

# 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 wetland and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into a visual arts activity. This non-traditional pairing of subjects brings new interest to both the sciences and the arts. After learning about wetland and waterfowl conservation, students are encouraged to create drawings and paintings to submit to their state Junior Duck Stamp Contest.

### What is the Junior Duck Stamp Contest?

In 2010, over 27,000 students participated in the Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Students are required to 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. At the national level, students with the top three art entries and the top conservation message receive cash awards. In 2010, the first place art entry received \$5,000. Additionally, each year the first place national art award winner, his or her parent are invited to participate in the First Day of Sale Ceremony for both the Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp. The 2010 First Day of Sale Event is June 25, at the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Hanover, Maryland.

### 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. Each year, the National Contest is held at a different location throughout the country. In

2010, the contest was held at the Science Museum of Minnesota in Saint Paul, Minnesota. A location for the 2011 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 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 is Junior Duck Stamp revenue spent?

Each year the winning entry from the national contest is made into the next 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. In past years, sales of Junior Duck Stamps have raised nearly \$200,000.

### 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 U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Federal Duck Stamp Office does not sell duck stamp



Rui Huang / USFWS

2010 - 2011 Junior 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.

### 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 Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to sponsor the Junior conservation 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 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 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

“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

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

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