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.
• gain awareness about the diversity of Chicago wildlife.
• be encouraged to explore nature in their communities.
• develop solutions for 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.

This FREE program incorporates a research model including observation, data collection and analysis, and research dissemination on school grounds, as well as at the zoo. The program will culminate in a special event held at Lincoln Park Zoo in spring of 2021. Middle school and high school events will be held separately.

Due to high demand and limited availability of spots, we want to make sure that teachers who are chosen to participate will be able to fulfill all requirements of the full program. Teachers\(^1\) must teach a middle school level (6\(^{th}\)-8\(^{th}\) grade) science course (minimum of three classes/periods must participate) or high school level science course (minimum of two classes/periods must participate). The program begins in August with a required Teacher Workshop, to be held on August 29, 2020. 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 31, 2020.

\(^1\)Participating teacher should be the primary science teacher of ALL participating classes.

Program Components:

I. Two Professional Development Workshops

Time Commitment: Two full days
Projected Time Frame: Saturday, August 29, 2020, & Saturday, January 23, 2021

During these interactive workshops, the teacher will receive an overview of the program and its components, information about student research expectations, materials to carry out program components, time to collaborate with fellow participants, and a chance to learn more about the animals and research at the zoo.

Attendance at both workshops is required, and teachers will receive a stipend for attending. In the rare event that a workshop must be missed and made up at a later time, please note that make up workshop will take place during school hours. During school hours, funding for an external substitute will be provided in lieu of a stipend.

The zoo will also provide CPDUs, parking, a light breakfast, and lunch for the scheduled workshops.

II. Classroom Visits from a Zoo Facilitator

Time Commitment: Four science periods for each participating class
Projected Time Frame: Spaced throughout the school year September-April
Each classroom visit will entail a zoo facilitator visiting the participating school, free of charge, to work directly with the teacher and students. All supplies for the visits will be brought by the zoo facilitator. Teachers are asked to arrange their class periods into a single day for each classroom visit when possible. Zoo staff will make accommodations if necessary.

The classroom visits will focus primarily on building inquiry-based research skills (e.g., observation, data collection/analysis, and dissemination) and learning more about conservation issues and solutions. Students will have the chance to connect what they have learned in class with their own wildlife observations, from the schoolyard and surrounding neighborhood. Each classroom visit is an opportunity for the zoo facilitator to provide background information on research techniques, model how to conduct research, provide support to the classroom teacher, and engage in dialogue on how to support student success throughout the program.

Teachers will coordinate with the zoo facilitator to determine days for their classroom visits that best fit their schedule. Teachers are expected to be present in the class during visits from the zoo facilitator. A one-week notice will be required for any schedule changes or cancellations. Additional support can be arranged if needed.

III. Two Field Trips to Conduct Field Work

**Time Commitment:** Two one-day field trips for each participating class; teachers may need to attend on multiple days to accommodate multiple class sections.

**Projected Time Frame:** One trip in the fall and one trip in the spring

All participating middle school students will visit the zoo once and a local natural area once to conduct research. Alternatively, the teacher can opt to come to the zoo twice instead of a trip to a natural area. Each visit will give students a chance to collect data and gain conservation knowledge for their final project.

All participating high school students will visit the zoo once and a local natural area once to conduct research. Each visit will give students an opportunity to conduct biodiversity surveys utilizing various research methods.

Participating schools will receive buses for each field trip and additional funds to cover an external substitute for the participating teacher.

Teachers will select specific days for their field trips that work with their schedule. If a teacher has more than three classes, they will need to schedule multiple days for their field trip to accommodate all of their students, and the participating teacher must attend all days of the field trip.

A one-week notice will be required for any schedule changes or cancellations. 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.

IV. Ongoing Student Learning, Research, and Conservation on School Grounds

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

**Projected 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 to four hours of class time per month are required to focus on research, analysis, and a final project. 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.

