



Conservation Teacher of the Year Grant

\$1000 award to fund an exceptional K-5 project

Through education, research and management, DNR Wildlife Conservation safeguards Georgia's native diversity of wild animals, plants and their habitats while also encouraging outdoor enjoyment. Our work is guided by the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan, a statewide strategy to conserve native species before they become rarer and more costly to protect. Education promotes stewardship, so we are pleased to offer a \$1000 grant to a kindergarten through fifth-grade teacher (including science specialists) who demonstrates exceptional energy and innovation in teaching life sciences.

Prospective teachers must use Georgia's native animals, plants and habitats as the context for covering the Georgia Standards of Excellence. Although life science standards are emphasized, cross-curricular teaching is highly encouraged. Preference will be given to teachers who demonstrate creativity in project design and take learning outside, as well as projects that could not be funded otherwise. Teaching must take place in-person.

To apply, submit a Word document or PDF with your contact information and the answers to the point-weighted questions below to Anna Yellin at anna.yellin@dnr.ga.gov.

The deadline to apply is **November 2, 2026**.

Contact information required:

- Name
- School or organization
- Your title or position with this school/organization
- Principal/director's name (person who has approved this project)
- School/organization mailing address
- Your phone number and email address
- Project Title

Questions to answer about your proposed project:

1. In 100 words or less, describe your target audience. Include the number of students who will participate as well as their age range and demographics. (5 points)
2. What are your project's main learning objectives? (15 points)
3. Discuss the Georgia Standards of Excellence you will cover with this project, including Life Science GSE's for your grade level(s) and any other curriculum standards. (10 points)
4. List your planned activities and how learning will be assessed. Include a timeline with approximate dates for each activity. Will environmental education activities (ie., Project WILD, Project WET, Project Learning Tree, etc.) be used? (15 points)
5. Will most learning take place indoors or outdoors? If teaching outdoors, what challenges will you face and how do you plan to overcome them? (10 points)
6. What supplies are needed? Include photos and/or a diagram that can further explain your project. (10 points)

7. Present your budget in a chart to show all anticipated expenditures for this project. Include each item's quantity and cost, as well as in-kind (donated supplies or volunteer time) and/or matching funds if applicable. (10 points)
8. In 100 words or less, explain any anticipated short- and long-term benefits to your students and community because of this project. (10 points)
9. Can this project continue after funding ends? Can it serve as a model for replication at other schools? (10 points)
10. Additional points will be awarded for projects that are innovative, highlight Georgia native species, benefit species of greatest conservation need (as outlined in the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan) and/or are not funded otherwise. (5 points)

NOTE – By submitting a grant application, you confirm the following:

- I have not received the DNR Conservation Teacher of the Year grant in the past three years.
- My grant proposal promotes the understanding of Georgia wildlife, habitats and/or ecosystems.
- My grant proposal does not seek more than \$1,000. Grant funds may not be used to cover transportation costs (buses, gasoline, etc.).
- If funded, I commit to follow-up communication with GA DNR Wildlife Conservation staff concerning the execution of this grant, including a brief final report. Media to accompany this report (photos, video, PowerPoint, etc.) is encouraged.
- I understand that adults must supervise participants during my project's activities.
- My principal or director has approved this project.
- I have viewed the application's scoring rubric (point-weighted questions) and understand the guidelines that will be used to score my application.
- If funded, I understand that a check will be made out to my school/organization. The winner will be notified by **November 16, 2026** and funds awarded soon thereafter. Grant funds must be spent by **April 30, 2027**.
- If funded, I agree to submit a final report with all receipts to DNR by **June 1, 2027**.

For more information, visit www.georgiawildlife.com/TeachingConservationGrant or contact Anna Yellin (678.459.8393, anna.yellin@dnr.ga.gov) or Linda May (706.319.0211, linda.may@dnr.ga.gov).

Related resources:

- GA DNR teaching resources: <https://georgiawildlife.com/educational-resources>
- Georgia Biodiversity Portal: <https://georgiabiodiversity.org>
- Georgia State Parks Junior Ranger program: <https://gastateparks.org/JuniorRanger>
- Project Learning Tree: www.plt.org/network/georgia
- Project WET (Water Education for Teachers): <https://projectwet.georgia.gov>
- Project WILD: <https://georgiawildlife.com/projectwild>
- 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan: <https://georgiawildlife.com/WildGeorgiaSWAP>