



NORTH AMERICAN CONSERVATION EDUCATION STRATEGY

Connecting More Americans to Nature

When young people connect regularly with nature, the outcomes are profound. Children are happier, healthier from the exercise, effects of attention-deficit disorder are reduced and they score higher on standardized tests when natural environments are integrated into school curricula. State fish and wildlife agencies nationwide provide educational opportunities that can help bridge the gap between formal school settings and the great outdoors and all offer outdoor skills training in non-formal settings.

Endorsed by the 50 state agencies, and winner of 2010 Conservation Education Award from The Wildlife Society, the *North American Conservation Education Strategy* (CE Strategy) delivers unified, research-based Core Concepts and messages about fish and wildlife

conservation, translated into K-12 academic standards to shape students' environmental literacy, stewardship and outdoor skills.

Launched in 2004, the CE Strategy is our blueprint for identifying what every citizen should know, feel and do related to fish and wildlife conservation,



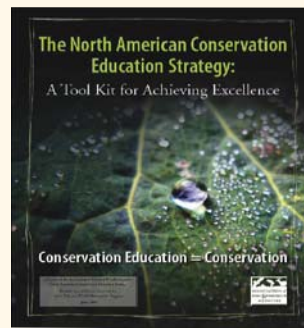
including the sustainable enjoyment and use of those resources.

NORTH AMERICAN CONSERVATION EDUCATION STRATEGY RESOURCES

With funding provided through a Multistate Conservation Grant of the Sport Fish & Wildlife Restoration Program, state conservation education experts have developed a variety of researched-based resources to help support agencies' and even non-governmental organizations' fish and wildlife programs.

These resources are available for download from the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies' website at www.fishwildlife.org in the Focus Area section, Conservation Education.

The North American Conservation Education Strategy: A Toolkit for Achieving Excellence

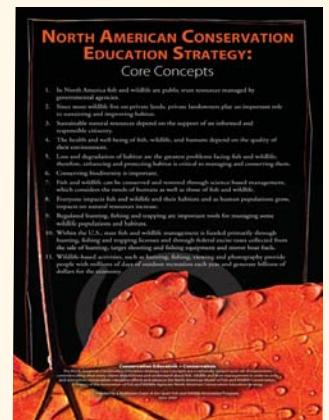


This kit includes the many research-based products developed by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) as part of the CE Strategy, including the mission, vision, goals and underlying principles of the North American Conservation Education Strategy.

Conservation Core Concepts, Top CE Core Concepts Poster

Developed by biologists and conservation education educators from state fish and wildlife agencies and non-governmental organizations, these concepts clearly state what every American should understand about the conservation of fish and wildlife and related resources.

The poster highlights key messages for the top 11 fundamental, overarching concepts.



Benchmarks for Conservation Literacy

The Benchmarks for Conservation Literacy identify what students should know and be able to do at the 5th, 8th and 12th grade levels to guide them on their way to becoming involved, responsible, conservation-minded citizens.

The Benchmarks were developed with input from professional educators in the formal and non-formal sectors. They can be used in program development and as an assessment tool.



Conservation Education = Conservation

Field Investigations Guide: Using Outdoor Environments to Foster Student Learning of Scientific Processes

This guide helps K-12 teachers introduce their students to the methodologies used for scientific field research and guide them through the process of conducting field studies. It demonstrates how to use descriptive and comparative methodologies for field studies.

K-12 Conservation Education Scope & Sequence: An Educator's Guide to Sequential Learning about Fish and Wildlife

A set of expectations that describe what students should know and be able to do in three grade bands—K-5, 6-8 and 9-12—in the areas of science, social science and health and fitness. The Scope & Sequence translates the Core Concepts into content standards and performance expectations.

Stewardship Education Best Practices Planning Guide

Stewardship is an important part of fish and wildlife agency conservation education programs. Based on research and evaluation, this guide provides recommendations for strengthening and developing natural resources stewardship aspects of your programs.

Fostering Outdoor Observation Skills

The first step in conducting field investigations is learning to observe. Fostering Outdoor Observation Skills helps teachers take their students beyond the classroom to help their students connect with the natural world and help them learn to read the “book of nature.”

Landscape Investigation Guidelines: Challenging K-12 Students to Engage in Social Science Inquiry by Applying Spatial Thinking to Real World Situations

Fish, wildlife and other natural resources are integral parts of our landscapes. The Landscape Investigation Guidelines provide a model for student investigations of their landscapes in ways that meet K-12 social science and geographic standards.

Sustainable Tomorrow: A Teachers' Guidebook for Applying Systems Thinking to Environmental Education Curricula for Grades 9-12

This publication shows how to use systems concepts and tools to apply systems thinking to environmental education curricula. It uses lessons from Project WILD, Project WET, and Project Learning Tree, all commonly used environmental education resources, to demonstrate how to apply a systems approach.

Schoolyard Biodiversity Investigation Educator Guide

Students often learn about the biodiversity of far off places. This Guide provides them the opportunity to learn about the biodiversity in their own schoolyards. It is targeted to elementary and middle schools.

Outdoor Skills Education Handbook: A Guide for Developing and Implementing School-Based Outdoor Skills Education

This handbook is designed to help fish and wildlife agencies and NGOs work with schools to deliver outdoor skills through health or physical education courses. It includes everything you need to know about communicating with school administrators, correlating to standards and more.

CE Strategy White Papers

Indicators and Data Sources for Assessing the State of Outdoor Recreation Participation, Environmental Literacy and Civic Participation and Stewardship in America: This white paper provides baseline data on conservation education and outdoor recreation participation in the United States.


Benefits of Outdoor Skills to Health, Learning and Lifestyle: A Literature Review: This comprehensive literature review documents the extent to which positive impacts of outdoor skills education have been researched and substantiated. It includes abstracts for 99 documents and groups findings into themes including healthy lifestyles; outdoor skills education as a tool to increase outdoor recreation participation; constraints to hunting and fishing participation; and more.

Alignment of Outdoor Skills with National Standards and the Framework for 21st Century Learning: This white paper explores the connections between outdoor skills and formal education. It includes correlation of 143 lessons or units from 12 outdoor skills programs to national standards in health, physical education, and agriculture education.

Visit www.fishwildlife.org in the Focus Area section, Conservation Education, to download any of these publications.



Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 725
Washington, DC 20001
202/624-7890
www.fishwildlife.org

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www.facebook.com/conservationeducation