



With over 68,000 acres of nature in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, there are many ways for teens to **Get Outside, Get Active, and Give Back**. Groups can choose from unique service and service-learning projects and make a difference in their community.

TEEN SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS

LITTER OBLITERATORS – Help clean up the Preserves and discover the natural areas all around you. We will help your group choose a site and provide gloves, trash bags, preparation materials, and permit for your cleanup.

Group Size: Up to 100

Time of year: Early spring thru late fall

Duration: 2 hours

ADOPT-A-SITE – Make a lasting connection to the Preserves. Choose a site and commit to three litter cleanups per year for two years. We will provide an Adopt-A-Site Kit with everything your group needs for cleanups. As an Adopt-A-Site member, your group can take part in Adopt-A-Site *Plus* by choosing a special service-learning project from our menu or create your own project. Your group also has access to Education Kits containing engaging outdoor tools and exciting activities for teens.

Group Size: Up to 25

Time of year: Early spring thru late fall

Duration: 2-3 hours, 3 times per school year for 2 years

HABITAT RESTORATION – Participate in natural areas habitat restoration. Activities may include cutting brush, pulling weeds, or collecting seeds, depending on the season and weather. We will locate a stewardship site near you and connect you with the Site Steward. Tools, gloves, and training are provided.

Group Size: Up to 25

Time of year: October thru March, mostly Saturdays

Duration: 2-3 hours

GARLIC MUSTARD BUSTERS - Garlic mustard is a non-native and invasive weed that overwhelms native plants and threatens biodiversity. Get down and dirty and help volunteers pull out this invader. Gloves, bags, and training are provided.

Group Size: Up to 25

Time of year: late-April thru June

Duration: 2 hours

NATURE CENTER PROJECT – Nature Centers are gateways to the Preserves. Visit one of the District's six Nature Centers for a service project. Group projects are based on location and time of year.

Group Size: Up to 25

Time of year: year-round

Duration: 2-3 hours

SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS – The service projects above can become service-learning projects with the completion of preparation and reflection activities. Groups can develop a unique service-learning project or choose one from our options. To get started, request a copy of our service-learning project descriptions.

It is easy to schedule a service or service-learning project in the Preserves.

Contact: Cassie Hatzfeld, Teen Service-Learning Project Coordinator

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