

ABOUT TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is an environmental education program that allows students to raise trout from eggs to fingerlings in the classroom and take a field trip to an approved coldwater stream to release them in Virginia.

The program began in Southern Virginia in 2005 when local Orthodontist in Martinsville, Dr. David Jones, delivered fingerlings to area schools. The following season, eggs were delivered to the classes in the winter so the students could see a large portion of the trout life cycle before they released them. Dan River Basin Association adopted the program in 2008 and has maintained the program with support from generous donors and grants since then.

The eggs are picked up from either the Virginia Department and Game and Inland Fisheries Paint Bank Hatchery or the Wytheville Hatchery. The Paint Bank hatchery supplies Brook trout eggs while the Wytheville Hatchery supplies Brown and Rainbow eggs. Schools receive the trout eggs in the fall or early winter and care for them until they become fingerlings, ultimately releasing them in the spring into a local approved coldwater stream. During the program, students learn to see connections between trout, water resources, stream ecosystems, and themselves.

Teachers have shared that their students have shown improved behaviour and attendance, in addition to increased math, science, and language art skills.

Program length: About 6 months; between October - May
Brook trout delivered in October; Brown trout delivered in December; Rainbow trout delivered in January. All trout are released by the end of May.

Includes: Technical Assistance; Classroom presentation

Location: In your classroom

Field Trip: Release trout fingerlings in an approved coldwater stream (Smith River or Upper Dan River), Coordinated by the Dan River Basin Association

Grade Levels: Elementary

Contact Information for Coordinator associated with the program:

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