



What is the Science Explorers in Nature program?

This exciting summer science enrichment program combines STEM learning with outdoor exploration. It is run through the Lake County Forest Preserves and helps students learn about not only nature in Lake County but also about potential science careers.

Who can participate and what is the cost?

Any current 6-8th grader from the Beach Lake, Gavin, North Chicago, Round Lake, Waukegan, or Zion School Districts can participate. The program is free, this includes the program itself, bussing, lunch, snacks and program materials.

What are the dates & times?

The program runs Monday – Friday from 9 am – 3 pm. This 4-week program is June 15 – July 10, with no attendance on July 3. The busses will pick-up & drop-off students from local middle schools from School Districts in Beach Park, Diamond Lake, Fox Lake, Gavin, North Chicago, Round Lake, Waukegan, and Zion.

Where is it located?

Although our main teaching site is at Greenbelt Forest Preserves in North Chicago, we also go off-site on 3 field trips to forest preserves all over Lake County. We have access to a building on-site and spend time both inside and outside every day, unless weather prohibits us from doing so.

What is the topic?

We rotate subjects every three years so students never repeat the same topic. This year is about engineering in nature, with the other years' being biodiversity and forensics.

What kind of activities will students do?

Each day has different activities but can include: engineering builds, field trips to local forest preserves, talking to scientist. We also include activities to help the students learn to use teamwork like team building activities and creating and presenting a science project as a group.

How do students apply?

Applications must be postmarked or received by Friday, April 17, 2020 and decision letters will go out by May 1, 2020. To apply for Science Explorers in Nature you must submit:

1. Completed application/agreement form signed by the student and parent or guardian.
2. Completed student questionnaire form, filled out by the student.

3. Completed recommendation form, preferably from a science teacher or community leader (pastor, youth group leader, etc.) who knows you well and is not related to you. More information or a digital copy of this form can be found at <https://www.lcfpd.org/science-explorers/>
4. Provide a copy of the student's most recent report card.

Submit all application components to:

Lake County Forest Preserves
SEN Forms
1899 W. Winchester Road
Libertyville, IL 60048

Or email to: avaos@LCFPD.org

What if I have questions?

1. More information can be found online at <https://www.lcfpd.org/science-explorers/> or feel free to contact the program coordinator, April Vaos at 847-968-3368 or avaos@lcfpd.org

The Lake County Forest Preserves invites people with disabilities to enjoy our programs, trails and facilities. For more information about our accessibility and inclusion, contact Mary Kann, ADA Coordinator at 847-968-3214 or mkann@LCFPD.org.

Program Application Form

Please complete and return forms by mail.
Forms must be received by **Friday, April 17, 2020.**



Student Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City & State _____ Zip Code _____

Current Grade _____ School _____

Mother/Guardian Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Father/Guardian Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Parent E-mail Address _____ Parent E-mail Address _____

Please mark your child's T-shirt size so that we may order the right size:

Adult Size: ☐ Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ X-Large

Please check your preferred summer bus stop at middle schools from eligible Lake County school districts*:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Beach Park Middle School, Beach Park | <input type="radio"/> Robert Abbott Middle School, Waukegan |
| <input type="radio"/> Daniel Webster Middle School, Waukegan Gavin South | <input type="radio"/> Round lake Middle School, Round Lake Heights |
| <input type="radio"/> Junior High School, Ingleside | <input type="radio"/> Stanton School, Fox Lake |
| <input type="radio"/> Jack Benny Middle School, Waukegan | <input type="radio"/> Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Waukegan West |
| <input type="radio"/> John T. Magee Middle School, Round Lake Miguel | <input type="radio"/> Oak Middle School, Diamond Lake, Mundelein Zion |
| <input type="radio"/> Juarez Middle School, Waukegan | <input type="radio"/> Central Middle School, Zion |
| <input type="radio"/> Neal Math & Science Academy, North Chicago | |

Schools are not responsible for supervision or coordination at the bus stops.

