



## 2022 Forest Preserve Experience Program

The Forest Preserve Experience program (FPE) is a five-week conservation service-learning experience. Selected individuals will participate on crews that will consist of 14 high school students and two adult Crew Leaders and an adult Assistant Crew Leader.

As a team, the crew will perform ecological restoration projects and litter removal in the Forest Preserves of Cook County for five weeks. A large focus of this program will also be dedicated to environmental enrichment and recreational activities. See below for FAQ!

**Q: What are the requirements to participate in the program?**

**A: All crew members must be a House Authority of Cook County resident or voucher holder.** Students must be 14-19 years old by program start and enrolled in high school or be a 2022 high school graduate.

**Q: How do I apply?**

**A:** Visit [www.fotfp.org/fpe](http://www.fotfp.org/fpe) and apply online. The application will open on **March 1st** and will close on **April 30th**.

**Applications must be submitted electronically April 30th.** Late applications will not be accepted, no exceptions.

**Q: What is the time commitment?**

**A:** The program will run from July 5 to August 5. Students will work Monday - Friday. They will work 25 hours/week and receive a wage of \$10.50 per hour. If a student misses more than 3 days of work, they will automatically be dismissed from the program and will forfeit the remaining pay. There are no exceptions for family vacations or summer school. Crew members will meet at their designated pick-up locations Monday - Friday by 8:00 am and will be dropped off at the same location at 1:00pm. **There must be flexibility in drop off and pick up times.** Some days may start or



end later than our regular schedule or they may be Saturday workdays. You will be provided a calendar at the beginning of the program showing any changes in the regular program timing.

**Q: What exactly do students do and where do they work?**

**A:** Students will spend three orientation days learning job skills that will prepare them for the program and give them skills that they can use in the future. They then engage in rewarding and valuable physical work outdoors on conservation and restoration projects in the Forest Preserves of Cook County including invasive species removal and litter clean-ups. Throughout each week, time will be devoted to learning about the local ecology and environment and job readiness skills and students will have the opportunity to participate in a number of environmental enrichment activities, such as hiking, canoeing, and other recreational opportunities. Once a student is hired, they will usually be placed at the forest preserve work site that is closest to their home.

**Q: How can I improve my chances of getting into the program?**

**A:** We highly encourage you to spend time thinking about and answering the essay section of your application. If you are able to, consider visiting or volunteering (if safe to do so) at a local forest preserve or nature center to learn more about what setting you may be working in or what type of work you will be doing this summer. We receive many applications and are looking for students that are excited about working in the forest preserves and helping our environment.

To find out more about volunteering visit <https://fpdcc.com/volunteer/>

**Q: What is the COVID-19 vaccination policy for the program?**

**A:** All students must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 - Fully vaccinated includes booster shots. You will be required to show proof of vaccination. If it is too soon for your booster (based on your previous vaccination date), please be prepared to provide the date you plan to schedule your booster. We will follow current CDC guidance regarding masks.

**Q: Whom do I contact with additional questions?**

**A:** For more information, please contact:

Hannah Miller

Program Coordinator

Friends of the Forest Preserves

[Hannah@fotfp.org](mailto:Hannah@fotfp.org)