

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM



Hello everyone!

My name is Mackenna Hackimer, and I am your new NY Trout in the Classroom Program Coordinator! Most recently, I worked as a Senior Conservation Educator with the Wildlife Conservation Society at Central Park Zoo after obtaining my Master's degree in environmental conservation education from New York University. I'm so excited to get started this spring and experience this amazing program with you and your students!

Feel free to reach out with any questions or to say hello at mhackimer@dep.nyc.gov.

It's Almost Trout Release Season!

Please complete the [2026 NYS DEC Trout Stocking Permit Application](#) for Region 3 **by Friday, March 13**. Trout releases taking place in all other regions should contact your TIC Coordinator and/or the appropriate NYS DEC regional office.

Please note that the stocking permit does not grant you permission for site use, you must organize this separately through the following contacts:

- ◆ **Ward Pound Ridge Reservation:** [Mackenna Hackimer](#) at (718) 595-5612
- ◆ **Rockefeller State Park:** [Martha Bierut](#) and [Joseph Zarzhevsky](#)
- ◆ **Fahnestock State Park:** [Declan Hennelly](#) at (845) 857-3157
- ◆ **Teatown Lake Reservation:** [Marie Roche](#)
- ◆ **Clearpool Education Center:** [Andrew \(AJ\) Johnson](#) at (845) 225-8226 x1600
- ◆ **Frost Valley YMCA:** [Eva Larson](#) at (845) 985-2291 x221
- ◆ **For questions on other sites in Regions 3,** contact [Mackenna Hackimer](#)
- ◆ **For permitting and questions on Region 4 releases,** contact [Jackie Trosterud](#)



Please also note that you are responsible for organizing your own transportation to the trout release sites, even when working with TIC or another partner on your release.

TIC Spring Teacher Conference

Our 2026 Spring TIC Conference is on **Tuesday, March 10** at Solar One's new Environmental Education Center! This is a great time to gather trout release trip ideas and learn about new resources to support your TIC program. The conference will feature a presentation from Trout Unlimited's local NYC Chapter, a fun workshop about watershed forestry and macroinvertebrates from Watershed Agricultural Council, a tour of Solar One, and more! A light breakfast and lunch will be provided, and NY State teachers are eligible to earn 4.5 CTLE hours for participating. Please [register here to attend](#).



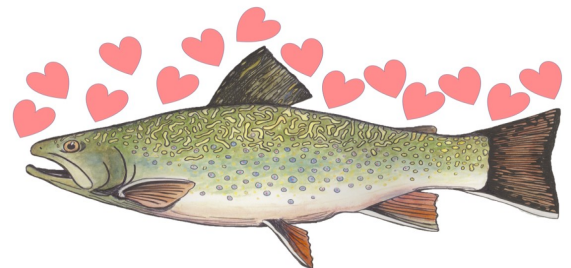
Art and Poetry Contest



NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is excited to announce the 40th annual [Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest](#). Second through twelfth grade students in New York City and the East and West of Hudson Watersheds are invited to create original art and compose poetry that reflects an appreciation for our shared water resources. Entries will be accepted online from now through **Friday, March 6**. To learn more and submit entries, visit [DEP's website](#). For questions, contact artandpoetry@dep.nyc.gov.

Lesson of the Month: Love Letters to the Trout

Show some love! Plan time this month for students to write love letters to the trout, expressing what they have enjoyed about the program this year. Bonus: follow up with a love letter to the watershed after releasing the trout this spring. [Learn more](#) about this simple and fun activity.



Other Announcements

- ◆ Join DEP for a Wastewater Resource Recovery in NYC professional learning opportunity on Wednesday, **March 18 from 4:30 – 6:30 PM** at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility. Learn about NYC's wastewater treatment process from experts in the field and view educational exhibits on waste-to-energy and biogas-to-grid projects while touring the Newtown Creek facility in Brooklyn. [Register here!](#)
- ◆ Join DEP, NY Sea Grant, and SUNY Maritime for a half-day in-person professional learning opportunity along the Long Island Sound waterfront on **Friday, April 10 from 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM**. Middle and high school teachers are invited to learn about resources and programs related to NYC harbor water quality, including stormwater management, green infrastructure, estuary ecology, ecological restoration, bio-extraction and nutrient removal, and stewardship. Participate in hands-on activities while exploring the Long Island Sound aboard SUNY Maritime's Research Vessel. [Register here!](#)