



2024 World Series of Birding ZEISS YOUTH BIRDING CHALLENGE (Level III)



Seeing beyond

Young birders love the World Series of Birding! It's a great way to encourage outdoor activity and track the progress of their birding skills over the years. The pandemic exception

in that allowed youth teams to participate outside New Jersey has ended. All Level III teams must compete in New Jersey.

Not ready to compete or have team members whose ages cross youth division definitions? Create a NJ Audubon Ambassador team instead.

In addition to this document that is specific to Level III competition all participants must be familiar with the overall [WSB Rules of Competition](#).

In a nutshell:

- **Level III entry fees of \$20/person apply (more details below)**
- **Each team must participate within New Jersey.**
- **An individual may be part of only one team.**
- **A team must consist of at least three and not more than six youth, not including designated drivers and mentors.**
- **Youth Division I & II teams (Grades 1 through 8) must have an adult Mentor over the age of 21.**
- **Team members need not remain together for the entire competition period. One or more team members may leave the team at any point during the competition but birds may only be counted when a minimum of three team members are together.**
- **The 95% Rule applies to youth teams.**
- **All participants raising money for NJ Audubon should work toward raising a minimum *participants* of \$50 per team member in addition to entry fees.**

All WSB participants should follow common sense health and safety protocols.

Rules Specific to the Zeiss Youth Birding Challenge (Level III)

Please read the **Rules of Competition** document and note the additional rules specific to teams in this level.

1. All Level III teams in grades 1 through 8 must have an adult mentor. The mentor's contact information must be entered by the Team Starter who registers the team. The mentor is assigned the task of keeping the checklist, checking accuracy and ensuring the list is submitted by the end of the time limit for the Division. See Mentor Responsibilities.
2. All Level III teams must have a designated driver and any teen driving must abide by all New Jersey laws.
3. All teams must utilize eBird Trip Reports to tally and submit their sightings on the day of the event.
4. All teams must abide by the time and geographic limits set for their division (see below). That means checklists must be submitted as eBird Trip Reports before the designated end-of-day time.
5. All teams must populate their WSB Team page with photos and information about their team and the cause for which money is being raised no later than two weeks prior to the event (April 29, 2024).
6. Youth teams, including school groups doing the WSB as part of their school curriculum, may conduct their WSB Big Day on any day within the week immediately preceding the official WSB date (including the prior Saturday). All checklists must be received on the day the WSB is conducted and in accordance with WSB rules.
7. Teams must compete within the school grade division, defined below, although teammates may attend different schools or be part of different programs outside of school. The school group category is defined by the most advanced school grade of the team members. No exceptions will be granted.
8. Friends, family and teachers may accompany the team, but may not participate, aid or contribute in the location or identification of birds in any manner.

Fees and Registration Information

Team Member registration: \$20/youth (does not apply to designated drivers or mentors although all need to be registered with the team). NOTE: If this presents a financial hardship, please contact the event organizers at wsb@njudubon.org or participate in the Level II NJ Audubon Ambassadors.

WSB T-shirts: \$25/shirt. Shirts can be ordered during the online registration process OR after registration by sending an email to wsb@njudubon.org

Sunday May 12 is the Awards Brunch. Tickets are \$30 per person and must be ordered no later than May 6th.

Fundraising

WSB is the perfect platform to raise money for birds and conservation. It is expected that participants either raise money for NJ Audubon or choose a conservation cause of their own to support. NJ Audubon is not responsible for collecting or distributing any donations made to

individual teams if those funds are not directed to NJ Audubon.

Zeiss Youth Birding Challenge Divisions

Youth divisions are organized by grade, and some limitations to hours and geographic coverage apply to Divisions A and B.

I. Division A: Elementary School - Grades 1 thru 5 (or equivalent)

No team member shall be past 5th grade on the day of the event.

- **Hours of Competition:** 5:00am to 8:00pm
- **Geographic Coverage:** Teams may bird in one location, such as a local park or on school grounds, or can expand their geographic coverage up to any **two** adjacent counties in New Jersey.
- The mentor may also be the designated driver.

II. Division B: Middle School - Grades 6 thru 8 (or equivalent)

No team member shall be past 8th grade on the day of the event.

- **Hours of Competition:** 3:00am to 10:00pm
- **Geographic Coverage:** Teams may bird in one location, such as a local park or on school grounds, or can expand their geographic coverage up to any **four** adjacent counties in New Jersey.
- The mentor may also be the designated driver.

III. Division C: High School - Grades 9 thru 12 (or equivalent)

No team member shall be past 12th grade, or over the age of 18 years, on the day of the event.

- **Hours of Competition:** midnight to midnight
- **Geographic Coverage:** Teams can bird anywhere in the state
- The mentor, if one is present, can also be the designated driver.
- No team member can be the designated driver.

IV. Division D: Carbon Free Kids (CFK) Challenge – Grades 6 thru 12

No team member shall be past 12th grade or over the age of 18 years on the day of the event. Carbon Free Kids teams will abide by the same rules as the adult teams participating in the Carbon Footprint Cup.

- **Hours of Competition:** 5:00am to 9:00pm
- **Geographic Coverage:** Teams can bird anywhere in the state
- **Teams must have a mentor and/or an adult support person or small group to ensure health and safety throughout the day.**

Rules Specific to Carbon Footprint Cup (All other competition rules and ethics apply)

1. Once team members are in place and have begun birding, no mode of motorized transportation may be used. Team members may walk, run, bike, skate, use any type of non-motorized boat (canoe, kayak, etc.) or any combination throughout the event. Motorized transportation may be used only up to the point when the team member begins birding and after the team member has stopped birding

for the event

2. Any species seen or heard while using motorized transportation may not be counted.
- Any CFK team member operating or riding in any motorized transportation during the competition will disqualify the entire team. The exception would be as stated under Rule II Participants (c) in the Rules of Competition, as long as there is a minimum of three team members remaining in the field.
 - Please note, a CFK participant may wish to bike in some places and hike in other places and it is acceptable for a friend or parent to move the bikes and/or keep an eye on the bikes. Support team members are discouraged from accompanying the team in a vehicle for the entire day, as that defeats the purpose of the Carbon Footprint Challenge.