



Forest Preserve District of Cook County

VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

www.fpdccVolunteers.org

Dear VIP Liaison:

Welcome to the Volunteers in Preserves (VIP) program! VIPs have special access to a variety of service-learning opportunities, including unique projects in the Preserves. Your students will have the opportunity to *Get Outside, Get Active, and Give Back* and will connect to their environmental community.

As the liaison, we ask that you promote volunteering with the Preserves in the following ways:

- * **Distribute VIP Announcements** about service-learning opportunities to students, teachers, counselors, and administrators and encourage your students to get involved
- * **Assist Students** interested in environmental careers to participate in mentorship programs and other special opportunities in the Preserves
- * **Weekend Workdays – Get Your Students Involved**
 1. For individuals and small groups (4 students or less)
 2. Go to www.fpdccVolunteers.org/calendar
 3. Enter preferred region and dates
 4. Contact the Volunteer Site Steward several days before the scheduled workday to discuss workday details, including meeting place and planned activities
 5. Give workday details to students and have them dress to be outside with sturdy shoes that can get dirty, layers, and long pants; tools and training are provided
 6. Report student participation information (date, site, number of participants) to Volunteer Resources (chatzfeld@cookcountygov.com)
- * **Schedule Group Workdays** with Volunteer Resources for larger groups (5 students or more)
 1. Determine the group's availability, number of students/chaperones, and site preference
 2. E-mail Cassie Hatzfeld (chatzfeld@cookcountygov.com) to find out about current volunteer opportunities available and coordinate your workday

Along with our entry-level volunteer opportunities for teens, VIPs are invited to move to the next level in our High School Volunteer Program and discover our Preserve Keeper Corps and Preserves On Campus. It is easy to give your students the chance to adopt a site in the Preserves or volunteer from their school or school yard. Learn about these exciting, interactive programs on the next page.

We look forward to scheduling your first volunteer workday soon.

Sincerely,

Cassie Hatzfeld
High School Volunteer Program Coordinator
Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Volunteer Resources Section
(773) 631-1790 x17
chatzfeld@cookcountygov.com



Preserve Keeper Corps



Join the Preserve Keeper Corps (PKC) and adopt a site in the Preserves where your teen group will volunteer for two years. Students can earn service-learning hours for and will have a chance to learn about healthy habitats and make a difference in their community. Help your students develop leadership, fellowship, and stewardship ethics and connect to nature in their outdoor classroom. Create a unique project or choose from our project list below:

Litter Obliterators: Beautify and improve the health of your site. Remove litter three times per academic year. We will provide gloves, garbage bags, a permit, and a litter assessment survey for workdays. Along with the cleanup, students can develop other creative activities at the site for additional service-learning credit (Ex. wildlife photography, creative writing).

Ecological Stewardship: Help our native species, learn to identify and remove invasive species, and work alongside Forest Preserve Staff and Stewards. Examples include cutting buckthorn and pulling garlic mustard. Students earn service-learning credit for the preparation, action, and reflection of the stewardship work at their site.

Create Your Own Adventure: Liaisons work with Staff, Stewards, and other partners to develop projects that link indoor classroom concepts to hands-on, outdoor activities at the adopted site. Groups develop a project and care for the site with relevant stewardship work.

Preserves On Campus

Preserves on Campus is a unique program that gives students and teachers the opportunity to volunteer with the Preserves from their school or school yard. Imagination is the only limitation for Preserves on Campus projects. For example, students can visit a prairie in the Preserves and design a service-learning project that fits their schools' resources. Groups with greenhouse or garden can decide to grow native plants and propagate seeds for use in restocking the Preserves. Groups with a photography lab can create a gallery display in their school or local library to educate their community about native plants in Illinois.



*To get involved, fill out and submit the PKC High School Application to:
Cassie Hatzfeld chatzfeld@cookcountygov.com*