

Delaware Nature Society

ABBOTT'S MILL NATURE CENTER | ASHLAND NATURE CENTER | BUENA VISTA | COOCH-DAYETT MILLS | COVERDALE FARM PRESERVE | DUPONT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER



Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge Stewardship Award

The Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge Stewardship Award was created to recognize the efforts of Scouts who seek to learn more about the cultural, historical, and environmental importance surrounding the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge, and who seek to apply their passion for the environment in their daily lives. Completion of the award requires experiencing the Refuge grounds and facilities first-hand, learning and applying knowledge obtained from Refuge exhibits, and participating in Refuge-based activities and service projects.

Delaware Nature Society (DNS) operates the DuPont Environmental Education Center (DEEC) in the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge. To earn a Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge Stewardship Award complete the requirements below. Upon completion, present this form with all proper signatures and attachments to DEEC staff. You may then purchase a Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge Stewardship Award badge for \$5 each.



Award Requirements

APPLICANT NAME: _____ **TROOP:** _____

A) SPEND 1 HOUR ON THE REFUGE BOARDWALK. Identify and make a list of all wildlife (birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects) seen and indicate in which habitat it was located (on/in water, in air, in trees, in grass, on ground). Identify 5 species of native plants and 3 invasive plants. Reference guides are available. Include the list in this application.

B) USE THE INFORMATIONAL DISPLAYS IN DEEC TO FILL IN THE BLANKS:

The Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge, managed by DNREC, occupies _____ acres of freshwater, _____ marsh bordered by I-95 and the _____ River, along the southern most part of Wilmington's Riverwalk.

Our marsh and urban wildlife refuge is named for one of Delaware's former governors, Russell _____, a dedicated _____. During his term as governor, he created the landmark _____ Act which banned heavy industry from a two mile strip of Delaware's entire _____ mile coastline.

The extensive marsh restoration process began in _____ by _____. Their work included removal of the invasive _____ species, stabilization of _____ shoreline, and restoration of the _____ and installation of wildlife enhancement structures. The Refuge is currently one of _____ wetland restoration projects along the Christina watershed.

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www.delawarenaturesociety.org

C) ASK THE DEEC NATURALIST ON DUTY 2 QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MARSH.

Name of naturalist: _____

Question 1: _____

Answer 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Answer 2: _____

D) CHOOSE 1

1. Research and write a one-page paper on the importance of marshes to people and wildlife. Submit a copy of your paper with the Stewardship Award application.

2. Research, review and provide comment on a Coastal Zone Application with assistance from DNS Environmental Advocate (brenna@delawarenaturesociety.org).

DNS Environmental Advocate acknowledgement: _____

3. Research and write a one-page letter to the Governor requesting to fully fund the Delaware Open Space Program at \$10 million. Assistance from DelNature Environmental Advocate available. Submit a copy of the letter with the Stewardship Award application.

E) CHOOSE 3

1. Provide 4 hours of community service with the Delaware Nature Society at the Refuge. Speak with the DEEC Manager to discuss your refuge project ideas. Manager must give approval prior to starting your project to ensure that the refuge can accommodate your request.

Volunteer date: _____ DelNature staff acknowledgement: _____

2. Register your troop / pack for a group program with a Naturalist at the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge to learn more about the marsh.

Date of program: _____ DelNature staff acknowledgement: _____

3. Give a presentation to a community group (e.g. church, neighborhood association, etc) about the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge.

Date presented: _____ Community Group Name: _____

4. Create a video of your visit to DEEC and the Refuge and post online. DEEC staff must view video before posting.

DNS staff approval: _____

Delaware Nature Society (DelNature) is a state-wide non-profit environmental organization and seeks to foster understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the natural world through education, preserve ecologically significant areas, and advocate stewardship and conservation of natural resources. DelNature operates the DuPont environmental Education Center, showcasing where the city, river and marsh meet.

For more information on the Stewardship Award contact DuPont Environmental Education Center, 1400 Delmarva Lane, Wilmington DE 19801, 302-656-1490 x1157, Lesley@delawarenaturesociety.org.

For more information about DelNature, its additional education centers and a wide array of program opportunities visit our website at www.delawarenaturesociety.org.