



## DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

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December 2023

Dear Educator/Parent,

As the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) coordinator I would like to encourage youth in grades K-12 to learn about wetlands & waterfowl conservation and to express that knowledge, artistically, by submitting an entry to the 2023-2024 Junior Duck Stamp “Conservation through the Arts” program. Visit the link ([www.fws.gov/juniorduck](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck)) for important contest information and to download the official guidelines brochure, entry form, and reference form.

By participating in this program students become acquainted with one of the most successful wildlife & wetland habitat restoration programs in the history of the nation...Duck Stamps! What better way to learn than through first-hand observation of the waterfowl that live in and migrate through the Commonwealth.

The JDS Program, **‘Connecting Youth to Nature Through Science and Art’**, has an arts and science curriculum to spark youth interest in habitat conservation through science, art, math, and technology. Aimed at students in grades 5-8, with suggested adaptations for younger and older audiences, the curriculum encourages students to *engage with their natural world and develop a deeper appreciation of natural resources*. Students have an opportunity to increase their knowledge of waterfowl anatomy, adaptations, climate change, migration, habitats, field journaling, waterfowl painting techniques, and science and art process skills (observation, data gathering & interpretation, creative & critical thinking, problem solving, and artistic expression). You may download the free curriculum at [www.fws.gov/juniorduck](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck).

The culmination of the learning should be students expressing what they have learned, artistically, through an entry to the statewide competition!

In early March five professional artists with expertise in art, natural science, waterfowl, and habitat conservation judge the entries (*live or virtual*) in the four categories: grades K-3, grades 4-6, grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. Every official entrant receives a certificate of participation and the top 25 artists in each age category are recognized.

A combination of the top 100 pieces of art goes on tour for a year to various venues across Massachusetts. The artwork selected as Best of Show represents the Commonwealth in a national competition and will then tour nationally with the Best of Show exhibit.

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*If students are drawing from reference art, please make sure they understand the correct ways to use reference art, which may be different from other art programs. The student's artwork should not be easily recognized as coming from any particular source.*

*Please also become very familiar with the plagiarism guidelines within the official JDS Conservation & Design Contest Entry Brochure: Special Information for Supervising Adults, Original Student Design and Artwork, Original Artwork Requirement and Artistic Integrity, Tips on the Use of References, Some Tips on How to Avoid Copying and Plagiarism.*

I look forward to receiving your students' artwork. Please help spread the word about this 'Conservation through the Arts' program by sharing the information with others! Thank you for your interest in youth, art, conservation, and the future!

Artwork submissions must be **postmarked no later than midnight February 15, 2024**, and sent to:

**Pam Landry, Wildlife Education Coordinator  
Junior Duck Stamp Program  
MassWildlife  
1 Rabbit Hill Road  
Westboro, MA 01581**

pam.landry@mass.gov  
www.mass.gov/masswildlife  
www.facebook.com/masswildlife

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### **Important Information**

#### **Please Read Carefully to Prevent Disqualification**

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***Please also become very familiar with the plagiarism guidelines within the official JDS Conservation & Design Contest Entry Brochure: Special Information for Supervising Adults, Original Student Design and Artwork, Original Artwork Requirement and Artistic Integrity, Tips on the Use of References, Some Tips on How to Avoid Copying and Plagiarism, Example of How to Use a Reference Image.***

- ☐ **To prevent disqualification, understand the guidelines by reading all the way through the official entry brochure (especially information on plagiarism) before you start your artwork.**
- ☐ Physical size of **submitted artwork** must be **9" x 12" horizontal**.
- ☐ A completed **entry form**, including signature of parent or guardian, student, and teacher, must **be securely attached with tape to the back of each piece of art.**
- ☐ Please ensure that artwork is dry prior to sending.
- ☐ Each student is encouraged to write a **brief conservation message** that expresses the spirit of what they as an **individual** have learned through classroom discussions, research, and planning for their Junior Duck Stamp Contest entries. **Conservation messages should be limited to the space provided on the entry form.**
- ☐ Students in groups III & IV must submit a **Reference Form** (see official entry brochure) with their entry.
- ☐ A **typed list of students' names** must accompany the artwork.
- ☐ Chalk & pastel entries **must be sprayed** with a fixative prior to submitting.
- ☐ For additional waterfowl information visit the **MassWildlife website** at **www.mass.gov/masswildlife** or **Federal JDS website** at **www.fws.gov/juniorduck**
- ☐ Help support the Junior Duck Stamp Program by purchasing a \$5 stamp from US Philatelic at 1-800-782-6724 or log on to **http://shop.usps.com** (key word junior duck stamp) or Amplex Corporation **www.duckstamp.com**