

Young Researchers Collaborative
2017–2018 Program Application
for Middle School (6th–8th grade)
Science Teachers
Tier 2

Program Overview

Throughout the course of the program, students will

- conduct authentic science projects, aligned with zoo research, through data collection experiences, data analysis and dissemination.
- connect with nature and urban wildlife in their communities and at Lincoln Park Zoo.
- be aware of conservation challenges faced in an urbanizing world

Throughout the course of the program, teachers will

- gain experience in using inquiry in their science classroom.
- incorporate information on conservation and human impacts on the environment into their curriculum.
- increase understanding and confidence in applying the scientific process.
- engage in a collaborative network to better incorporate components of the YRC program into their curriculum.

YRC is designed to provide programmatic content to teachers and their students and also to provide teachers with the tools and expertise necessary to incorporate YRC programming throughout the rest of their teaching careers. In order to guide teachers towards this independent facilitation, Tier 2 offers:

- A flexible model that enables teachers to integrate YRC curriculum into their classroom in their own way.
- Access to new tools and resources for research, including field cameras, weather monitors, and backpack kits containing additional lesson plans and materials.
- Extra professional development opportunities for teachers to grow their content knowledge of science and research.
- Fellowship and collaboration with peers in the program, including opportunities to work together on adapting curriculum and problem solving.

Tier 2 differs from Tier 1, as the zoo offers more professional development for teachers but less direct instruction for students. As a Tier 2 teacher, you will gain access to more tools and resources from the zoo, but fewer facilitated components for your students. Please review the component breakdown below for specifics.

Due to high demand and limited availability of spots, we want to make sure that those teachers who choose to participate will be able to fulfill all requirements for the full program. We require science teachers to have a minimum of three participating science classes/periods. The program begins in September; teachers must take part in the first professional development workshop, to be held on September 2, 2017. Student involvement with the program will begin with the school year. Please review the program with your school administrator and return this application by May 19, 2017.

Program Breakdown

Two Professional Development Workshops

Time Commitment: Two full days

Time Frame: Saturday, September 2, 2017, and Saturday, January 20, 2018

During these interactive workshops, teachers will receive an overview of Tier 2 and its components, supplementary information on research possibilities and extension activities, necessary materials to participate in program components, time to collaborate with fellow participants, and a chance to learn more about the animals and research at the zoo. The second workshop will be conducted in conjunction with Tier 1 teachers, where Tier 2 teachers will have a chance to communicate with and mentor them.

Attendance at workshops is required. In the unlikely event that a workshop must be rescheduled, please note that workshops may take place during either school or non-school hours. During school hours, funding for an external substitute will be provided. During non-school hours, a stipend will be provided.

We will also provide CPDUs, parking, a light breakfast, and lunch for the day.

Field Camera Coaching Session at School

Time Commitment: One after-school session

Time Frame: September–October

To aid in student research, teachers will receive a field camera and accessories to capture images of urban wildlife in their schoolyards. A zoo educator will conduct one after-school visit to provide participating teachers with coaching on camera usage and set-up. These cameras will be set-up on school grounds. Please verify this with your administrator prior to applying.

One Field Trip to Lincoln Park Zoo

Time Commitment: One field trip for each participating class

Time Frame: September–May, as schedule allows

All participating students are required to visit the zoo once in order to conduct research. The visit will give students a chance to collect data for their final research project using the zoo's iPads and data sheets.

Participating schools will receive free field trip buses and additional funds to cover an external substitute for two days.

Zoo visits will be scheduled with the zoo educator and teachers will select specific days that work with their schedules. Up to three classes per day can be accommodated. If a teacher has more than three classes, they will need schedule multiple days for their zoo visit to accommodate all of their students, and the participating teacher must attend all days of the field trip.

If teachers need to change the date of their visit, they must do so at least a week before the scheduled trip. Due to the limited dates available for field trips, there may not be time to reschedule additional trips that are cancelled after the deadline. Therefore, if a teacher needs to reschedule after the deadline, the visit may be subject to cancellation.

One Classroom Visit

Time Commitment: One science period for each participating class

Time Frame: September–March, as scheduled by teacher

A zoo educator will visit participating schools on one occasion, free of charge, to work directly with the teacher and students. All supplies for the visits will be brought by the zoo educator. Teachers must be able to arrange their class periods into a single day for the educator visit.

Teachers will get to choose which of the Tier 1 Classroom Visits they would like facilitated by a zoo educator for

their own professional development. Teachers will select specific days that work with their schedule. A one-week notice will be required for any schedule changes or cancellations. Additional support can be arranged if needed.

