



Opportunities for Students and Clubs

Chicago Conservation Corps (C3) Student Clubs
Chicago Department of Environment (DOE)
2009-2010



Chicagoans have access to an abundance of conservation organizations and agencies. There are several opportunities offered through these organizations that can enrich your Club's experiences, complementing the efforts undertaken by your Club throughout the year. Many of these programs have additional training components for teachers, and offer materials and support for your Clubs as well. There are also several opportunities listed which students can investigate independently.

Alliance for Climate Education (ACE)

This national nonprofit organization educates youth regarding climate change, focusing on empowerment and action. If you are interested in hosting an ACE educator at your high school for a school-wide (free!) assembly, contact Michael LaFemina at michael.lafemina@climateeducation.org or 312.618.5229 or visit www.climateeducation.org.

Alliance for the Great Lakes - C3 Partner Organization

Alliance for the Great Lakes conserves and restores the Great Lakes through policy, education, and other local efforts. Through their **Adopt-a-Beach program**, the Alliance offers students an opportunity to conduct litter monitoring and water quality testing along Great Lakes shoreline. In addition, the Alliance has a K-8 curriculum called Great Lakes in My World that is aligned to state learning standards. Contact Frances Canonizado (fcanonizado@greatlakes.org, 312-939-0838 x 228) for more information, or visit www.greatlakes.org.

Chicago Cares - C3 Partner Organization

Chicago Cares provides more than 200 volunteer opportunities every month for individuals and businesses. In addition, Chicago Cares leads the city in two large-scale service events every year: the Serve-a-thon in June and Celebration of Service in January. Groups of youths are invited to participate in special service days led by trained Chicago Cares volunteers. Chicago Cares also creates and manages service projects specifically geared for families and teens. Find volunteer opportunities and register to participate in Chicago Cares ongoing and special service events at <http://www.chicagocares.org>.

The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum – C3 Partner Organization

The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum offers a number of programs and activities for students. Their TEENS program for high school age youth offers on-the-job training, college preparedness activities, and education in environmental science, museum operations, and biology. From overnight programs to home-school workshops to scout badge workshops, the Museum offers students a wide variety of programs about nature, biodiversity, environment, and science. For more information about any of these programs visit www.naturemuseum.org.

CPS Service Learning – C3 Partner Organization

This office can help your students gain service learning credits for C3 Student Club activities. Teachers should communicate with their Service Learning coach about their activities and to log hours with students for preparation/action/reflection hours. Projects must include a reflection strategy to qualify for service-learning; this component is easily created by adapting C3 materials. See www.servicelearning.cps.k12.il.us/ for information and forms for getting credit.

Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA offers a unique interactive website for students at <http://www.epa.gov/kids/>. The agency also has a speaker's bureau that sends experts to club meetings and classes to discuss environmental topics. Contact Megan Gavin at 312-353-5282 or gavin.megan@epa.gov for more information.



Facing the Future

This organization hosts a Climate Change Action Projects database. If your students are looking for some new project ideas, they can visit <http://www.facingthefuture.org/> to learn about other organizations and initiatives in which they can participate.

Faith in Place – C3 Partner Organization

Faith in Place partners with religious congregations to promote clean energy and sustainable farming. In partnership with several settlement houses and Catholic School after-school programs, Faith in Place offers after-school programming and summer activities for youth from Humboldt Park, Pilsen, Little Village, Logan Square and Uptown. Students learn to grow organic vegetables, adopt healthy lifestyles and diets, and market homegrown products. Programming is portable and Faith in Place has capacity for new partners who operate after-school programming and who would like this additional content. Contact Faith in Place at 312-733-4640 or info@faithinplace.org for more information.

Fishin' Buddies

This fishing club engages volunteers to learn and participate in fishing activities as well as prairie, woodland, wetland restoration and other nature and science projects on Chicago's southeast side. Contact Fishin Buddies at 773-253-2598 for more information.

Friends of the Chicago River – C3 Partner Organization

Friends of the Chicago River works to improve the health of the Chicago River. Their Chicago River Schools Network (CRSN), a program for K-12 teachers within the Chicago River watershed, provides teacher training, curricula and field equipment to help teachers and students learn about the history and ecology of the River. Students can also participate in the Adopt-A-River program. Participants adopt a section of the Chicago River or any of its tributaries and collect monitoring data every other month, conduct action projects, participate in River Rescue day at their site, and present at the annual Chicago River Student Congress. For more information, visit www.chicagoriver.org/education.

