

Friends of the Chicago River

Adopt A River School

Immerse your students in real field science, engage them in service projects that improve the Chicago River, and share your students' findings with other schools, community groups and Friends of the Chicago River. By becoming a part Adopt A River School, you and your students can become a positive force in the study, protection and revitalization of the Chicago River.

Participating schools adopt a section along the Chicago River and commit to two visits a year. Each year, students:

Collect data:

At each visit students monitor the water and habitat quality using Friends of the Chicago River's data forms. Forms are found at www.chicagoriver.org/education/ >Adopt A River Schools/AARS Forms. **Water chemistry, macroinvertebrates and habitat data are required.** If you need equipment, Friends has some you can borrow.

Data is then submitted to Friends which stores and shares the data. You can upload your data at www.watershed.chicagoriver.org. There is also a link at www.chicagoriver.org/education >River Database. Get your school's username and password from Mark Hauser.

Money is available for Buses to/from field trips and for river monitoring equipment. Apply using the Small Grants Application found at www.chicagoriver.org/education >Adopt A River Schools/AARS Forms.

Make a difference:

Based on the data they have collected and the problems they have noticed, students create and carry out their own service project. Possibilities include habitat restoration, advocacy, outreach, clean-up, and stormwater initiatives. Friends' staff can help guide you through the process, offering suggestions and support. Students also join forces with Friends by cleaning up their adopted site during Friends' annual **Chicago River Day**. [This year's River Day will be in May 2016.](#)

Share their knowledge:

Students participate in the annual **Chicago River Student Congress**, where they can create a poster display or give a short workshop centered around their work on the Chicago River. Students, government agencies and local nonprofits are all in attendance, learning and sharing. [This year's Congress will be Feb./Mar.2016.](#)

Have questions?

Contact Mark Hauser (312) 939-0490 x11 or mhauser@chicagoriver.org

