservation message is also chosen, and the winning message receives \$200.

Each year the winning entry from the national contest is made into the Junior Duck Stamp, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sells for \$5. Proceeds generated from the sale of stamps are used for environmental education and to support the Junior Duck Stamp Program.

In addition, each year the first place national art award winner and a parent are invited to participate in the First Day of Sale Ceremony for both the Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp.

The Junior Duck Stamp Contest is open to all U.S. children in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Units in the Junior Duck Stamp Educator Guide and Youth Guide include:

- The Call of the Wild Duck
- What is a... Waterfowl
- A Day in the Life
- Raising a Family in a Wetland
- Going the Distance
- Learning from the Past; Taking Action for the Future

Activities in each unit include:

- Pencil-to-paper Warm-up: Jump-start the “why” part of students’ brains by sketching
- Explore: Check out some of the kinds of places where waterfowl live or watch wildlife
- Investigate: Learn what questions scientists asking about waterfowl
- Express: Write, draw, paint or use other means to express what you’ve learned
- Share: Reflect on activities and talk with classmates about what you’ve learned
- Pencil-to-paper Wrap-up: Reconsider your warm-up sketch and apply what you’ve learned to make it more realistic



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Activities encourage students to investigate and explore waterfowl and wetlands