

15TH ANNUAL CHICAGO RIVER STUDENT CONGRESS

Dear Teachers,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the 2012 Chicago River Student Congress. It's a special conference where your students have the chance to shine while learning more about the Chicago River and its watershed. Students will share their knowledge, experiences and enthusiasm with their peers and environmental professionals. Students attend informative workshops and view displays created by other students and by professionals from local non-profit and government agencies.

**When: Saturday, February 25, 2012
8:00 am - 12:30 pm**

**Where: Amundsen High School
5110 N. Damen Ave., Chicago**



This Year's Theme: *Confluence*

This year's Congress will highlight the many collaborations and accomplishments that have occurred to improve the Chicago River. Maybe your school worked with Friends of the Chicago River, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, or some other funder or supporter. Perhaps you studied the river in your classroom, or took a trip to the river to monitoring chemistry and biology. This year we celebrate coming together (i.e. confluence) and the change that collaboration can bring. Many issues regarding the Chicago River are currently in the public eye. We are all at a confluence in the river's history.

Disinfection of sewage effluent would remove coliform bacteria, a huge step forward in water quality. Steps are also being taken to improve fish habitat (through dam removal), and to raise awareness regarding invasive species (such as Asian carp and zebra mussels). The decisions we make today will affect the river and our environment for years to come.

Workshops and exhibits should highlight your experiences in improving water quality. We all play a vital role to safeguard the health of the river's ecosystems for plants, animals, and people. Other topics may also be accepted. Call Mark Hauser at (312) 939-0490 ext. 11, if you have any questions.

Please feel free to post and/or distribute the included flyer (page 4) to your students.

How can your students participate?

- ❖ **Present a workshop:** Workshops should be researched, designed and delivered by your students and focus on the Chicago River and its watershed. Be creative in choosing and presenting a topic. Interactive workshops are always popular. For more information on workshops, check out the guidelines on the back of this form.
- ❖ **Exhibit a display:** Students can display poster boards, interactive games or PowerPoint presentations. Displays should focus on this year's theme.
- ❖ **Create river-related artwork or poetry:** Students are invited to submit fish-related paintings, prints, photos, drawings or sculptures to be displayed at the Congress. Label your school's artwork. We will put them together as a "school" of fish. Pieces must be received by Friends at least the day before the Congress. Contact Mark Hauser (312) 939-0490, ext.11, to make arrangements. Submitted art will be returned to their owners after the Congress.
- ❖ **Be an active Congress participant:** Students and teachers not presenting workshops or displays are invited to attend, learn and enjoy. The Congress can serve as a great introduction to river issues for students.

**All workshops, displays, art and poetry should illustrate this year's theme.
It makes each and every Congress unique!**

Friends of the Chicago River



www.chicagoriver.org/events/student_congress



Student Congress Guidelines



Workshop topics:

Workshops should be designed and presented by students. Be creative in choosing your topics. If you get stuck, here are a few ideas:

Investigating & exploring the Chicago River	Improving the health of the river's ecosystem	The river's relationship to you, your family, school, and community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the benefits to monitoring the Chicago River's water quality and plant and animal life? • How was the river used (and abused) during Chicago's development? • Is water quality of the Chicago River linked to quality of life for Chicago's residents? • What animals and plants are found along the Chicago River? • How is the Chicago River important to you and your class? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which invasive species live in the Chicago River waterways today, and what are their effects? • Benefits of native species... • How can we increase the diversity of birds, macro-invertebrates and mammals along the river? • What are the ways that ecological restoration improves habitat in the watershed? • Amount of trash and debris pulled out of the river. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing biodiversity in the Chicago River watershed. • Disinfection: removing bacteria from the Chicago River. • What does the future of the Chicago River entail... • How have your school's actions affected the people, plants and animals in the Chicago River watershed? • The importance of recreation on the Chicago River.

- ❖ All workshops are **30-minutes** long. Most groups will be asked to present their workshop twice.
- ❖ Students should bring all necessary materials for their presentation.
- ❖ There is a limited amount of AV and projection equipment available at Amundsen. It is available on a first come first served basis. **If your school can provide what you need, please bring it.**
- ❖ Workshop location will be assigned the day of the Student Congress (Saturday Feb. 25, 2012).

Displays:

- ❖ These can include project displays (picture boards, videos, website demos), river/watershed related history and science fair projects, interactive games or art projects.
- ❖ Tables will be provided; you can choose either a full six-foot table or half a table.
- ❖ Electricity is available at some tables. **Please note on the registration form if you need power.** Note: Extension cords are always needed. If you can bring them, please do so. (Label them with your name and school using duct tape).
- ❖ Displays with activities/crafts requiring extra space can be accommodated. **Please note on your registration form if you require additional room.**

Registration Forms must be returned before Wednesday, February 15, 2012.
Late submissions will not be accepted!

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15TH ANNUAL CHICAGO RIVER STUDENT CONGRESS CONFLUENCE



Registration Form

Please return this form if your students are attending the Congress.
Note below if you plan on presenting a workshop or bringing a display.

Registration Forms must be returned before Wednesday, February 15, 2012.
Late submissions will not be accepted!

Contact Info: (Please Print)

Contact Teacher's Name _____ School _____

Contact Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

You will receive a registration confirmation e-mail

Participation:

Approximately _____ of my students will be attending. (Include both presenters and non-presenters)

Workshops:

Title 1: _____

Name(s) of student presenter(s): _____

Appropriate for what grade level? _____

Equipment needed? (Limited quantities available. Please reserve early. If presenting schools can supply their own please do so. Don't forget to bring extension cords, if you need them).

Overhead projector VCR and TV Slide projector LCD PowerPoint projector

Title 2: _____

You may include more than one workshop

Name(s) of student presenter(s): _____

Appropriate for what grade level? _____

Equipment needed? (Limited quantities available. Please reserve early. If presenting schools can supply their own please do so. Don't forget to bring extension cords, if you need them).

Overhead projector VCR and TV Slide projector LCD PowerPoint projector

Display:

Title: _____

Name(s) of student investigator(s): _____

We need: ___ 6' table/s ___ 3' table (1/2 of 6' table) ___ Access to an electrical outlet (Try to bring your own extension cords labeled with your name and the name of your school.)

PLEASE RETURN BEFORE February 15, 2012, to:

Mark Hauser, Education Coordinator, Friends of the Chicago River
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60604 Fax: (312) 939-0931

Friends of the Chicago River



www.chicagoriver.org/events/student_congress



Catch a wave* ...

...at the 15th annual Chicago River Student Congress.

Why Should You Come?

- ❖ You'll get to hang out with other students from other schools who also care about the Chicago River.
- ❖ You'll get free stuff including FOOD and PRIZES.
- ❖ You'll get to interact with environmental professionals.
- ❖ You'll get to take workshops led by college students as they present their current research.

* ...oh yeah, and if you present, you can get **service learning** hours as well.

When and where is it?

Saturday, February 25, 2012

8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Amundsen High School

5110 N. Damen Ave., Chicago



**Want to join us?
Ask your teacher about registration.
*DON'T MISS IT!***

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