

Junior Duck Stamp Program

Conservation Through the Arts

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is a dynamic art- and science-based curriculum that teaches wetland and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school.

The program encourages students to explore their natural world, invites them to investigate biology and wildlife management principles, and challenges them to express and share with others what they have learned.

Wetlands Learning and Visual “Term Papers”

The Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest is the culmination of the Junior Duck Stamp educational program. After studying waterfowl anatomy and habitat, students express their newfound knowledge by drawing or painting a picture of an eligible North American waterfowl species.

Students from across the United States submit their artwork to their state, territory or district art competition.



After learning about wetlands and waterfowl conservation, students paint a picture of a duck or goose. USFWS



2025-2026 Junior Duck Stamp featuring a drake northern shoveler by Catheryn Liang, age 18, Texas (c) USFWS

All styles of two-dimensional visual art that meet the basic criteria for the contest are encouraged. Student's personal styles include hyper-realistic, caricature, ethnic, whimsical and abstract art. Eligible species are depicted in a variety of media.

The “Best of Show” from each competition is submitted to the National Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest, where judges select one image to become the next Junior Duck Stamp. A national conservation message is also chosen.

Students receive recognition at the state level. The top three national artists and the winning conservation message receive scholarships.

In 2025, approximately 13,500 youth participated in their state and territory Junior Duck Stamp art contests.

Art Benefits Conservation Education

The winning artwork from the national art contest serves as the design for the Junior Duck Stamp, which the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service produces annually.

All revenue from the sale of Junior Duck Stamps goes to support recognition and environmental education activities for students who participate in the program.

Many students, parents and educators buy \$5 Junior Duck Stamps to support conservation education. The stamp has become a much sought after collector's item, similar to Federal Duck Stamps.

Modern Education Curriculum

A curriculum guide with activities and resources is the basis of the Junior Duck Stamp education program. Students, educators, parents and youth activity group leaders use the curriculum as a year-round study plan to aid in exploring science in real-life situations. Using scientific and wildlife observation principles, students are encouraged to communicate visually what they have learned through an entry into the Junior Duck Stamp art contest. This non-traditional pairing of subjects brings new interest to both the sciences and the arts. It crosses cultural, ethnic, social and geographic boundaries to teach greater



The Junior Duck Stamp Program goes beyond the classroom. Students are encouraged to get outdoors to observe waterfowl and other wildlife as they learn about conservation and create their art contest entry. USFWS/Tamara Zeller.

awareness of our nation's natural resources.

Dedicated educators and parents incorporate the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Education Curriculum into various learning environments - public and private school classrooms, home schools, and nonformal education settings such as scout groups, 4-H and national wildlife refuges.

By displaying student artwork and delivering waterfowl and wetland related outdoor activities, state coordinators share student accomplishments with over 300,000 students, families and community members annually.

Our History

The program began in 1989 to encourage students to learn about the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. The Federal Duck Stamp is a conservation tool raises funds to conserve habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The national Junior Duck Stamp art contest started in 1993. The first stamp design was selected from eight participating states. The program was recognized by Congress with the 1994 enactment of the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act. By 2000, the program included all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories.

2025-2026 Junior Duck Stamp National Conservation Message Winner:

"Nature needs heroes; be one."

-Kaylen Kasel, age 16, North Dakota

Buy Junior Duck Stamps - Support Conservation Education!

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

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

And at some national wildlife refuges - find a refuge near you at:
www.fws.gov/program/national-wildlife-refuge-system

The Junior Duck Stamp Program encourages partnerships among federal and state government agencies, nongovernment organizations, businesses, and volunteers to help recognize and honor thousands of teachers and students throughout the United States for their participation in conservation activities. Talk to your state coordinator to help keep conservation through the arts alive in your community!

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Junior Duck Stamp Program
 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: MB
 Falls Church, VA 22041**

703/358-2457
duckstamp@fws.gov

www.fws.gov/program/junior-duck-stamp

Facebook:
 USFWS_Migratory Birds

Twitter: @USFWSBirds

July 2025



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

