

Junior Duck Stamp Program

Celebrating 20 Years of Conservation through the Arts

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

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2012, the Federal Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) Conservation and Design Program is a dynamic education program that teaches students in kindergarten through high school about wetlands and waterfowl conservation. The program combines scientific principles with visual arts - bringing new interest to both disciplines.

After learning about wetlands and waterfowl conservation, students create drawings and paintings of North American waterfowl species to submit to their state Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest. The winning art from each state is judged in a national contest. In 2012, nearly 27,000 children from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and several U.S. territories participated in the Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest. This does not include the thousands of other students who participated in JDS education activities in schools, after-school programs, home schools and on national wildlife refuges.

New for 2012: A Fresh Education Curriculum

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program, we redesigned our core arts and science curriculum, modernizing it to make it more relevant to contemporary teaching in the age of technology. The new curriculum is designed to spark youth interest in habitat conservation through science, art and math.

Written, field-tested and evaluated by environmental educators, biologists and teachers, the new curriculum covers today's conservation challenges, such as climate change and its impact on

wetland habitat. It is multi-culturally relevant and designed to stimulate students' interest in careers in nature.

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

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

What is the Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest?

Each state holds a contest during which art is judged in various age groups, then submits one "Best of Show" to the national contest.

At the national level, students with the top three art entries and the top conservation message receive cash awards. In addition to receiving a \$5,000 prize, the first place national art award winner and a parent participate in



*2012-2013 Junior Duck Stamp
Art by Christine Clayton, 17, of Sidney, Ohio*



A young Minnesota artist poses with Junior Duck Stamp Contest entries. USFWS photo.

the First Day of Sale Ceremony for the Federal and Junior Duck Stamps.

The winning art at the national level is made into the Junior Duck Stamp, which sells for \$5 and raises money for environmental education. Some \$200,000 has been raised through the sale of these stamps.

When is the Junior Duck Stamp Contest held?

State contests are held in March and April (earlier in some states); the national contest is held in late April at a different location throughout the country. In 2012, the contest was held at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Md. A location for the 2012 National Junior Duck Stamp Contest has not been selected.

Who participates in the Junior Duck Stamp Contest?

The Junior Duck Stamp Contest is open to all children in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Dedicated teachers and parents incorporate the program into various learning environments - home schools, public and private school classrooms, and non-formal education settings such as scout groups, 4-H and national wildlife refuges.

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.

Here's some of the recent Junior Duck Stamp chatter:

"The Junior Duck Stamp Program... taps into children's creativity while bringing the outdoors into the classroom." --Junior Duck Stamp State Coordinator

"I participated in the Jr. Duck Stamp program as a high school student and now I am so happy to introduce it to my Art students. Conservation of wildlife and their habitat is so important and teaching it through Art-making helps the message sink in." - Katie Morris, Pauline South Intermediate School, Topeka, KS

"This contest has enhanced my love for the outdoors." --Evan Austin, 14, Louisiana

How can I buy Junior Duck Stamps?

Junior Duck Stamps are sold through the U.S. Postal Service's Philatelic Catalog, Amplex, and National Wildlife Refuges (see sidebar for details). The Federal Duck Stamp Office allows 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.

Celebrating 20 Years of the Junior Duck Stamp Program!

From just one state, the Junior Duck Stamp Program has grown to be a national initiative. In 1989, a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation helped create a conservation and arts curriculum called the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program. In 1992, the first stamps were sold on a sheet that included winners from each participating state.

In 1994, Congress passed the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act, authorizing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to sponsor the program and produce the Junior Duck Stamp.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Junior Duck Stamp Program
(703) 358-2405
www.fws.gov/juniorduck/

June 2012



**Conservation
Through the Arts**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Buy Junior Duck Stamps and
Support Conservation Education
Where to buy Junior Duck Stamps

U.S. Postal Service
www.usps.com
1-800-782-6724 (1-800-STAMP24)

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

Find a national wildlife refuge that sells
Junior Duck Stamps at
www.fws.gov/refuges
(call first to ensure they sell the stamp)

Be Part of Conservation!

Find us....

On the Web:
www.fws.gov/juniorduck

On Facebook:
Federal Junior duck Stamp

On email:
duckstamps@fws.gov

"In researching the tundra swan, I realized how limited their habitat is and how important it is to help keep the environment clean." --Amy Galipeault, 18, Vermont