The Youth Wetlands Education and Outreach Program is a state-wide program designed to heighten students’ awareness of Louisiana’s wetland loss through an organized educational program of outreach, empowerment, and advocacy.

Program materials include structured lesson plans, materials used to teach lessons, and step-by-step procedures to activities, and are provided at no cost to participating educators. These lessons are implemented throughout the academic year with the program culminating during a week in April dedicated to wetland learning, known as Youth Wetlands Week (YWW). The program curriculum is endorsed by the Louisiana Science Teacher’s Association and lessons are designed to follow Louisiana’s Grade Level Expectations (GLE’s). Pre and post tests are completed by participating students and the results reflect increased knowledge of main science concepts.

During the summer months, students are encouraged to attend four summer camps that utilize program curriculum and provide wetland-related, hands-on learning activities: 4-H Camp Grant Walker, Louisiana Outdoor Science and Technology (LOST) Camp, Marsh Maneuvers, and Wild Woods Wanderings.

Opportunities to participate in wetland restoration projects are available to teachers and students throughout the year in various locations across the state. Participating youth have helped with vegetative plantings, constructed and installed wood duck boxes, and assisted in trash bashes/beach sweeps.

Participation in the Youth Wetlands Education and Outreach Program has exceeded 150,000 students and 3000 educators for the last four years.

### What Teachers Receive

- Curriculum binder includes:
  - Lesson plans for grades 4th through 12th
  - Science, English, math, creative writing, physical education, and art lessons
  - Pre/Post tests and teacher evaluations

- Supplies to implement curriculum includes:
  - Basic school supplies (markers, rulers, pencils, and more)
  - Aerial photographs
  - Laboratory supplies
  - Field materials
  - Art materials

- Supplemental educational materials include:
  - Wet Work DVD – video production that documents a teen host profiling various wetland professionals during a typical day in the field. By highlighting these careers, students are encouraged to apply wetland learning in their lives and aspire for wetland-related careers.

Visit our website: [www.lsuagcenter.com/yww](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/yww)
Youth Wetlands Education and Outreach Program
Program Summary

Restoration Projects

- Types of projects:
  - Vegetative plantings at upland and coastal wetland sites
  - Tree plantings
  - Invasive species removal
  - Trash clean-up events
  - Wood duck, bat, and bluebird box construction/installation
  - Rain garden installation on school grounds

- Vegetative Establishment:
  - Over 50,000 vegetative plugs planted in wetland areas
  - 36,000 tree saplings of 37 species distributed to educators
  - 450,000 seeds of upland woody species collected for distribution
  - 7 greenhouse sections (5,250 ft²) and 6 ponds (~2 acres) maintained for year-round plant production

Awards and Recognition

- LA Wildlife Federation: Governor's Conservation Award
- U.S. Department of Agriculture: National 4-H Program of Distinction
- Association of Communication Excellence: Educational Video Production Award
- National Association of Extension 4-H Agents: Program Recognition Award

Teacher Survey Results

- 95% of teachers saw an increase in student knowledge
- 87% of teachers would participate in the program in the future
- Program approval rating from teachers was 92%

Partnerships

- America’s WETLAND Conservation Corps
  - AmeriCorps program whose members recruit schools, develop lessons, and organize wetland restoration field trips

- Corporate Sponsors
  - Entergy
  - Cracker Barrel
  - America’s WETLAND Foundation

- Curriculum Contributors
  - Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuay Program (BTNEP)
  - Louisiana State University (LSU) College of Education
  - Louisiana Sea Grant College Program
  - Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
  - Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)