“The Future of Fishing”

FISHING EDUCATION FOUNDATION

National Fishing in Schools Program

Fishing Education Foundation
National Fishing in Schools Program
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The National Fishing in Schools Program (NFSP) is a nationwide program that teaches the positive, lifetime activity of fishing in public and private schools and institutions across the U.S. NFSP educates students about fish, insects, aquatic environments, resource stewardship and conservation. NFSP cooperates with state departments of education, state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, and public and private groups interested in reaching our youth with a constructive outdoor education program.

NFSP is administered “in school” and is intended to take place during the regular school day. As a result, NFSP is able to reach youth that may not otherwise have the opportunity to learn the sport. Schools conduct the course during what many consider to be the “off season” for fishing. A genuine recruitment program, more than a third (39%) of surveyed students say they had not fished at all prior to taking the course in school.*

The NFSP curricula, “Cast A Fly, Catch A Student” (using fly rods), and its soon-to-be-released companion, “Cast A Lure, Catch A Student” (using spincast rods), were specifically created to address a broad and inclusive framework of academic standards. The basic lesson plans are designed to be taught over 10 days and meet National Academic Standards in 4 areas: Language Arts, Physical Education, Science and Technology.

The all-inclusive NFSP program provides a full complement of elements required to assist the educator in teaching the sport confidently and successfully: funding, training, curriculum, equipment and support. NFSP makes the skills of fishing easy-to-learn, easy-to-administer and easy-to-teach.

The curriculum emphasizes conservation-based values that promote positive results for both students and teachers, while leading to:

- Moderate to vigorous physical activity
- An understanding and appreciation of natural elements essential for all life: fresh air, sunshine, water and natural resources
- Increased awareness of our environment and natural resources
- Better understanding and respect for the outdoors
- An understanding of fishing as an affordable, lifelong activity
- Positive, gender-neutral lifetime skills
- Appreciation for a healthy, active lifestyle, for all ages and family structures

“Fishing in Schools” closely follows the successful National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). Like that program, NFSP utilizes a 3-tiered “teach-the-teacher” training structure to educate teachers. This structure ensures standardization, simplicity and ease-of-deliverability.

* Data from “2014 Preliminary Report” by Responsive Management
The goal of “Fishing in Schools” is to “hook” youth on the outdoors using the sport of fishing as the “lure.” By providing school students an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of how to fish, NFSP hopes to help “bridge the gap” between a disconnected youth and the natural world.

The National Fishing in Schools Program provides educators with an effective in-school program that empowers them to teach outdoor education to youth using fishing as the instructional method. NFSP expects to increase participation in fishing and outdoor activities as a result of the education it provides. Additionally, by creating an outlet to connect youth with the outdoors, it is anticipated students’ level of awareness about natural resources will increase along with their desire to protect and enhance them.

With this “grass roots” approach, the program increases stewardship of:

- The outdoors in general
- Freshwater & saltwater environments
- Fish and wildlife resources

Young people everywhere, regardless of demographics, gender, physical ability, whether urban or rural, can learn the skills of fishing indoors (during the school year) and then take them outdoors to catch fish.

A cornerstone of the “Fishing in Schools” program is that a standard set of equipment, specifically selected for the program, is provided to each participating school. Safe, modern, affordable and durable, these “one-time-purchase” tools are easy for the teacher and the student to learn with and use.

NFSP’s curricula provides a consistent methodology for teaching the skill of casting and fishing. The in-school education is designed to be inclusive and appropriate for all youth. Every aspect of the “Fishing in Schools” experience, from equipment used, to material covered, is suited to a large number and variety of students.

NFSP promotes the implementation of F.I.S.H. (Fishing in Schools Happening) Tournaments in participating states. Competitive-for-fun, open-to-the-public, these events are designed to bring students and their families together for a “fishing fair.” Both indoor casting challenges and outdoor on-the-water competition will be featured in these events.

“The system you have set up is very easy to follow and straightforward. I like the mix of fishing skills and science information. That will make it easier for us to incorporate into our curriculum.”

Seth Yarish,
Norwich Free Academy
Norwich, Connecticut
The National Fishing in Schools Program (NFSP) is the registered trade name of the Fishing Education Foundation (FEF). FEF was established in 2009. FEF is a nonprofit corporation whose sole mission is to provide grants to schools to help them acquire the NFSP program. The nonprofit receives financial and payment-in-kind contributions from state and federal agencies, individuals, industry groups and companies interested in having our youth learn this lifetime outdoor skill through a unique, in-school program.

Since inception, FEF has provided grant awards to schools and institutions totaling $400,000.

