

2020 PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKET



CONSERVATION EXPLORERS

Exploring nature to learn about natural areas stewardship.

Connect with nature through the Conservation Explorers Program.
A collaboration between the Lake County Forest Preserves and Lake Forest Open Lands'
Center for Conservation Leadership.

Conservation Explorers Program Information

Summer 2020

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

Program Dates: Monday, July 6 – Friday, July 17, 2020 (M-F Only)

Program Hours: Generally 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This includes a three day trip (July 13 – 15) to Indiana Dunes National Park

What is Conservation Explorers (ConEx)?

ConEx is a two week outdoor education summer learning opportunity for current 8th graders. This active program is based primarily outdoors and includes hiking, hands-on stewardship projects and other physical activities.

ConEx provides students with the opportunity to explore the natural world and learn about the benefits of natural area stewardship. During the program, students are introduced to various water and lakeshore ecosystems in and along Lake Michigan and learn how various conservation practices protect these unique areas. ConEx connects students' knowledge and appreciation of nature with the role conservation and stewardship play in the environment. The program includes an overnight trip to Indiana Dunes National Park.

Who Can Participate?

- Current Lake County 8th grade students, entering 9th grade in fall 2020.
- Students and parents must commit to the entire program.
- The program schedule, with daily agendas, will be available at the Parent Orientation.

Program Cost:

- The tuition cost of the program is \$700, plus an additional \$150 trip fee.
- This covers all programming, food, lodging, and transportation between sites.
- ***Full/partial tuition scholarships are available to qualifying students.***
- Scholarships cannot be applied to the trip fee.

Program Schedule:

July 6 – July 10: Greenbelt Cultural Center, North Chicago

Students visit a variety of Lake County sites during the first week of the program.

Transportation from the Greenbelt Cultural Center (GCC) in North Chicago to these places is provided for all students.

July 13 – July 15: Indiana Dunes National Park

ConEx leaves the Greenbelt Cultural Center at 9:00 a.m. on July 13, and travels to Indiana Dunes National Park for a three day learning adventure. While there, students participate in citizen science and explore the dunes and unique ecosystems of this new national park. We return in the evening of July 15.

More information about the trip will be available at the Parent Orientation.

July 16 – July 17: Greenbelt Cultural Center, North Chicago

ConEx returns to the Greenbelt Cultural Center to continue our conservation education in Lake County, using the information learned at Indiana Dunes National Park to better understand our local environment.

Conservation Explorers Application Information Summer 2020

To apply to the Conservation Explorers Program you must submit:

- A completed Program Application Form, signed by you and your parent/guardian.
- A completed Student Agreement Form, signed by you and your parent/guardian.
- 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.
- A completed Scholarship Application (if applicable).

The required application documents listed above, as well as additional information about Conservation Explorers, can be found at the following website:

<https://www.lfola.org/ConEx>

To be considered, a thorough and complete application is required.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED OR RECEIVED BY *Friday, March 27, 2020.*

Submit your completed application package as soon as possible to:

Lake County Forest Preserves
Conservation Explorers
21950 N. Riverwoods Road
Riverwoods, IL 60015

Decisions for program acceptance will be made by **April 15, 2020** and all applicants will be notified by mail. Accepted students will receive additional information, including a date for a mandatory Parent Orientation.

For questions, contact:

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Susie Hoffmann at 847-910-4610, shoffmann@lfola.org



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