Teachers will guide students through completing an authentic research project. The goal of the project is to focus on urban wildlife in their neighborhood and recognize a conservation issue faced by those wildlife. The
specific focus of the project will be informed by the classes’ ongoing research. All participating students will complete a final project/presentation to present to their peers and classmates.

V. Practice Event

**Time Commitment:** For middle school only, held at the school. Teachers decide if this is done during a class period, assembly, Science Night, or other. This is not required, but highly encouraged for High School.

**Projected Time Frame:** April/May

Middle School classes will hold an event in order to display their work for other classes/schoolmates. This event is determined by the teacher and has been as simple as a gallery walk during class, and as extensive as a Science Night for friends and family. All participating students will complete a final project to present to their peers and classmates through the program. The zoo will assist with materials needed for students to complete these projects.

This practice event is an opportunity for students to share their discoveries with each other and with their school.

VI. Conservation Expo

**Time Commitment:** For middle school, one full school day for the participating teacher and selected students. For high school, one evening for participating teacher and selected students.

**Projected Time Frame:** May

We will celebrate participating students’ success with a culminating event in spring of 2021. There will be separate events for middle school and for high school. Each participating teacher will be able to bring a percentage of their students to present their project(s) at the event (number of students will be set by zoo staff). The program provides one bus to bring the teacher and students to the zoo; participating middle schools also receive funds to cover an external substitute as their event is during the school day. The event will conclude with a catered reception. The zoo will assist with materials needed for students to present.

These Conservation Expos are opportunities for students to share their discoveries with each other and with zoo staff.

**How to Apply:**

If you would like to participate with your classes, please complete the program application and return to us no later than May 31, 2020. Applications are accepted on a rolling-basis. Applications can be mailed, faxed, or emailed: Student Programs Coordinator, Learning Department, Lincoln Park Zoo, 2001 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60614; fax number (312) 742-2040, and email address pif@lpzoo.org.

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 and CPS affiliates.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (312) 742-2051 or pif@lpzoo.org.
Part I: School Information

School Name: ____________________________________________ CPS Network: ____________

School Address: ____________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Neighborhood: _____________________________________________

School Phone: ____________________________ School Fax: ____________________________

Minutes, per day, each student receives science instruction: ________________________________

Grade Levels to Participate (circle one or multiple): 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Number of Classes to Participate: ____________________________ (minimum 3 for middle school and 2 for high school)

Subject of Participating Classes: ______________________________________________________

Part II: Teacher Information

Teacher’s Name: ________________________________________________

School Email: ________________________________________________

Illinois Educator Identification Number (IEIN): ____________________________

Cell/Home Phone: ____________________________ Alternate Email: ____________________________

Phone number where you can be reached during the summer: ____________________________

Are you the primary science teacher of all participating classes?

[ ] Yes [ ] No (If you check ‘No’ please explain your teaching situation below)

Please explain any unique aspects about your teaching responsibilities or situation (e.g. co-teachers, split grade levels, alternative learning opportunities, inclusion of another teacher’s class, etc.):

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________
Part III: Commitment to Program

By initialing/signing below you confirm that you have reviewed the program components and time commitment and agree to participate in the Partners in Fieldwork for the 2020-2021 school year.

[ ] Two educator professional development workshops – Saturday, August 29, 2020 and Saturday, January 23, 2021
[ ] Four classroom visits from a zoo facilitator
[ ] Two field trips to Lincoln Park Zoo or Natural Area
[ ] Ongoing learning and research on school grounds
[ ] Participation in the practice event (MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY)
[ ] Participation in the Culminating Event
[ ] Lincoln Park Zoo may discontinue partnership with teacher and/or school if significant changes occur with participating classes—making it difficult to administer the program—or if substantial progress through the program is not being demonstrated. Discontinuing the partnership could include revoking all supplies provided by Lincoln Park Zoo.

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 data collection equipment, including but not limited to a Field Camera and Bat Monitor, 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 eight middle school and eight high school 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 what you find most interesting about the Partners in Fieldwork program and how you believe your students would benefit from participation.

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: pif@lpzoo.org