



Program for Schools and Youth



Audubon International provides:

- Project instructions
- Staff support and guidance via telephone and e-mail
- Information to facilitate community involvement
- Promotion of partner activity via press releases
- Periodic newsletters that offer case studies, ideas, and guidance
- Awards and recognition, including the opportunity to achieve *Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Certification* for schools and youth.

Audubon International invites schools and youth groups to become Audubon Partners for the Environment. Participation helps students not only *learn about* the environment, but also *care for* the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources around them. While most schools recognize the importance of educating students about the environment, the day-to-day demands of the classroom, coupled with the need to meet state standards often make environmental education programs difficult to implement. As Audubon Partners, schools and youth groups can choose from a variety of environmental projects, based on their interests, curricula, resources, and available time.

What's involved?

Partners make a commitment to complete at least one environmental improvement project each year and report their results. Audubon Partners choose from a variety of projects in five areas:

- Wildlife
- Water
- Outreach and Education
- Resource Management
- Community Awareness

The projects are designed to be fun and engaging, with a range from beginner to more advanced. For instance, Audubon Partners put up nest boxes for birds, plant gardens for wildlife, clean up streams, recycle, improve energy efficiency, and much more!

Get involved and see results!

Audubon Partners for the Environment is all about results: greater environmental awareness, increased participation in service learning activities, and an improved environment. Join us!

What does it cost?

Project Level Membership: \$50 U.S.; \$75 International
Certification Level Membership: \$150 U.S.; \$200 International



Hinckley Elementary School in Ohio planted a garden and created a place to learn and teach about nature and environmental stewardship.



Middle school students from Seaside Neighborhood School in Florida sampled water quality on a golf course as part of a hands-on lesson in environmental management.



Kindergarten students at Trinity Country Nursery School and Kindergarten received an Audubon Partner Award for their outstanding bird feeding project.

How to get started

1. Register as an Audubon Partner.

Simply send us your registration form and annual membership fee. We will send you information to help you get started. We use e-mail extensively to communicate with Audubon Partners—be sure to include an e-mail address on your registration form.

2. Form a team to take the lead.

Your team may include teachers, administrators, parents, students, and representatives from your community, depending on the scope of who will be involved (after school club, single class or grade, or entire student body). Several school groups or classes may each take on a different project, if desired, to involve more students, but keep projects manageable.

3. Choose a project.

Review the five “tracks” and read through the project descriptions to determine which ones are best suited to your club, class, or school. You may choose to complete one or more projects or continue a multi-year project, depending on your time, interest, and number of classes or grades that will be involved. Once you choose a project, we will provide you with detailed educational information, instructions, and related resources to help you successfully complete your project.

4. Implement your project and document the results

Get organized, gather materials, and take action to implement your project. Take photos and keep records to evaluate your results. Audubon International provides monitoring and reporting forms for each project to help you easily track your results and tell us about what you have accomplished.

5. Apply for awards and recognition.

Submit a Project Report with a photo of your project to Audubon International. We will send you an Audubon Project Award to recognize your hard work and positive results. Audubon International also bestows special recognition to Audubon Partners who complete multiple projects. Upon completion of three in one year, Audubon Partners receive an Environmental Stewardship Award.

Environmental Projects

Audubon Partners choose projects from five themed tracks. The time frame for project completion varies — some can be completed in one or two sessions, while others require a number of sessions over several weeks to organize, implement, and monitor. Activities for extension are included for each project. Many projects are ongoing once initiated. School partners may choose to implement projects at any time during the school year. However, a number of projects—such as bird nest boxes and wildlife gardening—are seasonal in nature and must be planned accordingly. Audubon International adds new environmental projects each year to expand the selection available to schools and youth.

Track 1 Wildlife	Track 2 Water	Track 3 Outreach and Education	Track 4 Resource Management	Track 5 Community Awareness
The Nest Box Project	Save Water at School	Environmental Display or Murals	The Three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	Favorite Places Art Show
Bird Feeding and Monitoring	Stream Quality Monitoring*	Earth Journal	Save Energy at School	“Through the Eyes of Youth” Community Photo Project*
Go Wild at School	Stream Restoration*	Nature Trail	Cafeteria Composting	Community Clean-Up
Gardens for Wildlife	Explore Your Watershed*	Outdoor Classroom	No Waste Lunch Day	Beautification
Habitat Mapping	Wetland Protection	Environmental Resource Center	Green Facilities: Waste Reduction	Community Partner Project
Operations and Maintenance: Conservation Checklist				
Approved Project of Your Choice				

*Project is offered jointly through Audubon International and other non-profit organizations or university partners. Additional fees for program materials may be charged.



Hobe Sound Elementary School in Florida achieved Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Certification for integrating environmental conservation and education at all grade levels.

Above and Beyond— Gaining Certification from Audubon International

Audubon International awards certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary to schools that integrate environmental education and stewardship with conservation practices for buildings and grounds. This high honor recognizes the dedication, hard work, and academic and environmental achievements of Audubon Partner schools and youth organizations.

Schools that wish to pursue certification receive a **Certification Handbook** to help them document their efforts and successes. There are four main criteria that schools must meet to achieve certification:

- 1. Site Assessment-** The school must provide basic information about the school site to give us a snapshot of its setting and resources.
- 2. Environmental Education and Stewardship-** The school must complete a minimum of five Audubon Partner projects, selected from at least four of the five program tracks (Wildlife, Water, Outreach and Education, Eco-Efficiency, and Community).
- 3. Operations and Maintenance: Conservation Actions-** While the age and efficiency of school buildings varies greatly among Audubon Partners, we encourage schools to strive to incorporate conservation management strategies into their daily operations. We provide a simple self-assessment checklist to help schools evaluate their current practices and plan improvements.
- 4. Continuous Improvement-** The school must make a commitment to continuous improvement in environmental education and conservation management. Recertification is required every two years.

Certification requires an additional annual fee of \$100 for U.S. and \$150 for international members to cover our staff review of certification materials, and a written report with site-specific recommendations.



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Audubon International Staff Assistance

Audubon International's expert staff is available via e-mail and telephone to help make your project a success. We welcome your questions and we'll get back to you promptly to help you stay on track. Audubon Partners come from many different backgrounds—and few start out with extensive environmental knowledge. Our job is to provide the information, support, and answers you need to educate youth and help the environment.