



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge *Refuge Partner Teacher Program*

Empowering Teachers

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge has initiated a new teacher-led environmental education model that emphasizes teacher training, fieldtrip planning support, and multidisciplinary, standard-based curriculum. The curriculum incorporates hands-on, real-life experiences with plants and wildlife. The ***Refuge Partner Teacher Program*** is open to any teacher interested in using the Refuge as their own personal outdoor classroom!



Refuge Partner Teacher Program Highlights

- Attend at least one *Refuge Orientation Workshop* the first year to participate in the ***Program***. Offered 3 times each year, these Workshops highlight curriculum and teaching materials and equipment for the season. After that, attend only one additional Refuge training every 3 years to continue in the ***Program***.
- Work directly with Refuge education staff to develop personalized fieldtrip plans that support classroom learning in science as well as other academic areas.
- Receive free multi-disciplinary, standard-based Refuge curriculum that highlights biological events of each season, provides literature connections, and rainy day alternatives.



- Participate in a variety of outdoor experiences like hiking, fishing and wildlife observation using refuge binoculars, poles and spotting scopes.



What Does It Cost?

It's **FREE!** Participation in the ***Program*** and all teacher workshops, trainings and associated curriculums are **FREE!** There are also **NO STUDENT PARTICIPATION FEES!** ***Refuge Partner Teachers*** may reserve classroom space and all teaching equipment and materials associated with Refuge curriculum during regular Visitor Center hours. In addition, the *Refuge Friends, Inc.*, a 501-C3 non-profit organization, has established the **Blue Goose Bus Fund**. Thanks to generous donations ***Refuge Partner Teachers*** are eligible to request scholarships for busing expenses provided funds are available.

To Register Please Contact

Bloomington Visitor Center (Bloomington, MN) 952-858-0715

Rapids Lake Education & Visitor Center (Carver, MN) 952-361-4511