

PRESS RELEASE



National Fishing in Schools Program

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TWRA Increases Grant Funding to Catch More Students

Tennessee Teachers and PTOs Embrace "Fishing In Schools Program"

(September 10, 2012) NASHVILLE --- The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) announces the availability of additional grant dollars to assist schools adopting The National Fishing in Schools Program (NFSP) during the 2012 school year.

Initial funding was set aside for ten grants at \$1,000 each per calendar year. However, due to the growing popularity of the fly-fishing curriculum with students, parents and teachers, an additional \$4,000 has been allocated to fund classrooms in 2012. Schools incorporating NFSP into their learning activities are also eligible to coordinate TWRA School-sponsored "Free-Fishing Days" on local streams, lakes or ponds.

The National Fishing in Schools Program is currently deployed in more than a dozen states. This 10 week course, approved by the State Boards of Education, enables middle school and high school students' to earn education credits while learning to fly fish, tie knots, and explore aquatic entomology. Students also learn about the importance of water quality and habitat conservation. The National Fishing in Schools Program curriculum and activities correlate to USA National Standards in Physical Education, Technology, Science and Language Arts.

"Tennesseans have seen an overwhelming success in the health and welfare of students in similar outdoor educational programs supported by TWRA, such as the archery and the scholastic clay target programs," according to Don King, TWRA Chief of Information and Education. ***"TWRA is committed to creating and maintaining high quality fishing opportunities and 'Fishing in Schools' complements our efforts by teaching the skills necessary to enjoy and conserve our state resources for future anglers."***

The NFSP hopes to reach 500 schools across the US and teach 225,000 youth by 2015, with support and funding from the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, State and Federal Fish/Wildlife Agencies, private companies and individual donors. Two one-day Teacher/Mentor training classes are set for October 10th & 11th at John Overton High School in Nashville. Registration at www.flyfishinginschools.org

TWRA Grant applications must be submitted by December 31, 2012. Grant Applications are available online at the TWRA website. For questions concerning these grants or the National Fishing in Schools Program in Tennessee contact Don Crawford at (615) 781-6542 or by email at Don.Crawford@tn.gov

Additional information is also available on the National Fishing in Schools Program website:
www.flyfishinginschools.org