Ongoing Student Learning and Research on School Grounds

Time Commitment: At least two-four hours of class time per month per class

Time Frame: September-May, ongoing

Teachers will use Lincoln Park Zoo resources and curriculum to engage students in learning about and conducting authentic science research. Students will conduct ongoing research and analysis at school using these tools. Two-four hours of class time per month is required to focus on research, analysis and presentation preparation. Individual data collection outside of school hours is encouraged but not required.

Teachers will receive practical support and necessary materials for leading research and analysis during the professional development sessions and through the online portal. Teachers will also receive support in aligning this research with existing science curriculum.

Backpack Kits

Time Commitment: Flexible

Time Frame: September-May, ongoing

Teachers can utilize these backpack kits to supplement their YRC instruction in the classroom. The kits contain a variety of curriculum resources and hands-on materials, such as field guides, biomaterials, and more. These kits were developed to support participating teachers in their implementation of the YRC curriculum. They are available for check-out from the zoo educator.

Science Working Group

Time Commitment: One half day session for the teacher

Time Frame: March

Professional development focusing on the scientific research happening at Lincoln Park Zoo is provided

during this one out-of-school session and may include guest speakers and additional science training. Teachers will also have the opportunity to collaborate and discuss their implementation of the Tier 2 model, work through challenges they may face, and brainstorm program extensions or adaptations for use in their classrooms. The zoo will provide CPDUs, parking, some light snacks, and additional resources to use on-site.

School-Based Science Celebration

Time Commitment: Student presentations depending on teacher preference

Time Frame: May-June

Participants will celebrate students' success through a school-based Science Celebration in spring of 2018. Each participating teacher is expected to conduct an event, project display gallery, or student presentations at their school where participants will have the opportunity to share their discoveries with each other, members of the school faculty, and fellow students as well as visiting zoo educators. The zoo will provide the schools with the poster boards needed to complete this component.

If you would like to participate with your classes, please complete the program application and return to us no later than May 19, 2017.

The applicant's school must be within the city of Chicago. During the selection process, preference is given to those from schools that are part of Chicago Public Schools. Selected applicants will be notified by June 2, 2017.

If you have any questions, please contact us at: (312) 742-2051 or ync@lpzoo.org.

Part I: School Information

School Name _____ CPS Network _____

School Address _____ Neighborhood _____

School Phone _____ School Fax _____

Hours, per day, each student receives science instruction: _____

Grade Levels to Participate (circle one or multiple): 6 7 8 Number of Classes to Participate (minimum of 3): _____

Part II: Teacher Information

Teacher's Name _____

CPS Email Address _____

Alternate Email Address _____

Cell/Home Phone _____ Number You Can Be Reached During Summer _____

During what school year did you participate in YRC Tier 1? _____

Are you the primary science teacher of participating classes?

Yes No

How many years have you been teaching science? _____

Have you received science endorsements?

Yes No

Are you highly qualified in science?

Yes No

What is your background in science? _____

Part III: Commitment to Program

By initialing/signing below you have reviewed the program components and time commitment and agree to participate in the Young Researchers Collaborative for the 2017-2018 school year.

- Two professional development workshops: Saturday, September 2, 2017 & Saturday, January 20, 2018
- One collaborative working group: February/March, date dependent on teacher schedules
- One field trip to Lincoln Park Zoo
- One classroom visit
- Ongoing learning and research on school grounds
- Coaching session on field camera at school site

Teacher Signature _____

Date _____

YES, as the school administrator, _____
has my support to participate in the program. I have reviewed the program components and time commitment and will provide the needed support for my staff and students to participate in all aspects of the program. I understand that as part of this program, I am allowing a Field Camera to be set up on school grounds.

School Administrator Printed Name _____

Date _____

School Administrator Signature _____

Part IV: Statement of Interest

As we can only accommodate four teachers this year, we are interested in partnering with teachers who are as excited to work with us as we are to work with them. Please attach a brief written statement (maximum of 500 words), letting us know how you plan to implement the YRC program this year and why you would like to participate in Tier 2. What kind of support do you believe the program can offer you to further your students' inquiry-based research skills?

Part V: Submit Materials

Please mail/email/fax completed application form and statement of interest to:

Student Programs Coordinator
Learning Department
Lincoln Park Zoo
2001 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60614

Phone: (312) 742-2051
Fax: (312) 742-2040
Email: yrc@lpzoo.org