



Chicago Conservation Leadership Corps

The **Chicago Conservation Leadership Corps program (CCLC)** is a six-week conservation service-learning experience. Selected individuals will participate on crews that will consist of 10-12 high school students and two adult leaders.

As a team, the crew will perform ecological restoration and trail maintenance projects in the Forest Preserves of Cook County for six weeks. Each Friday, students will participate in field days learning about the local ecology and the environment at various sites throughout the region. See below for FAQ!

Q: What are the age requirements to participate in the program?

A: Students must be 15-19 years old by program start and enrolled in high school or be a 2016 high school graduate.

Q: How do I apply?

A: Visit www.fotfp.org and apply online or download a printable version. The application will open on **March, 14th 2016** and will close on **April 22nd, 2016**.

Applications must be submitted electronically or mail by April 22, 2016. Late applications will not be accepted, no exceptions.

Q: What is the time commitment?

A: The program will run from June 27th, 2016 to August 5th, 2016. Students will work Monday-Friday 36 hours/week and receive a wage of \$8.25/hr. If a student misses more than 3 days of work they will be automatically dismissed from the program and will forfeit the remaining stipend. There are no exceptions for family vacations or summer school. July 4th will be observed for the Independence Day and no programming will occur on that day. Crew members will meet at designated locations at 7:30 a.m. Monday-Thursday and will be dropped off at the same locations by Crew Leaders at 4:00 p.m. Fridays are designated as environmental education days. Crew members will be paid for four hours on Fridays.



Q: What exactly do students do and where do they work?

A: Students will spend one week learning job skills that will prepare them for the program and give them skills that they can use in the future. They then engage in rewarding and valuable physical work outdoors on conservation and restoration projects in the Forest Preserves of Cook County including trail work, invasive species removal and nature center projects. Throughout each week time will be devoted to learning about the local ecology and environment. Once student is hired, they will usually be placed at the forest preserve work site that is closest to their home.

Q: How can I improve my chances of getting into the program?

A: We highly encourage you to volunteer at a forest preserve this spring to learn more about what you will be doing this summer and to see if you like the work. Applicants that come out for two volunteer events removing invasive plants or helping out at a Nature Center have a better chance of securing a position for the summer (see below for information). We also encourage you to spend time thinking about and answering the essay section of your application.



We receive many applications and are looking for students that are excited about working in the forest preserves and helping our environment.

Q: Where can I volunteer in the Forest Preserves of Cook County?

A: The CLC program encourages applicants to attend two volunteer events at a nearby forest preserve. However, volunteering is not a requirement to apply. We encourage volunteering because this will give you a better understanding of what you will be doing during the summer. Volunteer events happen almost every Saturday or Sunday. Events are led by certified leaders who instruct you on how to remove invasive species among other activities. To find an event go to <http://fpdcc.com/volunteer/>.

To receive program credit for volunteering you must complete the forms on the following page. Forms must be included with your application, NO EXCEPTIONS.

Q: Who do I call with additional questions?

A: For more information please contact: Zach Taylor, Conservation Director, Friends of the Forest Preserves, 312-356-9990



Chicago Conservation Leadership Corps Program
Volunteer Credit Form



PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Applicant Name _____

Forest Preserve Name _____ Date of Event _____

Please have the volunteer Site Steward or workday leader complete the following:

Steward Name _____ Steward Signature _____

Steward Phone _____ Email _____

The volunteer arrived at the workday at _____ and left at _____

This form is for volunteering only and should not be submitted unless you have volunteered at a forest preserve.



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