# Buy a Duck Stamp and Conserve Wildlife Habitat

By Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp | [www.friendsofthestamp.org](http://www.friendsofthestamp.org)

Your purchase of a Federal Duck Stamp is one of the most effective ways to conserve wildlife. The Federal Duck Stamp costs $25.00, with 98% of these funds directly helping to acquire land and easements that provide critical habitat for wildlife. These lands are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and you can access many of them.

The Federal Duck Stamp program began during the era of the Depression and Dust Bowl as a way to curb the widespread destruction wetland habitats vital to the survival of America’s waterfowl. At the turn of the 20th century, America’s wildlife was under immediate threats. Market shooting to supply food to restaurants; bounty hunting and unregulated sport hunting; and feather-collecting for the fashion industry contributed to the loss of million of birds and other wildlife. Additionally, millions of acres of wetlands were drained for agriculture and development, greatly reducing waterfowl nesting habitat.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (or “Duck Stamp Act”). The Duck Stamp Act requires anyone 16 or older to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp for waterfowl hunting. Of course, you do not have to be a waterfowl hunter to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp! Anyone who values wildlife and the habitats they depend on can help conserve habitat by purchasing a Federal Duck Stamp.

Artists and stamp collectors have also taken great interest in the Federal Duck Stamp. In 1949, the first Federal Duck Stamp art contest was held. Today, 70 years later, the tradition of hosting a nationwide contest, open to anyone and sponsored by the US government, continues. A Junior Duck Stamp Program was initiated in 1989 to encourage education and participation, again, nationwide for students in Kindergarten through 12th-grade!

And in addition to the waterfowl hunting license, conservation benefits, appeal to collectors and artists, the current Federal Duck Stamp also grants you free entrance into any National Wildlife Refuge that charges an entry fee!

Federal Duck Stamps are available [online](https://www.duckstamp.com/), in [post offices](https://store.usps.com/store/results/collector-s-zone-federal-duck-stamps/_/N-30te19?_requestid=1339826), and in many sporting goods and large-scale retail stores that sell hunting and fishing licenses and equipment. Many refuges sell Federal Duck Stamps, as well. Federal Duck Stamps are also available from [Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp](http://www.friendsofthestamp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Holder-Form-2015.pdf).

Per the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, the winning designs for the 2019-2020 Duck Stamp Contest became available for purchase on June 28, 2019. Scot Storm, a native of Freeport, MN, was selected as this year’s winning artist of the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, and 16-year-old Nicole Jeon of Scarsdale, NY was selected as the winner of the Junior Duck Stamp Contest. The Federal Duck Stamp costs $25, and the Junior Duck Stamp is $5.

Please be a part of this great American tradition and buy a 2019-2020 Federal Duck Stamp.