

# Texas State-Fish Art Contest Promotes Conservation

## *On the Net:*

Texas Contest Information: [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishart](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishart)

General Information: <http://www.statefishart.com/>

Find Your State Fish: <http://www.statefishart.com/states/>

Free Lesson Plan: <http://www.statefishart.com/about/educators.htm>

Rules and Regulations: <http://www.statefishart.com/rules/>

The State-Fish Art Contest is part of a conservation education program designed to spark the imaginations of students while providing valuable lessons about fish and the importance of conserving Texas' aquatic resources. This is a nationwide art contest sponsored by Wildlife Forever, a national conservation organization. Students in grades 4 through 12 in public, private or home schools are invited to submit a drawing of an officially recognized state fish and a one-page essay on its behavior, habitat or conservation.

A free lesson plan is available for download at the link above.

Entries must be postmarked by March 31 each year and must comply with all rules and regulations. An official entry form must accompany all entries. It may be downloaded using the link above.

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, Texas, is the official host for the Texas State-Fish Art Contest, and Texas entries are judged there. Winning Texas entries are forwarded to Wildlife Forever's headquarters in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, to compete for national best of show and art of conservation stamp honors. Proceeds from sales of the conservation stamp are used to fund conservation projects nationwide.

State contest winners are invited to attend the national awards ceremony, and the Toyota Texas Bass Classic provides funds for cash prizes for Texas winners and for travel expenses for Texas first-place winners and their families to attend the national event. All Texas entrants receive a Strike King fishing lure and a certificate of participation.

Winning designs from past contests can be viewed on the official state-fish art web site at the link above.

The contest is sponsored by Wildlife Forever, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Rapala, The Art Institutes International Minnesota, Mall of America, North American Fishing Club, Minnesota Twins, Cheap Joe's Art Stuff, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bass Pro Shops, Wonders of Wildlife and Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Wildlife Forever is a conservation organization whose mission is to conserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife. Learn more at [www.wildlifeforever.org](http://www.wildlifeforever.org).