



Chicago Conservation Leadership Corps

July 1- August 9, 2013

The Chicago Conservation Leadership Corps Program (CLC) is a six-week conservation service-learning experience. The crew will consist of 10-12 high school participants and two adult leaders. The first week of the program is spent in training and workshops. As a team, the crew will perform ecological restoration and trail maintenance projects in the Forest Preserves of Cook County for the next five weeks. Each Friday, students will participate in field days learning about the local ecology and the environment at various sites throughout the region. Participants are compensated for their work at a maximum rate of \$1,500* (**pay will be reduced for missed work and taxes are deducted from the total pay*)

Frequently Asked Questions:

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

A: You must be 15 years old by July 1, 2013 and enrolled in high school or be a 2013 high school graduate.

Q: What is the time commitment and compensation?

A: You will work Monday-Friday 32 hours/week and receive a maximum pay of \$1,500. Pay will be reduced for missed work and taxes. Fridays are shorter days spent going on environmental field visits. If you miss more than 3 days of work you will be automatically dismissed from the program and will forfeit your remaining pay. There are no exceptions for family vacations or summer school.

Q: What exactly will I be doing as a crewmember and where will I be working?

A: You will spend one week learning job skills that will prepare you for the program and give you skills that you can use in the future. You will 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. If you are hired, you will usually be placed at the forest preserve work site that is closest to your home.

Q: Will there be a chance to ask questions and learn more about the program prior to the program start?

A: There is a mandatory Parent and Participant Orientation and Interview prior to the start of the program. You are also encouraged (but not required) to volunteer at a spring volunteer event in the forest preserves to get a feel for the work you'll be doing. To find a volunteer event near you go to <http://fpdcc.com/volunteer/>. Applicants that come out for a volunteer event have a better chance of securing a position for the summer (see page 2 for more information).

Q: Where do we meet each day and what are the hours?

A: You will be assigned to a crew and pick up location once you are offered a placement in the program. At your pickup location, you'll meet your Crew Leader and van each morning no later than 7:45 am. You'll be dropped off at the same location in the afternoon at approximately 3:45 pm Monday through Thursday. Fridays are shorter, starting at 7:45 am and usually end by 2 pm but do not expect to arrive back exactly at the same time every Friday as the field days differ in length. Pick-up locations are convenient landmarks and include shopping malls, community colleges and CTA train stops. Pick-up locations are selected to minimize commuting times for the greatest number of participants.

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 a volunteer event 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 (page 2). We receive many applications and are looking for students that are excited about working in the forest preserves and helping our environment.

Q: How and when will I know if I have been accepted into the program?

A: We will send you an acceptance letter in the mail. Due to the large number of applications received we are not able to inform you of your application status unless you give us a legible email address. All applicants will be notified via email by no later than **June 1, 2013** regarding their application status.

Please complete the application form and return to:

**Chicago Conservation Leadership Corps
Friends of the Forest Preserves
542 S. Dearborn St., Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60605
Phone (312) 356-9990**

Applications must be submitted via email or postmarked by April 12, 2013. Late applications will not be accepted, no exceptions. You must have all forms completed and on file in the program office to be considered for acceptance into the program. Applications can be downloaded at www.fotfp.org (click on "about" then "jobs and internships").

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

The CLC program encourages applicants to attend a volunteer event 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 lead 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/> and click on the workday calendar tab. Applicants that attend a workday have a better chance of securing a position over the summer. **To receive program credit for volunteering you must complete the below form. Forms must be included with your application, NO EXCEPTIONS.**



**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.