

Partners in Fieldwork 2023 – 2024

Lincoln Park Zoo

Program Application for High School (9th-12th) Science Teachers



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 classrooms.
- 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 that includes observation, data collection and analysis, plus the dissemination of research 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 2024.

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 high school level science course (minimum of two classes/periods must participate). The program begins with a required Teacher Workshop to be held on August 12. Student involvement with the program will begin with the school year. Please review the program with your school administrator and return this application by **June 7, 2023.**

*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 12, 2023 & Saturday, January 20, 2024

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 workshops 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 continuing professional development units, parking, a light breakfast, and lunch for the scheduled workshops.

II. Classroom Visits from a Zoo Facilitator

Time Commitment: 3–4 science periods for each participating class

Projected Time Frame: Spaced throughout the school year from September–April

Each classroom visit consists of 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

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 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. Teachers with more than three classes will need to schedule multiple days for the 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 to 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 that 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. Conservation Expo

Time Commitment: 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 2024. There will be separate events for middle schools and for high schools. Each participating teacher will be able to bring a percentage of their students to present their project(s) at the event (the number of students will be set by zoo staff). The program provides one bus to bring the teacher and students to the zoo. 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 June 7, 2023**. Applications should be emailed to 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 pif@lpzoo.org.

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Lincoln Park Zoo
Program Application

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): **9** **10** **11** **12**

Number of Classes to Participate: _____ (minimum of 2 class periods)

Subject of Participating Classes: _____

How did you hear about Partners in Fieldwork?

School Fax Email Social Media Colleague or Administrator Other _____

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.):

How many years you have been teaching science: _____

Have you received science endorsements? Yes No

Are you highly qualified in science? Yes No

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 Partners in Fieldwork for the 2023-2024 school year.

- 2 professional development workshops: **Saturday, August 12, 2023 and Saturday, January 20, 2024**
- 3–4 classroom visits from a zoo facilitator
- 1–2 classroom visits facilitated by participating teacher
- Two field trips: one to the zoo (minimum) and one to a natural area (optional)
- Ongoing learning and research on school grounds
- Participation in the Conservation Expo
- 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.
- Lincoln Park Zoo is committed to maintaining a work environment that is free of discrimination. Accordingly, the zoo will not tolerate any form of harassment, unlawful discrimination, or intimidation against our employees by anyone, including managers, supervisors, co-workers, executives, members, vendors, clients, customers or third parties. Under this policy, harassment is verbal, written or physical conduct that represents an unwanted sexual advance and/or denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, disability, marital status, citizenship, or any other characteristic protected by law, or that of their relatives, friends, or associates. Harassment also: a) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment, b) has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance, or c) otherwise adversely affects an individual’s employment opportunities. In the event this policy is violated by a participant or participant’s school, Lincoln Park Zoo reserves the right to immediately discontinue the partnership.

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 a field camera and bat monitor, to be set up on school grounds.

School Administrator Printed Name _____ Date _____

School Administrator Signature _____

****In lieu of a signature you can forward an email to pif@lpzoo.org from a school administrator stating their support for you implementing the program.***

Part V: Submit Materials

Please email completed application forms to pif@lpzoo.org. You can take a picture and email it as long as we can read everything on the application, or type your name into the signature lines to make it easier to save and send as an email attachment.