

Serve the Preserves and Volunteer

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County

High School Group Opportunities

Join us and make a difference in your own backyard! With over 68,000 acres, there are endless opportunities to give something back to your Forest Preserves. Get involved today and find yourself in nature.

Litter Obliterators

Group size- up to 100

Time of Year- Early Spring thru Late Fall

Duration- 2 to 4 hours

Get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Help clean up the Preserves and discover the natural areas all around you.

- Choose a Preserve near you or let us pick one
- We provide gloves, trash bags, and a permit



Ecological Stewardship

Throughout the county, volunteers are saving rare species and making natural areas healthier. Work with a Volunteer Master Steward at one of our 60 management sites. Join the efforts of dedicated volunteers and staff to leave a legacy for everyone to enjoy. We offer two main activities: Garlic Mustard Busters and Brush Cutters Crew.

☀️ Garlic Mustard Busters

Group size- up to 50

Time of Year- April thru June

Duration- 2 to 3 hours

Garlic mustard is a non-native and invasive weed that overwhelms native plants and threatens biodiversity. Get down and dirty and help pull out this invader.

- We locate a stewardship site near you and connect you with the Site Steward
- We provide gloves, bags, and a short orientation



☀️ Brush Cutters Crew

Group size- up to 25

Time of Year- October thru March

Duration- 2 to 3 hours

Invasive trees and shrubs like European buckthorn threaten the future of forests, wetlands, prairies, and other natural areas. Learn to identify these invaders and use loppers and saws to help with this growing problem.

- We locate a stewardship site near you and connect you with the Site Steward
- We provide gloves, tools, and training



Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Volunteer Resources Section

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