

Young Researchers Collaborative
2017–2018 Program Application
for Middle School (6th-8th grade)
Science Teachers
Tier 1

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.

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 Science Celebration event held at Lincoln Park Zoo in spring of 2018.

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* must teach a middle school level (6th-8th grade) science course. A minimum of three classes/periods must participate.** The program begins in August with a required Teacher Workshop, to be held on August 26, 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.

*Participating teacher should be the primary science teacher of the participating classes.

Program Components

Two Professional Development Workshops

Time Commitment: Two full days

Projected Time Frame: Saturday, August 26, 2017, & Saturday, January 20, 2018

During these interactive workshops, the teacher will receive an overview of the program and its components, supplementary information on research possibilities, necessary materials to participate in program components, time to collaborate with fellow participants, and a chance to learn more about the animals and researchers at the zoo.

Attendance at both workshops is required, and teachers will receive a stipend for attending. 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.

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

Four Classroom Visits from a Zoo Educator

Time Commitment: Four science periods for each participating class

Projected Time Frame: (1) September-October, (2) October-December, (3) January-March, and (4) March-April

A zoo educator will visit participating schools on four separate occasions, 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 each classroom visit.

The visits will focus primarily on building inquiry-based research skills (i.e., observation, data collection/analysis and dissemination). Students will have the chance to connect what they have learned in class with their own wildlife observations taken in the schoolyard and surrounding neighborhood. All four visits are an opportunity to provide background information on research techniques, model how to conduct research,

provide peer coaching to the classroom teacher as requested, and engage in dialogue on how to support student success throughout the program.

Teachers will coordinate with the zoo educator to determine days that best fit their schedule. A one-week notice will be required for any schedule changes or cancellations. Additional support can be arranged if needed.

Two Field Trips to Lincoln Park Zoo

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: (1) October-November and (2) November-February

All participating students visit the zoo on two separate occasions in order to conduct research. Each visit will give students a chance to collect data for their final research project using the zoo's iPads and data sheets. The educator workshops and classroom visits will prepare participating teachers for each visit.

Participating schools will receive field trip buses for each zoo visit and additional funds to cover an external substitute for two days per field trip.

Teachers will select specific days that work with their schedule. 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.

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.

Ongoing Student Learning and Research 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 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.

Science Celebration

Time Commitment: One full school day for the participating teacher and selected students

Projected Time Frame: May

We will celebrate participating students' success at the culminating event, Science Celebration, in spring of 2018. All participating students will complete a final research project to present to their peers and classmates. Each participating teacher will then select a percentage of their students to represent their school at the event. The program provides one bus to bring the teacher and students to the zoo as well as funds to cover an external substitute. The event will conclude with a lunch reception. The zoo will provide schools with the poster boards needed to complete this component.

This will be an opportunity for students to share their discoveries with each other and with zoo staff.

If you would like to participate with your classes, please complete the program application and return to us no later than May 19, 2017. Applications are accepted on a rolling-basis.

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.

If you have any questions, please contact us at: (312) 742-2051 or lyrc@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 _____

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? _____

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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 Young Researchers Collaborative for the 2017-2018 school year.

- Two educator professional development workshops - Saturday, August 26, 2017 and Saturday, January 20, 2018
- Four classroom visits from a zoo educator
- Two field trips to Lincoln Park Zoo
- Ongoing learning and research on school grounds
- Participation in Science Celebration

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.

School Administrator Printed Name _____

Date _____

School Administrator Signature _____

Part IV: Statement of Interest

As we can only accommodate nine 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 Young Researchers Collaborative 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: yrc@lpzoo.org