



NFSP

NATIONAL FISHING IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Recent Evaluation of The National Fishing in Schools Program Shows Success

The National Fishing in Schools Program (NFSP) is a nationwide, in school program, that teaches the positive lifetime activity of fishing to students in middle schools and high schools. Modeled after the successful National Archery in the Schools Program, the NFSP conducts a pilot program with a target of 10 schools in each state for the first full school year; reviews results, evaluates, and makes adjustments; then proceeds with statewide implementation in the 2nd school year and beyond.

Findings of a recent evaluation conducted by Responsive Management for the NFSP show:

- **The NFSP is often a student's first exposure to fishing.** Going into the program, more than a third (39%) of students said they do not fish at all, meaning that the NFSP is reaching students who have never had experience casting a line.
- **Students like the NFSP.** Nearly all NFSP students (97%) indicated they liked the program, with the majority of these students (64%) saying they like it *a lot*.
- **NFSP increases student interest in fishing.** Among students who participated in the NFSP, 77% said the program made them *more* interested in fishing.
- **NFSP improves student confidence in fishing.** The majority of NFSP students (61%) reported that they feel *more* confident when fishing since they finished the program.
- **Students fish more after the NFSP.** A majority of NFSP students (65%) indicated they had been fishing since the program; 31% said they fish *more* since they finished the NFSP.
- **NFSP students plan to continue fishing.** The vast majority of NFSP students (83%) say they are likely to go fishing in the next year: more than half of NFSP students (53%) say they are *very* likely to go fishing in the next year, while another 30% say they are somewhat likely. As another indicator of their intentions to continue fishing, a quarter of NFSP students (25%) say that they have obtained fishing equipment since they finished the program.

Cast A Fly, Catch A Student

"I definitely had no idea what fly fishing was before this. So, I didn't really have any idea what to expect, but it was a lot more technique than I thought it was, but it was pretty easy to pick up on and fun to learn."

"I really like the Fishing in the Schools Program because you get to come out and learn all kinds of fishing and just practice it and have fun with your classmates."

"After the Fishing in Schools Program, I will do more fishing because it taught me more about fly fishing than I knew before, and I think I'll enjoy it a lot more."

"The most enjoyable part of the program was catching a fish."





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The National Fishing in Schools Program About the Program

The National Fishing in Schools Program (NFSP) educates students about fish, insects, aquatic environment, resource stewardship, and conservation using fishing, and learning the skill of casting, as the instructional tool.

The NFSP works in cooperation with state education and fish and wildlife agencies and a network of groups interested in teaching youth how to fish in schools. The NFSP is currently installed in 60 schools and organizations in 12 states, as well as in Washington, DC. Further, it is anticipated that the program will double by the close of 2012, with more than 120 participating schools. The NFSP's goal is to have the program installed in 500 schools by the close of 2015, targeting more than 225,000 youth.



◆ RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS ◆

- **The NFSP received Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) grant funding:** In 2012, the NFSP was the Fishing Education Foundation's recipient of a 2012 National Youth Fishing & Boating Initiative from the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation to help increase the program's presence in schools nationwide.
- **American Fly Fishing Trade Association (AFFTA) partners with the NFSP to match funding:** The AFFTA committed to providing matching funds to a minimum of 10 schools installing the NFSP for a minimum of 3 years.
- **NFSP partners continue support:** Since its inception, the NFSP has obtained partner support from the following industries and organizations: CPW, TWRA, NDOW, NGPC, WYGF, USFWS, NFS, Cabela's, Bass Pro, Orvis, Echo, Patagonia, Umpqua, Smith Action Optics, Trout Unlimited.



For the 2nd consecutive year, the NFSP was recognized by the International Fly Tackle Dealer (IFTD) trade show as having the best "Youth-Specific" product for 2012. Pictured at left are Katie M. Cole, Program Director for the NFSP, accompanied by Dana C. Cole, Founder/Director of the NFSP, receiving the IFTD award.