Some NFSP accomplishments:

- “Fishing in Schools” is currently being taught in 225 schools and institutions in 23 states and D.C.
- Approximately 50,000 youth have received education about fishing through the NFSP program
- Each new school year, approximately 30,000 more students learn about fishing in these schools without further investment
- 285 schools/organizations from 38 states have applied for the program
- 375 elementary, middle and high school teachers have been certified by NFSP educators to teach “Fishing in Schools”

Looking to the future

NFSP’s short-term goal is to install a minimum of 300 additional schools by the end of 2015 for a total of 500. These schools will represent an estimated 75,000 students being able to take the course each year, year-after-year. In order to meet the needs of current and future applicant schools and attain this goal...

- NFSP will need to install an average of 100 schools/year
- Requiring investment of $400,000 per year to provide matching grants to schools
- These investments are “one time only”, i.e., after the initial investment to provide the necessary training, equipment and curriculum, there is no need for additional capital: each school year, a new round of “fishing recruits” undertakes “Fishing in Schools”
The National Fishing in Schools Program is unique in that it enables educators, even those with little or no previous experience, to effectively teach youth about fishing and the outdoors. Students become more interested and confident in fishing, thereby increasing participation.

Educating the Educators

The National Fishing in Schools Program utilizes a 3-tiered training process: Level 3 Educator, Level 2 Teacher Trainer and Level 1 Teacher. The purpose of this structure is to prepare the teacher in the school who educates his/her students using the "Fishing in Schools" curriculum. At least one teacher from each school must be certified to teach the curriculum prior to its implementation in an NFSP school/organization.

The comprehensive "Cast A Fly, Catch A Student” curriculum, including detailed lesson plans and units of study, provides schools with the flexibility to expand their instruction well beyond the basic two week norm. The companion curriculum, "Cast A Lure, Catch A Student”, will provide similar opportunity but employ spincast rods, rather than fly rods.

In an effort to maximize the opportunity for on-the-water experiences, NFSP encourages schools to complete the program when outdoor activity and open water are available. However, in that most schools are in session during “winter” months, lack of open water and/or suitable weather makes learning-in-the-gym in “Fishing in Schools” an effective “surrogate”. It prepares students indoors with the basic skills, so when Mother Nature allows, they are “rarin’ to go” fishing on the water. The program calls for all students to complete the program with at least one on-the-water experience.

Producing compelling results*

- **Student’s first exposure to fishing.** Going into the program, more than a third (39%) of students said they did not fish at all, meaning NFSP is reaching students who have never had experience casting a line.

- **Students like NFSP.** Nearly all NFSP students (97%) indicated they liked the program, with the majority of students (64%) saying they like it a lot.

- **NFSP increases student interest in fishing.** Among students who participated, 77% said the program made them more interested in fishing.

- **NFSP improves student confidence in fishing.** The majority (61%) reported that they feel more confident when fishing since they finished the program.

- **Students fish more after NFSP.** A majority (65%) indicated they had been fishing since the program; 31% said they fish more since they finished NFSP.

- **Students plan to continue fishing.** The vast majority of NFSP students (83%) say they are likely to go fishing in the next year.

- **Students purchase equipment.** As another indicator of their intentions to continue fishing, a quarter of NFSP students (25%) say that they had obtained fishing equipment since they finished the program.

* Data from “2014 Preliminary Report” by Responsive Management
NFSP Curriculum Kit Pictured above is a typical equipment package that each school receives. It contains everything needed to instruct the course, including rod outfits, CasTarget targets & frames, CasTarget Fish, curriculum and teaching aids.

Instructional Banner Included with the above kit; a 4’ x 8’ wall banner used as an instructional aid to guide beginning casters.

CasTarget Fish Targets 20 different species of fish are provided in each kit representing freshwater, saltwater and sea-run types. Each fish provides the “catcher” with information about the fish. These unique teaching tools are caught and released using a patented velcro system. Usable indoors and out.

