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 high school students, one apprentice leader, and two adult crew leaders.

As a team, the crew will perform ecological restoration and trail maintenance projects in the Forest Preserves of Cook County. 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 FAQs!

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

A: Students must be 14-19 years old by program start and enrolled in high school or be a 2020 high school graduate.

Q: How do I apply?

A: Visit [www.fotfp.org/jobs](http://www.fotfp.org/jobs) and apply online under the “Member Application” or download a printable version. The application will open on January 27th, 2020 and will close on April 3rd, 2020.

Q: What is the time commitment and how does transportation work?

A: The program will run from June 29th, 2020 to August 7th, 2020. Students generally work Monday-Friday 28 hours/week and receive a wage of $10/hr. If a student misses more than 3 days of work they will be dismissed from the program and will forfeit the remaining pay. There are no exceptions for family vacations or summer school. July 3rd will be observed for the Independence Day holiday and no programming will occur on that day. Participants do not need to live near a forest preserve to participate. Students meet at centralized pick-up and drop-off locations (such as a CTA train stop) and are transported to their work site each day. Students leave their pick-up locations at 7:30 a.m. Monday-Thursday and will be dropped off at the same locations by Crew Leaders at 2:00 p.m. Fridays are designated as environmental education days. Crew members will be paid for four hours on Fridays and will still meet at their designated locations at 7:30 a.m.

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 a 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 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 CCLC 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. Any time you have a volunteer slip signed, please email or scan a photo of the signed form to: scaChicago@thesca.org

**Q: Who do I call with additional questions?**

**A:** For more information please contact:

Zach Taylor  
zach@fotfp.org  
Conservation Director  
Friends of the Forest Preserves  
312-356-9990 EXT 302

Daiva Gylys  
dgylys@thesca.org  
Chicago Program Manager  
Student Conservation Association  
312-239-1665
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. Once a volunteer day is completed, please send photo or scan form to: scaChicago@thesca.org