Chicago River Distance Learning Form

Chicago River Schools Network

Thank you for your interest in having your students learn about the Chicago River. To facilitate any online services or presentations please provide the following information. **THIS FORM IS REQUIRED TO BOOK YOUR PRESENTATION.** Please scan/send this form to Mark Hauser, mhauser@chicagoriver.org. Additional lessons including student worksheets are located at [www.chicagoriver.org/education/](http://www.chicagoriver.org/education/) ►My River Unit

School Name ____________________ Teacher Name ____________________

Teacher Email ____________________ Teacher Cell ____________________

Presentation Date ____________________ Start Time ____________________ End Time ____________________ AM PM AM PM

# of Students ___________ Grade(s) of Students ___________ Total # of Teachers ___________

Students’ Special Needs

(Please note any language, mobility and/or learning disability issues)

---

**Desired Lessons** Please check the appropriate boxes to indicate which lessons you would like to be taught.

- Presentations would be taught via Zoom. Other platforms are possible as well. A link will be provided after registration.
- We suggest no more than 30 students (one classroom) in a presentation at a time. This helps facilitate questions and discussion of the topic. Multiple classes are encouraged to book separate presentations, if possible.
- Most presentations can be done in about 45 min., but, if necessary, can be as short as 30 min. or as long as 60 min.
- If you see this symbol ⊗ the presentation has been pre-recorded and can be viewed anytime on Friends of the Chicago River’s YouTube channel. A live presentation can still be requested.
- If you see this symbol ◄ teachers are responsible for providing copies of student worksheets. Activity write-ups and student worksheets can be downloaded from Friends’ website.

**Chicago River History**

☐ K to 2nd ☐ 3rd to 4th ☐ 5th to 6th ☐ 7th to 8th ☐ 9th to 12th

**Water Quality**

☐ Water Chemistry Monitoring (9th to 12th)

*Students will learn about the ways in which we determine water quality. What are the nine common parameters that determine the chemical health of a river?*

**Chicago River Water Chemistry (Virtual Field Trip)** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAY08sV_owM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAY08sV_owM) [32 min.]

**Aquatic Macroinvertebrates**

☐ Macroinvertebrates in the Chicago River (K to 6th) ⊗

*Students learn to identify aquatic organisms.*

☐ Macroinvertebrates and Water Quality (7th to 12th) ⊗

*Students learn to identify aquatic organisms to determine the water quality of the river.*

☐ Macroinvertebrate Bingo (7th to 12th) ⊗

*Students learn to identify aquatic organisms reinforced by a fun game.*

☐ Native and Invasive Crayfish (7th to 12th)

**Chicago River Crayfish** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPuGAjNbSYg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPuGAjNbSYg) [1 min.]

**Field Trip to McClaughrey Springs** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLprWAnBT74](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLprWAnBT74) [3 min.]

**Chicago River Schools Network (Virtual Field Trip)** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOSZOVB_uD0&t=53s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOSZOVB_uD0&t=53s) [12 min.]

Friends of the Chicago River

Mark Hauser, ecology outreach manager
mhauser@chicagoriver.org

PHONE: (312) 939-0490, ext. 11
FAX: (312) 939-0931
Chicago River Issues

☐ Think Beyond the Banks: How to Help the River from Home (7th to 12th)

Students will learn and share ideas on improving the Chicago River. We will discuss several ways in which you can directly improve water quality through every day actions.

☐ Creating a Litter-Free Chicago River (7th to 12th)

Litter is a pervasive issue around the world. It limits our enjoyment of nature, but it’s more than an eyesore. Litter makes our environment unhealthy and unsafe, ruins habitat, contaminates drinking water, and has negative economic impacts.

☐ Climate Change and the Chicago River (9th to 12th) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hik-wPeBCsY]

Climate change is real. Explore the causes of this global problem and how our human actions contribute to it. We’ll discuss how affects our region and Chicago River and what you can do to improve our future.

☐ Wildlife Monitoring (Bats, Osprey, and Turtles) (9th to 12th)

One of Friends’ fundamental goals is to help restore wildlife habitat in and along the Chicago River. Our wildlife habitat projects target species that are at risk due to habitat degradation and lack of available habitat.

☐ Why is Buckthorn So Bad? (7th to 12th)

Buckthorn is a non-native plant that dominates unrestored habitat. Learn about this invasive plant and the efforts to remove it from our local forest preserves.

☐ Habitat Restoration and Plant Quality (9th to 12th) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xW_G476Lj0]

Why do we restore the natural environment? We will discuss the importance of native plants in the ecosystem, some common restoration activities, and how we assess plant quality through floristic quality assessments.

Chicago River Talks (9th to 12th) Can be done live for your class to ask questions.

Recordings also are available.

☐ #1 Friends of the Chicago River [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsqAan9364w&t=133s] [28 min.]

Who is “Friends?” Origins and mission of our organization. We also discuss programs and initiatives.

☐ #2 River Geography and Ecology [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTU6mw3s] [44 min.]

What is the Chicago River? How was it created and how did it influence the city? We also discuss regional ecology and what makes a river healthy.

☐ #3 Wigwams to Skyscrapers [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aw89MpOmdTY] [47 min.]

An exploration of Chicago from the 17th to the late 19th century. We will discuss the Potawatomi, Marquette & Jolliet, the I&M Canal, and the Great Chicago Fire.

☐ #4 Bubbly Creek and the Union Stockyards [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5cfkJLqWpY&t=4s] [41 min.]

An exploration of Chicago from the mid-19th to the early 20th century. We will discuss the Union Stockyards, Bubbly Creek, and other early sources of water pollution.

☐ #5 Reversal and Infrastructure Improvements [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyYxCv2B0Lg&t=233s] [47 min.]

An exploration of Chicago from the mid-19th to the mid-20th century. We will discuss Chicago’s sewers, the river’s reversal, water treatment, canal building, the Eastland disaster, and the Skokie Lagoons.

☐ #6 Water Quality Issues [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mem5KdSqiY] [38 min.]

An exploration of modern water quality issues in Chicago. We will discuss Water treatment, disinfection, combined sewer overflows, OAD, TARP, non-point source pollution, and plastic.

☐ #7 Land Management Issues [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRK11gYySuA] [48 min.]

An exploration of modern land management issues in Chicago. We will discuss stormwater management, soil erosion, gullies, biodiversity, non-native species spread, and river access.

Other

☐ Chicago River Trivia (variable number of questions – your class can play for prizes) (7th to 12th)

Best following one of our history presentations.

☐ Chicago River Expert: Q & A (K to 12th)

Topic of discussion: ______________________________