

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
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Caption: Lehigh Middle School students working on their 2015-2016 grant project “Life in a Dystopian Society.”

DDWS teacher grants deadline Oct. 31

The “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS), with J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge, has announced its 11th annual donation of teacher grants. Up to \$10,000 in grant awards are available to teachers in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, and Hendry counties this school year for conservation education-related projects.

Teachers in the five-county area may apply for grants up to \$1,000 each to purchase teaching aids, books, and classroom materials; fund new classroom science projects; take field trips; or conduct work projects in the community.

All schools are invited to submit conservation-related unit proposals by Oct. 31, 2016. The approved proposals will be awarded in November 2016 for projects to be completed by May 2017.

“With environmental education funding being cut throughout the school district, teachers and students are grateful to receive our grants to fund special projects,” said Wendy Kindig, DDWS Environmental Education Committee chair. “It’s an important part of the society’s mission to educate and create future conservation stewards from our young students of today.”

In the past 10 years, the friends group has granted more than \$63,000 to local schools for environmental projects. The teacher grants are funded by DDWS monies received from the DDWS Conservation Education Endowment Fund earmarked specifically for education.

For further information and an application, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/teacher-grants; or contact Sarah Lathrop at 472-1100 ext. 233 or sarah@dingdarlingsociety.org.

ABOUT DDWS

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge’s mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research, and public education through charitable donations and Refuge Nature Shop proceeds.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566, 239-472-1100 ext. 4, or dingdarlingsociety@gmail.com.

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