

Establishing Trout In the Classroom (TIC) in North Carolina

(Courtesy of the Rocky River Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission)

Name of School _____

Address of School _____

Name of Principal _____

List the names of *three* staff members (perhaps teachers, principal, board-member, etc.) that will work together with TIC. List the lead teacher first. Provide contact information: e-mail, cell phone, land line phone.

1. Do you have a location in the classroom to hold a 55 gallon aquarium? Encircle Yes or No.
2. Do you have a sturdy table to hold the aquarium? Encircle Yes or No.
3. Do you have space next to or under the aquarium stand to house the external filtration system and the chiller (water refrigeration system)? Together the two systems take up a little less space than the aquarium. Encircle Yes or No.
4. Are there electrical outlets (preferably four 110 AC outlets) near the aquarium to operate the air pump, filtration system, and chiller? Encircle Yes or No. If yes, how many?
5. Is there a near-by water source to fill the aquarium? Encircle Yes or No.
6. Is there a near-by sink to drain at least 5 gallons of water out of the tank at least once a week to replace with fresh water? Encircle Yes or No.
7. Do you have access to a freezer to store 4 to 6 one-gallon jugs of frozen water? They are emergency coolers in case the chiller malfunctions. Encircle Yes or No.
8. Do you have room in the classroom to store two, 5-gallon buckets of water used to exchange aquarium water? (Chlorine in tap water is allowed to evaporate from open water buckets before water exchange.) Encircle Yes or No.

9. Do you have room in the classroom to store five, 1-gallon jugs of water used to exchange aquarium water? Encircle Yes or No.
10. Do you have room in the classroom to store the water quality test kits and chemicals used in treating the water? Encircle Yes or No.
11. Would you be prepared to create a standardized form for recording water quality test results into student notebooks? Encircle Yes or No.
12. Would you be prepared to create standardized procedures for routine/daily maintenance of the aquarium and trout? Encircle Yes or No
13. Do you have the capability to record standardized data into an Excel spreadsheet for electronic record keeping of aquarium water quality care and maintenance? Encircle Yes or No
14. Do you have ready access in the classroom to the internet to be able to access the TIC website (www.troutintheclassroom.org)? Encircle Yes or No
15. Do you have the need for a UPS battery backup system that will keep everything running for 4 to 6 hours, in the event of power failure? Encircle Yes or No
16. Are you prepared during week days, while school is in session, to conduct a series of monitoring protocols morning and afternoon that include visual inspection, water quality testing, chemicals added to adjust water quality, etc.? This may need to be done more frequently should a water quality problem develop. Encircle Yes or No
17. The aquarium should never go more than two days (the weekend) without monitoring, which may include water quality testing and corrective measures being taken if needed. Are you willing to have trained adults to care for the aquarium and trout in the event that there is a long weekend or a holiday? Encircle Yes or No
18. Are you willing to develop and keep handy a contact list of individuals and resources to be used when there are questions or problems develop with the eggs, fish, water quality or the equipment? Encircle Yes or No
19. Are you willing to provide time for training teachers and anyone else who will be assisting with the TIC program at least 30 to 60 days before starting up the TIC program? Training is required before equipment is installed. Installation of equipment may be part of the training. Encircle Yes or No
20. Do you envision that *Trout In The Classroom* (TIC) will be
- a classroom activity only, Encircle Yes or No
 - an after-school club activity only, Encircle Yes or No
 - or both? Encircle Yes or No

Please provide additional comments that may be useful to help the Rocky River Trout Unlimited (RRTU) choose your school to do TIC this coming school year.

Please contact Bill Thomas (xxx) xxx-xxxx if you need any information that will help you complete this questionnaire. Though Mr. Thomas is the head of *Trout In The Classroom* for RRTU, the RRTU Board of Directors will choose the school/s to award the Program and provide assistance through the school year. We ask that each school provide \$500.00 in funding, a one-time start-up cost. RRTU will cover all other start-up costs. At times RRTU may be able to cover a portion of the \$500.00 depending on current maintenance costs among all RRTU TIC schools.

Additional assistance during the school year may go beyond just raising trout in the classroom. Depending upon abilities and interests of teachers and students it may include learning how to tie fishing flies, learning how to do fly-fishing, catching of trout at urban lakes, dissecting trout, etc.