

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
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Caption: Students from Pelican Elementary School in Cape Coral worked on their granted “Celebrating Birds” project last school year.

DDWS teacher grants deadline extended to Nov. 30

Due to Hurricane Irma’s interruption of the school year, the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) and J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge have announced a one-month extension to Nov. 30 for its 12th annual teacher grant applications.

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 proposals by Nov. 30, 2017. The approved proposals will be awarded in December 2017 for projects to be completed by spring 2018.

“Our normal deadline is Oct. 31 each year,” said Wendy Kindig, DDWS Environmental Education Committee chair. “But with the chaos in the wake of the Sept. 10 hurricane, we want to give teachers more time to get their classroom routines renormalized so they can turn their full attention to the grant application process.”

In the past 11 years, DDWS has granted more than \$73,000 to local schools for environmental projects. The teacher grants are funded by DDWS monies received from the DDWS Conservation Education Endowment Fund established by Jay “Ding” Darling’s grandson, the late Kip Koss. To make a tax-deductible donation in support of

the fund, contact DDWS executive director Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.com.

For further grant information and an application, visit tinyurl.com/dinggrants, or contact Sierra Hoisington at 472-1100 ext. 4 or shois@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 dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4, or director@dingdarlingsociety.com.

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