



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SEVENTH ANNUAL FEDERAL "DUCK STAMP" CONTEST ANNOUNCED

The seventh annual Federal "duck stamp" design contest will open on July 15, John L. Farley, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, announced today.

Entries for the design to be selected for the 1956-57 issue of this series of Federal revenue stamps, submitted in accordance with contest rules, must reach the headquarters office of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C., on or before November 1, 1955. A leaflet containing contest rules may be obtained upon request from the Service.

All interested artists are eligible to enter this contest.

The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp--better known as the "duck stamp"-- has become familiar to all migratory waterfowl hunters and to philatelists and conservationists throughout the country since the first issue in the series went on sale in 1934. A new stamp is issued each year by the Post Office Department which is in charge of its distribution and sale. It goes on sale on July 1 and expires on the following June 30. Nearly twice the size of a special delivery stamp, it sells for \$2. Everyone over 16 years of age who hunts migratory waterfowl is required to have one of these stamps in his possession, in addition to his State hunting license.

More than two million duck stamps are sold annually. Duck stamp revenues are used to supplement other funds appropriated to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the purchase, development, administration, and maintenance of waterfowl refuges throughout the country.

The design selected for each year's duck stamp is chosen by a judging committee of waterfowl authorities from among entries submitted by artists from every part of the country. Prior to 1949, however, outstanding wildlife artists were invited to submit entries and the selection was made from this limited group. In that year the limitations were lifted and a public contest was decided upon in order to give an opportunity for all wildlife artists to compete in the future.

Although the artist receives no direct compensation if his design is selected, the distinction is unique and therefore much sought after. Many of the winning artists in former years have been able to capitalize on their designs by selling autographed prints. All such projects, however, are subject to the terms of the contract which the winning artist must sign with the Fish and Wildlife Service concerning reproduction rights.

Artists are given a wide latitude in the choice of medium—pen and ink, oil, watercolor, etching, pencil, etc., and in their subject. The subject, of course, must be a true-to-life portrait of wild waterfowl. Most of the winning entries in previous years were of ducks and geese in action. At any rate, the birds should be in position and plumage "as the hunter sees them."

Prospective duck stamp artists who have not submitted entries in previous contests should write to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Information, Washington 25, D. C., for a free copy of the leaflet, "Rules for the Annual Federal Duck Stamp Contest."

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