

2019 APPLICATION MATERIALS



CONSERVATION EXPLORERS

Exploring nature to learn about natural areas stewardship.

Connect with nature through the Conservation Explorers Program, a partnership of Lake County Forest Preserves and Lake Forest Open Lands' Center for Conservation Leadership.

**Conservation Explorers Program
Application Information
Summer 2019**

**Thank you for your interest in the NEW Conservation Explorers Program (CONEX),
a partnership between the Lake County Forest Preserves and
Lake Forest Open Lands' Center for Conservation Leadership**

Participating in Conservation Explorers (CONEX) gives you an opportunity to explore the natural world, and learn about the benefits of natural area stewardship.

CONEX is offered to current 8th grade students throughout Lake County.

Program dates: Monday, July 22 – Wednesday, August 7.

This includes a seven day trip to northern Michigan (July 28 – August 3). Students must commit to the entire program in order to attend.

To apply to the Conservation Explorers Program you must submit:

1. A completed Program Application Form, signed by you and your parent/guardian.
2. A completed Student Agreement Form, signed by you and your parent/guardian.
3. A 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.
4. A copy of your Report Card from 2nd quarter (January) OR the most recent one you have.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED OR RECEIVED BY Friday, April 5.

Preference is given to those students who submit their applications early.

Submit your completed application package as soon as possible to:

Lake County Forest Preserves
Conservation Explorers
1899 W Winchester Road
Libertyville, IL 60048

Applicants will be notified of their participation in the Conservation Explorers program by April 26. There will be a Parent Information Meeting on Tuesday, June 25.

For questions, contact:

April Vaos at 847-968-3368, avaos@lcfpd.org or
Susie Hoffmann, 847-910-4610, shoffmann@lfol.org.

You can also find information about Conservation Explorers at
www.centerforconservationleadership.org/conservationexplorers

What is Conservation Explorers (CONEX)?

Conservation Explorers is a conservation and environmentally based outdoor summer program for current 8th grade students. It is co-sponsored by the Lake County Forest Preserves and Lake Forest Open Lands Association's Center for Conservation Leadership. The goal of this program is to connect students' knowledge and appreciation of nature with the role conservation and stewardship play in the environment.

Focusing on water, wildlife and way of life, students get to know the various eco-systems in Lake County and understand the importance of conservation efforts to study and protect these unique areas. We learn how to care for them and the work that goes into conserving them. Our trip to Michigan will give us the opportunity to connect with another lake ecosystem and compare it to our county.

Program Schedule:

July 22 – July 26: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Students meet at a variety of places during the first week of the program.

Transportation to these places is provided. A school bus route with stops at several schools provides transportation starting as early as 7:30 a.m. for arrival by 9:00 a.m. and brings the students home, leaving the site at 3:00 p.m. each day. Students may also provide their own transportation to the sites.

July 28 – August 3: Field trip to Michigan's Leelanau Peninsula

Leaving the Greenbelt Cultural Center at 9:00 a.m. on July 28, Conservation Explorers travel across Lake Michigan to the eastern shore of our great lake. While in Michigan, we participate in citizen science and explore the spectacular Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore, canoe the Boardman River and sail on a schooner.

August 5 – 7: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

We continue our conservation education in Lake County, using the skills we learned in Michigan to better understand our local environment.

Program Cost:

The tuition cost of the program is \$900, plus an additional \$100 trip fee. This covers all food, lodging, transportation and programming. Tuition scholarships are available to qualifying students in need of financial assistance. Scholarships will not include the trip fee.

Who can participate?

- Eligible students are current Lake County 8th graders, entering 9th grade in fall, 2019.
- Students and parents must commit to the entire program and agree to provide their own transportation. Transportation is provided for those receiving financial assistance.
- The program schedule, with daily agendas, will be available at the Parent Information Meeting.

The Michigan Trip Facts

- We will travel by ferry and vans.
- We will stay in Sutton's Bay, Michigan at the Inland Seas Educational Center.
- Students are housed in dorm rooms separated by gender.
- The *What to Bring* list will be discussed at the Parent Information Meeting.
- To maximize the experience, cell phones will not be allowed on the trip.

Conservation Explorers Student Agreement Form Summer 2019

I understand that I am applying for the Conservation Explorers Program, a partnership of Lake County Forest Preserves and Lake Forest Open Lands' Center for Conservation Leadership.

If I am chosen to participate in this program and accept, **I agree to attend every day of the program, and participate in all program activities. This includes a week-long trip to Michigan.**

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 Conservation Explorers Program. I understand that my child is expected to attend the program every day for the entire program and that my child will be away on the Michigan trip from July 28 – August 3.

I understand that bus service is available, Monday through Friday, July 22 – 26 and August 5 – 7 at a local school, to those who qualify for financial assistance. Bus times and locations will be shared at the Parent Orientation on Tuesday, June 25.

Print Name (parent/guardian)

Date

Signature (parent/guardian)

Important! Before mailing your application, make sure you have the following:

- Completed Program Application Form
- Completed Student Agreement Form
- Completed Recommendation Form
- Copy of most recent Report Card

Completed materials should be mailed to:

**Lake County Forest Preserves
Conservation Explorers
1899 W Winchester Road**