Species: Bluegill (Lepomis macrochirus)
Water type: freshwater ponds, lakes
Spawns: 2 yrs; late May thru Aug; 38,000 eggs
Temp range: 69-85°
Feeds on: insects, crustaceans, plants
Average size: 6-7”; max 15”; ½-1 ¼ lbs.; record 4 ¼ lbs.
CADDISFLY

Life Cycle: Complete
Wing Shape: Tent
Number of Tails: None

Kingdom: Animalia (Animals)
Phylum: Arthropoda (Arthropods)
Class: Insecta (Insects)
Order: Trichoptera (Caddisflies)

FAmIly ExAmplE–WhITE mIllEr:
Family: leptoceridae
Genus: Nectopsyche (White millers)
Species: diarina

More InforMatIon:
Caddis can be “lumped” into 3 groups: “casebuilding”, “free-roaming” and “micro caddis.” Life cycles typically include five larval instars and one generation per year. As the larva become pupa, they typically create pupal cases or nets and become attached to rocks, vegetation or other submerged objects. Development of the final adult form takes about three weeks in most species. The insect then cuts itself free, crawls from the water or swims to the surface, and the adult emerges. It is at this time in the cycle that caddis are at greatest exposure to predation by fish, and hence the point at which the fly fisher’s attention is most often drawn. Adult caddis are known for their characteristic “skittishness.”

Waterscene & Bullseye CasTargets These targets are used for multiple instructional purposes in the NFSP curriculum. The velcro-targets serve to improve casting accuracy while also educating students about each fish, insects/food sources and flies/lures.

CasTarget Casting Mat
5’ x 30’ colored vinyl banner used in NFSP F.I.S.H. Tournaments for fun, education and competition.

Stick’ems Collection Teaching aids that instruct learners about the major insect types associated with fishing. Used in conjunction with the Waterscene targets, they educate both visually and textually.

CADDISFLY

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Trichoptera
Family: Leptoceridae
Genus: Nectopsyche
Species: diarina

Caddisfly

Designed for fast and easy set-up.

CasTarget Casting Mat
Waterscene & Bullseye CasTargets
Stick’ems Collection

NATIONAL FISHING IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM
How schools get Involved

The National Fishing in Schools Program primary function is to provide curriculum, training, equipment and grant funding to elementary schools, middle schools and high schools. To get started in “Fishing in Schools”, schools/organizations may purchase the program outright, partner with other schools/districts in their area or apply for grant funding from the Fishing Education Foundation or other similar sources.

Outlined below is a general profile of schools who currently participate in the National Fishing in Schools Program.
- Schools most often have implemented NFSP into their Health/Physical Education programs due to the availability of school gymnasium(s), where a majority of the curriculum is intended to be covered.
- Many schools have an outdoor education and/or lifetime skills emphasis.
- Science teachers/classes are also using the NFSP program.
- Schools installing NFSP are typically seeking gender neutral and cross-curricular opportunities that are also unrestricted by physical limitations, which the program promotes.

The NFSP program is geared toward middle schools (grades 6, 7 & 8), and high schools (grades 9, 10, 11 & 12.) However, an increasing number of elementary schools are also installing NFSP. A number of colleges/universities have adopted the curriculum for teacher programs. The curriculum can be learned and taught by teachers with little to no prior experience or special aptitude - a key principal of the curriculum writers was, “keep it simple...”. In addition, the NFSP Mentor program, encouraged for adoption by each school, facilitates the association of an experienced volunteer who provides “hands on” assistance, know-how and skill support to the teacher.

Prior to any grant award funding, FEF/NFSP requires each school to commit to participate in the program for at least 3 years. A non-binding Memorandum of Understanding evidences this mutual “handshake.”

Each teacher instructing the NFSP course must take and pass the Level 1 Teacher Training/Certification Course and be certified by an NFSP Level 2 or 3 Certified Teacher Trainer/Educator prior to implementation of the program. Teacher training is one day. Sessions are arranged at various locations/dates and are posted to the NFSP website.

The “Cast A Fly, Catch A Student” (flyfishing) and “Cast A Lure, Catch A Student” (spinfishing) are both 10-day standardized NFSP curricula. Schools select which they prefer at time of installation. By design, either curriculum allows for expansion at the option of the teacher/school/district. Individual units enable “customization” off the basic unit. Lesson plans are designed for delivery as a “formal class”, but can be integrated into an existing course. The courses are currently leveraging technology to create a blended learning program to be delivered online for future use by teachers and students. The curriculum meets 4 National Academic Standards: PE, Science, Language Arts, Technology.

Interested schools/institutions may apply at www.fishinginschools.org
The Fishing Education Foundation/National Fishing in Schools Program is funded in a variety of ways:

- By donations from the public to the Fishing Education Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.
- Grants from federal and state agencies
- Grants from public and private non-profit entities

Since the Fishing Education Foundation’s modest beginning in 2009, with little more than the belief that we could “do with fishing what they have done in archery...”, the National Fishing in Schools Program has worked diligently to teach America’s youth how to fish. These efforts have resulted in tens of thousands of youth being exposed to this lifetime outdoor activity that they otherwise would likely not have received.

Whether you or your company/agency make a donation, become a sponsor/partner, or wish to volunteer your time to help the cause, you will be making a very positive, lasting investment in the future of America’s youth, the sport of angling and the strengthening or our outdoor heritage.

We hope you will join us in this ongoing march... please make a donation today and help us reach our goal to install 500 schools by the end of 2015/16.
Help Teach Kids How To Fish

Individuals
- Make tax-deductible donations to the Fishing Education Foundation, a (501)(c)(3) non-profit corporation
- Become a Certified NFSP Educator, enabling you to:
  - As an **NFSP Level 2 Trainer**, “teach the teachers”
  - As an **NFSP Level 1 Teacher**, teach students in public or private schools
  - As an **NFSP Mentor**, assist the teacher(s) and students at one or more NFSP schools or institutions

Associations & Groups (e.g., TU, FFF, BASS, etc.)
- “Adopt A School” – become the financial benefactor of NFSP for your local school(s) with a tax-deductible contribution to the Fishing Education Foundation; FEF then makes a grant award in your behalf to the school of your choice
- Encourage individual members of your group to volunteer and become teachers/mentors to support an NFSP school in your area

Corporate/Industry
- Sponsorship to support FEF/NFSP is available in a variety of forms. Please contact us for the most meaningful manner suitable for your company
- Make a financial donation to FEF – where your tax-deductible contributions may be directed for general support, or, specify to earmark for specific states, regions, school districts or individual schools

State Fish & Wildlife Agencies
- Become an NFSP education partner and unleash the outdoor education program into public and private schools in your state
- Have aquatic/outdoor education agency personnel become certified as NFSP educators to train, teach or mentor schools in your state

Support categories
- **Platinum**: Donation of $75,000 or more over 3 years
- **Gold**: Donation of $50,000 over 3 years
- **Silver**: Donation of $25,000 over 3 years
- **Bronze**: Donation of $15,000 over 3 years
- **Donor**: Donations of any amount welcomed
The following groups have/continue to support the National Fishing in Schools Program in a variety of capacities:

- ACTION YOUTH INTERNATIONAL
- ALPINE TACKLE SUPPLY
- AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, RECREATION AND DANCE
- AMERICAN FLY FISHING TRADE ASSOCIATION
- ANGLERS COVEY
- BASS PRO SHOPS
- BLUE QUILL ANGLERS
- BOULDER FLYCASTERS CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED
- BROYHILL MANUFACTURING
- CABELA'S
- CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED
- COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE
- CORTLAND LINE COMPANY
- DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
- ECHO/RAJEFF SPORTS
- EXOFFICIO
- FAR BANK
- FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS
- FISHPOND
- FIVE RIVERS CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED
- FOUR SEASONS ANGLER
- FRONT RANGE ANGLERS
- G. LOOMIS
- GET THEM HOOKED
- GRAND VALLEY ANGLERS TROUT UNLIMITED
- HIWATHA CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED
- IMPACT ON EDUCATION
- INTERNATIONAL SPORTSMEN'S EXPOSITIONS
- JORGENSEN FOUNDATION
- KALAMAZOO VALLEY CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED
- LL BEAN
- LUCKY LOU DESIGNS
- MISSOURI STATE PARKS
- NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM
- NATIONAL CAPITAL CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED
- NATIONAL RECREATION FOUNDATION
- NEBRASKA GAME & PARKS COMMISSION
- NEVADA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
- NEW MEXICO GAME AND FISH
- NORTH FORK ANGLERS
- NORTH PLATTE RIVER FLY SHOP
- ORVIS
- PACIFIC FLY
- PATAGONIA
- RECREATIONAL BOATING AND FISHING FOUNDATION
- REDINGTON
- RIO
- ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANGLERS
- ROSS WORLDWIDE
- SCIENTIFIC ANGLERS
- SFP REALTY
- SIERRA STREAM AND MOUNTAIN
- SMITH OPTICS
- ST. CROIX
- TEMPLE FORK OUTFITTERS
- TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY
- THAMES VALLEY CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED
- THE HUMBLE FLY SHOP
- THE SCHOOL OF FLY FISHING
- TROUT UNLIMITED
- TROUTS FLY FISHING
- TRUCKEE RIVER FLY FISHERS
- U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
- UGLY BUG FLY SHOP
- UMPQUA
- UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE
- VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES
- WAPSI
- WE ARE PALS
- WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION
- WILDLIFE FOREVER
- WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
- WYOMING TROUT UNLIMITED
- YELLOW DOG
National Fishing in Schools Program