

Egg Delivery Equipment List and Guidelines

1. **Ice Chest, about a 25-quart** size. Put a couple inches of ice in bottom, cover with a terry towel. Chlorine-free ice is best, but not essential.
2. **Small 6-pack cooler** or small box/bag of equivalent volume that can get wet. Use this to carry 1 or 2 bags of eggs from your ice chest to the classroom once you arrive at school. For this short walk, light is the danger, not temperature. Do all possible to minimize the light to which eggs are exposed during the entire day. Each batch of eggs comes wrapped in cheesecloth or sometimes in a one-gallon Ziploc bag, about 2/3 full of water.
3. **Stream or aquarium thermometer** to check temperature of egg water – preferably non-metal and without sharp edges. When you arrive at classroom, check the temperature of the water in the aquarium. It should be about 48-50 degrees F. If eggs are in a bag of water, float the bag of eggs in the aquarium, so that water temperature in bag can reach that of the aquarium as soon as possible. If eggs are in cheesecloth, keep them away from bright lights and leave on ice as long as possible.
4. **Terry cloth hand towel.** Your hands will be in the cold aquariums during the day.
5. **A good map** of and to the towns you'll visit. The travel directions you'll be given are not infallible. In fact if it's convenient, you should make a "dry run" before egg delivery day.
6. **There is a video of the process at <http://georgepilling.com/tic/>**

What to deliver to each teacher:

1. Bag(s) of **eggs**. If the aquarium is not ready, don't leave anything. See schedule for disposition.
2. Container of **fry food**. Remind teacher that it should be refrigerated.
3. Yellow copy of DFG **Form 772**.
4. Egg history & thermal unit sheet, "**When Will They Hatch?**" (should come with eggs and available online)

What to do at each classroom:

1. Make sure teacher has an opaque cover for the aquarium, usually made of a cardboard box or just paper over the sides and top. *If not in darkness, the eggs or alevin will die.*
2. A few teachers prefer that you simply deliver eggs, food, and forms and be on your way. Your delivery schedule should be marked "**Leave eggs**" for these teachers.
3. Most teachers want you to "**Install eggs**" in their tank as part of a brief presentation to the students. Your schedule allows time for this. If a substitute happens to be on duty, then it's imperative that you install the eggs. If school has more than 1 class, float all egg bags at once, then install class by class.
4. For a **presentation**, simply introduce yourself as a member of the Kaweah Flyfishers, the organization that provides equipment and volunteers for Trout in the Classroom. Then verbalize the information on the sheet, "When Will They Hatch." Don't predict when the eggs will hatch. Let the students do the math after you leave. If the thermal info is not given, it will be sent to the teachers soon. If time allows, talk about Catch & Release fishing and why we practice it.
5. To install eggs, **turn off water pump** so there is no water movement in tank. If it is an Aqua-Euro style external chiller, turn off the pump for that unit also. If the tank is a small 3-gallon size inside a DFG refrigerator, there will be no "show" for the students.
6. If it's a larger tank with external chiller such as we provide, then students can get close enough to see the process. Move a few of the top large rocks out of the way. Allow some tank water to mix in the bag with the egg water, and then slowly float the eggs out of bag along the front wall of the tank. After the eggs settle among the larger rocks, use the turkey baster to separate any clumps or groups of eggs and replace the top rocks. If you detect a solid white egg, it is dead and should be removed with the turkey baster. This takes a very gentle touch – only squeeze the baster bulb a little to pick up an egg. Remind students to be on the lookout for solid white eggs. They must be removed when discovered to prevent contamination.
7. **Turn on water pump** and **cover the aquarium** before leaving.
8. **Questions? George Pilling 901-6676.**