

Pennsylvania Trout In the Classroom



Program Overview

Pennsylvania Trout In the Classroom (PA TIC) is an interdisciplinary program that introduces coldwater conservation education in Pennsylvania schools by raising trout from eggs to fingerlings.

The program helps to:

- Foster awareness of coldwater conservation in students grades 3–12 and
- Encourage participation in coldwater resource projects and recreation programs

PA TIC is made possible through a partnership between Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and Pennsylvania Department of Education's Environment and Ecology.

The partnership provides

- Technical assistance, website and teacher forum
- Grant opportunities
- Trout eggs and food
- Curriculum, aquarium resources and workshops

Classroom Objectives

Students will:

1. Raise trout by observing and monitoring a coldwater ecosystem in an aquarium
2. Identify stages of the trout lifecycle
3. Recognize PA's State Fish, the Brook Trout, as an "indicator species" of healthy coldwater streams
4. Describe conditions needed for trout survival in a classroom aquarium and in nature

Getting Started

Step 1: Learn more about PA TIC

Visit www.patrountintheclassroom.org

Step 2: "Partner up"

Find a program partner willing to help you with your program (*i.e. trout unlimited, watershed associations, conservation districts*).

Program partners enhance TIC programs through in-class programs, local watershed projects and technical assistance.

Step 3: Secure funds

Initial program costs = \$1,000—\$1,200.00.

Step 4: Attend required TIC workshop

Find and register a workshop on the PATIC webpage.

Step 5: Register for TIC by August 30th



Photo – Christine Fernandes (TIC Teacher)

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM TIMELINE

<p>AUGUST - SEPTEMBER</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review TIC webpage and TIC curriculum resources to assist in development/tailoring your curricula needs with the TIC program • Inventory your equipment, order what you need • Set-up planning meeting with your program partner to plan TIC school year program, presentation, field trip opportunities, and release day planning • Join TIC Facebook Group
<p>OCTOBER - DECEMBER</p>	<p>TIC school year prep & virtual learning opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning of October: Set up aquarium • Middle of October: Begin aquarium cycling process, and water monitoring training for students • December – Prepare students for egg arrival in mid-January
<p>JANUARY</p>	<p>Life Stage – Egg arrival, hatching & swim-up fry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive trout eggs (mid – January) – arrival depends on our trout egg contact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ NOTE – In October/November an egg arrival date email is sent to teachers • Observe trout life cycle, monitor, and record classroom, coldwater ecosystem and compare to local your coldwater streams • Confirm release day plans
<p>FEBRUARY - MAY</p>	<p>Life Stage: Fry to fingerling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PATU TIC grants open, due, and are awarded • Continue water quality sampling & trout observation • Feeding trout – Use guideline in resource guide • Conduct water changes as needed • Conduct release days • Release trout into a “Stocked Trout Waterway” (ONLY)
<p>JUNE – AUGUST</p>	<p>To participate in TIC each year teachers must complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TIC end of year report and registration for the next school year <p>Other items that need completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New TIC teachers attend TIC workshop • Conduct aquarium end-of-year clean-up • Prepare for upcoming TIC school year

Curriculum Connections

Participants tailor TIC to fit their classroom needs; therefore, each TIC program is unique.

Teachers connect math, environment and ecological topics in addition to science, biology, chemistry, and more subjects to TIC.

Other subject connections include, but are not limited to - social studies, reading, writing, arts, geography and physical education.

Funding Opportunities

PA Council of Trout Unlimited provides “existing” grants to current TIC teachers each year.

Check out the PATIC webpage – “Funding Sources” page for more options/funding ideas!

More information

PA TIC program

Website: www.patrountintheclassroom.org

Email: RA-troutclass@pa.gov

PA TIC grant program

Website: www.patrountintheclassroom.org

Email: info@patrountintheclassroom.org

