Science Explorers in Nature (SEN)

FAQs for Teachers

Who is eligible for the program?
Students that are eligible for the program are currently enrolled in sixth to eighth grade and attend one of the following Lake County schools: Beach Park MS, Neal Math & Science Academy, Miguel Juarez MS, Robert Abbott MS, Jack Benny MS, Thomas Jefferson MS, Daniel Webster MS, John T. Magee MS, Round Lake MS, Stanton School, Gavin South MS, Zion Central MS, West ES, Shiloh Park ES, Beulah Park ES, East ES, and Elmwood ES. Due to funding restrictions, priority will be given to students attending these schools but other students are encouraged to apply.

How many students are accepted into the program?
Thirty-six students are accepted into the program each summer; this number includes eligible students who participated in previous years. Depending on space availability, three to five students per school are accepted.

We presented your information to my students, what is the next step?
Thank you for presenting the information to your students! The next step is to identify at most six students whom you believe would most benefit from the program. Please hand the students you identify a SEN application and strongly encourage them to apply. Continue to work with these students and their families to ensure all application materials are submitted by Friday, April 28.

How do we determine who would be a good student for SEN?
We am looking for students who are strongly interested in science and may also come from backgrounds such as receive free or reduced lunch, would be the first in the family to attend college, and are from single-parent homes. The students who would most benefit from this program are strongly interested in science, are curious learners, would be okay spending lots of time outside, like hands-on activities, have good behavior, good attendance, and are responsible. Students do not have to be the best academically- just students who want to be a part of this program and are interested to spend four weeks learning about the environment.

Where do we mail the applications?
Please mail the application, student agreement, teacher recommendation, and copy of their report card to:

April Vaos
Science Explorers in Nature
Lake County Forest Preserves
1899 West Winchester Road
Libertyville, IL 60048

My students submitted their applications. What happens next?
Great, thank you for encouraging your students to apply! Applications will be reviewed and candidates will be selected based on application, interest, and reference. Phone interviews may be conducted with the student and their parent(s)/guardian(s). Students will be notified of acceptance to the program by the end of May.

We/my students have a question that isn't listed here. What should we do?
Please contact Melissa Alderson, SEN Coordinator, at 847-968-3326 or malderson@lcfpd.org.

Thank you for helping make Science Explorers in Nature 2017 a success!