*If you live outside of these districts you may still apply to the program but must provide your own transportation each day to and from one of the above bus stops or to and from the Greenbelt Cultural Center, 1215 Green Bay Road, North Chicago, IL 60064. Bus stops will not be supervised. The bus schedule will be determined prior to the program start date and handed out at the Parent Orientation.



Student Agreement Form



I understand that I am applying for the Science Explorers in Nature program offered at the Greenbelt Cultural Center in North Chicago. If I am chosen to participate in this program **I agree to attend every day of all four weeks of the program and participate in all program activities.** I am committed to contributing to the four-week program and will work with my fellow students in a cooperative manner to make sure it is a positive experience for all. I will follow all the rules and regulations of the Lake County Forest Preserves, as indicated to me by their staff.

Print Your Name (student)

Date

Signature (student)

Parent/Guardian Agreement:

I give my child permission to apply for, and if chosen, to accept, a place in the Science Explorers in Nature program at the Greenbelt Cultural Center. I understand that my child is expected to attend the program every day for the entire four weeks. I understand that the bus will pick my child up at no cost on Monday through Friday, June 17 - July 12, 2019 (no class July 4) at the school selected if we live in Zion, Beach Park, North Chicago, Waukegan, Round Lake area, Diamond Lake/Mundelein, Fox Lake, or Ingleside. We will let you know the bus arrival times at the Parent Orientation.

Print Name (parent/guardian)

Date

Signature (parent/guardian)

Mail to:

SEN Forms
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
1899 West Winchester Road
Libertyville, IL 60048



Name: _____

Student Questionnaire



The applying student should complete the questionnaire below. Keep in mind that you should be honest and answer each question in detail.

1. At its heart, the Science Explorers in Nature is a science program. Why do you like science?
2. This program will focus on Engineering in Nature but offer covers other topics. What science topics do you want to learn more about?
3. Have you attended a summer camp/program before and what were they? If not, do you have an hobbies or activities related to science that you have participated in?



4. In addition to learning about engineering we will spend time daily outside exploring as part of this program. Do you like being outside and spending time in nature (with plants and insects, etc.)? Why?

5. Why are you interested in being part of Science Explorers in Nature?

6. What do you think you will get out of the Science Explorers in Nature program?



Science Explorers in Nature Program
Recommendation Form
Summer 2020

Dear Recommender:

Thank you for taking the time to help us assess applicants for the Science Explorers in Nature Program.

Science Explorers in Nature is a free summer science enrichment program designed for Lake County youth currently in grades 6–8. Students spend one month learning about potential careers in the sciences, exploring outside, taking part in hands-on science activities, and learning how to conduct their own scientific research and prepare a presentation.

More information or a digital copy of this form can be found at <https://www.lcfpd.org/science-explorers/>

Please answer the questions on both sides of this form; add additional pages if needed.

Place the completed recommendation in a sealed envelope and return it to the applicant for inclusion with her/his application materials or email to April Vaos at avaos@lcfpd.org.

Please be as honest as possible to help us find students who will contribute to the program as well as benefit from it. If you have any questions, feel free to contact April Vaos by email at avaos@lcfpd.org or by phone (847) 968-3368.

Student Name | How do you know this student?

Recommender's Name | Email

Affiliation (School / Organization)

Role / Title

For students to get the most out of the Science Explorers in Nature Program, they must be present, attentive, and able to work with other students and teachers. Please indicate how this student compares to other you have known in the areas listed below.

Please mark the appropriate number regarding the following skills.

POOR

EXCELLENT

Ability to focus:

☐ 1☐ 2☐ 3☐ 4☐ 5

Comments:

Respect for others:

☐ 1☐ 2☐ 3☐ 4☐ 5

Comments:

Ability to work in a team:

☐ 1☐ 2☐ 3☐ 4☐ 5

Comments:

Our program includes students from diverse backgrounds. How does this student handle meeting new people and dealing with challenges?

How do you think this student would benefit from participating in the Science Explorers in Nature Program (description of the program is available on the previous page)?

Please provide any other information that would help in our assessment of this student: