



Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists

NFWF CONTACTS

Holly Bamford

Chief Conservation Officer
holly.bamford@nfwf.org
202-595-2460

Carrie Clingan

Program Director,
Community Stewardship
and Youth
carrie.clingan@nfwf.org
202-595-2471



A Wilderness Conservation Corps member trims back trees on a trail in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex in Montana. | Credit: Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation

HISTORY OF SUCCESS

Since 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has generated \$4.8 billion in conservation impact for species and habitats across the country. Through these investments, NFWF has engaged millions of people, including farmers, ranchers, local community leaders and young people from both urban centers and our most rural places.

Direct engagement is essential to develop appreciation for conservation efforts and commitment to sustaining those efforts over the long term. Young people are the most vital resource to safeguard the gains that have been made over the past 34 years of NFWF investments in conservation. NFWF's efforts to foster a stewardship ethic within the next generation is vital to the continued long-term success of our national, regional and local conservation investments.

APPROACH

The Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists program brings together public and private partners to connect developmentally appropriate in-class learning with out-of-class experiences and hands-on conservation actions. Many good programs exist within schools and informal education providers reaching young people. NFWF's unique approach builds on and connects those providers in a community, incorporating repeated engagement that ensures multiple, connected opportunities throughout their education and into their careers.

NFWF funds local partnerships that work together to engage children from preschool age through high school and beyond. The partnership works collectively to maximize environmental learning, stewardship identity and conservation behaviors through different developmental stages and offers a pathway into conservation careers.

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005
202-857-0166

(continued)



Students discover lake ecosystems with Wilderness Inquiry in Indiana. | Credit: Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center

STRATEGIES

Integrated Partnerships

- NFWF ensures integrated approaches to conservation development by mobilizing local coalitions of at least five community partners to support educational and conservation outcomes
- Development and/or implementation of appropriate training modules, lesson plans and other engagement for pre-K to 12th grade teachers focused on environmental literacy and stewardship of local resources
- Public-private partnership building with diverse entities including state and local agencies, urban organizations, tribes, nonprofits, corporations and foundations

Place-Based Leadership

- Place-Based Focus integrated into teacher training and student learning focuses educational activities on local natural resources with community partners
- Opportunities for students to engage in age-appropriate stewardship behaviors that reinforce environmental literacy efforts

Teacher Training

- Focuses on educator training and repeated engagement at different ages to maximize impact and benefit
- Maximizes outreach to largest number of students and has lasting impact as those teachers reach additional cohorts of students
- Tracking and measurement of participant outcomes through educator and student engagement documents and measures of long-term success

Developmental Milestones and Repeated Engagement

- **Discover Nature (K to 2nd grade):** In the early years, children need to go outside to discover nature.
- **Explore Nature (3rd to 7th grade):** During the elementary school years, exploring nature that offers

hands-on experiences.

- **Value Nature (8th to 12th grade):** The middle and high school years offer young people group stewardship activities and service learning.
- **Employment Experiences (10th grade to age 25):** These experiences introduce job training and mentorship in conservation careers.

MEASURABLE RESULTS

The goal is to increase the number of next generation conservation stewards who appreciate, value and identify with the natural world around them. The program will build on NFWF's strengths by developing conservation initiatives through strategic grant making to measure impact by tracking student engagement and outcomes over time.

Expected results include:

- Hundreds of thousands of conservation stewards
- Pathways to develop stewardship behavior into conservation careers
- Professional development for educators
- Measurable and sustainable environmental educational efforts

SPOTLIGHT: DELAWARE RIVER WATERSHED

The Center for Aquatic Sciences' Discover the Delaware Watershed Youth Engagement Program engages 532 youth in grades six and eight and 35 of their teachers to build conservation experiences leading to stewardship of the Delaware River watershed. This multi-year project provides students, administrators and teachers with extensive knowledge of local waterways and urban sustainability, as well as an understanding of the importance of lakes, rivers and streams to promote restoration and conservation in the Delaware Watershed.