Friends of the Forest Preserves – C3 Partner Organization

Friends of the Forest Preserves plays an important role in preserving, protecting and restoring the Cook County Forest Preserves, and is always looking for volunteers to help. Visit the organization's website at <http://www.fotfp.org/volunteer.html> for volunteer opportunities.

Global Challenge Award

The Global Challenge Award is a nonprofit association that works to provide students with the tools and confidence to solve global problems together. Through this program, students form international teams to solve the global challenge of "Climate Change and the Future of Energy." They also have an opportunity to compete individually in an international social gaming contest; the winners will attend the United Nations Climate Change Convention in Copenhagen. To learn more about this intensive, youth-centered program, visit <http://www.globalchallengeaward.org/display/public/Home>, or send an e-mail to management@globalchallengeaward.org.

Global Alliance of Artists

The Global Alliance of Artists seeks to utilize artists and creativity inherent in communities to help solve social challenges on a local, national, and international level. If your Club is doing an art project and would like the support of a local, environmentally-conscious artist, post the relevant information for your project on <http://www.globalallianceartists.org/ContactUs.html>. Mention that you are with the Chicago Conservation Corps and would like to share your project idea on the Urban Arts and Environment Forum. Not all requests for artist collaboration will be met.



Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

The Illinois DCEO offers a resource called *The Case for Investigating the 4Rs*. Students learn the exciting ways in which recycling old products into new products can save money, resources and energy. This educational case is filled with over 50 items made from recycled commodities, eleven videos that are age-appropriate from K-adult, and lessons plans. The case may be borrowed for up to two weeks at no charge. Contact Susan Nevitt at Susan.Nevitt@illinois.gov, or call at 217-785-2863.

http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/dceo/Bureaus/Energy_Recycling/Education/ISTEP_cases_program.htm

Illinois Section American Water Works Association

The Illinois Section American Water Works Association is dedicated to being the authoritative resource on safe water in Illinois. They offer in class demonstrations on water chemistry, recycling, and the environment, in addition to supporting water-related projects for students, particularly Project Lead the Way (PLTW). They also promote career pathways and job opportunities within the water/public works fields for students. Visit <http://www.isawwa-portal.com/> for more information.

Mayor Daley's Bicycling Ambassadors

This is an outreach and education program that promotes the safe use of bicycles for transportation while encouraging all road users to better share the road. High school students can get trained to be Ambassadors themselves, or teachers can request an Ambassador to talk to students about bike safety and benefits. Outreach materials are also available. Interested students or teachers can contact Charlie Short at 312-744-8147 or go to www.bicyclingambassadors.org.

Roots & Shoots

The Roots & Shoots program is about making positive change happen—for communities, for animals and for the environment. With tens of thousands of young people in almost 100 countries, the Roots & Shoots network branches out across the globe, connecting youth of all ages who share a common desire to help make our world a better place. Both educational and financial resources are available to start a local Roots & Shoots group in your school community. To learn more about the school program, visit <http://www.rootsandshoots.org> or call 312-345-1123.

Shedd Aquarium – C3 Partner Organization

The Shedd Aquarium's conservation initiatives include worldwide collaborations, hands-on programs, and every day "green" practices. Shedd's Lake Shore Biology classes offer 6th-12th grade students an opportunity to perform water quality assessments on the shores of Lake Michigan. Contact Jason Dupuis (312-692-3367 or jdupuis@sheddaquarium.org) for more information. Also, Chicago Public Schools are allowed to book with the group sales team at no- or low-cost for class field trips. Email groupreservations@sheddaquarium.org for more information.

The Student Conservation Association – C3 Partner Organization

SCA is a national non-profit organization devoted to protecting vital habitats, threatened wildlife, and other at-risk resources in our nation's parks, forests and urban green spaces. Teachers can direct interested teenage students to www.thesca.org to learn about how to join an SCA high school crew. As SCA crew members, students will build hiking trails, protect threatened habitats, sleep under the stars, and connect to the land in new ways. They will share this experience with other high school crew members and two experienced adult leaders. Crew assignments typically run anywhere from three to five weeks.

UrbanWatch -- Field Museum – C3 Partner Organization

Illinois UrbanWatch is a volunteer monitoring program of urban green spaces written by The Field Museum and coordinated by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Teachers and their students get involved in a hands-on adventure in environmental learning combining science and technology with community action to track the native biodiversity in urban green spaces statewide. For more information: (312) 665-7442, kataylor@fieldmuseum.org, www.fieldmuseum.org/urbanwatch.

