



*Young Birders Grant
Program
Instructions
September 2023*

**St. Johns Regional Audubon
Young Birders Grant Program for Students**

St. Johns Regional Audubon (SJRA) has a grant program for young birders who want to engage in a conservation or educational project related to birds. We'll help young birders bring their projects to life by providing mentors who can guide a young birder as he or she develops a project, as well as provide funding for materials up to **\$500.00** per project.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM?

Anyone from age 7 - 17 years old. This grant application can be completed by a single student, a family, or a youth group (school, scouts, neighborhood, etc).

WHAT?

Any project that will benefit birds in St. Johns County or the area of Putnam County that is part of our geographic territory . Birds need food, water, shelter, and a place to raise their young. A project should address one or more of these topics.

WHERE?

The project must be located and completed within St. Johns County or the area of Putnam County that is part of our geographic territory.

WHEN?

Grants applications will be accepted January through May, and September through December. Grant awardees will be required to complete their project within 60 days of acceptance, unless we give you an extension of time.

WHY?

Northeast Florida is a special place for birds, but they need our help!

If you have questions regarding this grant program, please contact Ms. Kate Milutin at education@stjohnsaudubon.com

Celebrating and protecting birds from the river to the sea!

www.stjohnsaudubon.com

How to Apply for a Grant

1. Identify a need in your community that will support the birds in St. Johns County or the area of Putnam County that is part of our geographic territory.
2. Think about your project and talk it over with an adult. Begin planning who and what you will need. Begin creating a budget and timeline for completing your project.
3. Complete the SJRA Grant application and a worksheet (to the best of your ability at this point). Submit your application to Ms. Kate Milutin at education@stjohnsaudubon.com or mail your application to the following address:

St. Johns Regional Audubon
27 Fishermans Cove Rd.
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Attn: Ms. Kate Milutin

4. Someone from SJRA will contact you within 30 days about your application.

Our Review of Your Application

5. We will do a preliminary review of your project and worksheet.
6. If we believe that you have a manageable project, we will match you with a mentor from SJRA, who will review your application with you and may have some suggestions about how it can be approved.
7. If you and your mentor agree that revisions are needed, you will need to submit a revised application. If your mentor does not see the need for any revisions, he or she will let us know that the application is final and ready for us to decide whether or not it should be approved.
8. When your application is approved by the SJRA Board of Directors, we will inform you of the amount of funding the SJRA is willing to provide.
9. A parent or legal guardian will be asked to sign a waiver of liability and photographic releases before the project begins.
10. You should begin implementing your project within 60 days of your grant award.

Working on Your Project

11. In order to provide funding, we will need you to provide us copies of all receipts for materials and supplies you purchased for your project.
 - A. If possible, we prefer that you or your parents purchase the materials you will need and be reimbursed by us.
 - B. However, if that is not possible, we may purchase any necessary materials for you directly.
12. Keep your mentor informed of your progress and don't be afraid to ask your mentor for advice.
13. Use your timeline, budget, and mentor to keep on track.
14. As you work on your project, take photos and/or videos of your progress and send them to Ms. Milutin. When you complete your project, take more photos and/or videos of your project, so that we can help you celebrate your success!
15. After completion, you should plan to report to SJCA with 5 to 10 digital images and/or a short video, as well as a written observation of your results.

Ideas for Projects

Here are some ideas for projects, but the possibilities are endless!

- Plant a garden of native plants
- Build bird feeders, place in an area where they are needed, and plan for how the feeders will be refilled
- Create a water feature for songbirds
- Host bird walks in your neighborhood and create birding presentations
- Make posters to educate the community about reducing plastic and make presentations to community groups

Things to think about as you prepare your grant application

Make sure your idea is **S.M.A.R.T.**

- **Specific** - You will want to be specific in what and where you will work.
- **Meaningful** - Is there a specific type of bird this project will help? Will this project do

something good for the environment in St. Johns County?

- **Accurate** - Be sure to write clearly. Think about the supplies you will need and research prices of those items. Create a budget and a timeline for completing.
- **Reasonable** - Is this a project you can accomplish with help and support?
- **Timely** - Can you complete this project within 60 days or the time allotted?

For example:

NOT smart → We want to make a water feature for birds.

↓ **So smart!**

S - We will build bird baths from terracotta pots and saucers and place them near plants in our apartment complex.

M - Songbirds need a source of water near plants where they can hide.

A - We will buy five 17" pots and saucers. We will need acrylic paint, paint brushes, and waterproof cement.

R - We will need to ask permission from management to place the bird baths. We will need transportation to purchase the supplies. We will need a place to build the birdbaths.

T - We will clean and refill the bird baths once per week.

