

**Conservation Federation of Missouri
2014 Resolutions**

Committee: Youth Leadership & Conservation Education

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DESE Teaching Certification Requirements

WHEREAS, conservation education is a vital component to the long-term sustainability of a community; and

WHEREAS, current elementary and secondary institutions are responsible for the education of the community's youth; and

WHEREAS, the success of both the institutions and the students rely upon the competency of the educators; and

WHEREAS, educators are certified through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) who utilize the teaching theory that effective educators are "caring, reflective practitioners and life-long learners who continuously acquire new knowledge and skills and are constantly seeking to improve their teaching practice to provide high academic achievement for all students; and

WHEREAS, the competence of these educators' ability to acquire new knowledge and skills is contingent upon access to hands-on education experience; and

WHEREAS, hands-on education curriculum in conservation exists in programs such as Missouri Department of Conservation's Discover Nature Schools program and other programs such as Project Learning Tree, Project Wet, Project Wild, and Project Flying Wild; and

WHEREAS, these programs promote a cross-disciplinary approach with active learning; and

WHEREAS, these programs would benefit the long-term sustainability of the community by educating youth in ways that are more hands on, exciting, and in a more meaningful manner; and

WHEREAS, the current teaching certificate does not benefit from the qualities accessible through these programs: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 23rd day of March, 2014 recommends that the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education installs a component to the teaching certificate requiring that educators receive training in Discover Nature Schools or a certification in either Project Learning Tree, Project Wet, Project Wild, Project Flying Wild, or a similar conservation related curriculum.