

Friends of the Chicago River



ADOPT A RIVER SCHOOLS

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 of the Adopt A River School program, 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 <https://www.chicagoriver.org/programs/education-and-outreach/chicago-river-schools-network/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 <https://www.chicagoriver.org/programs/education-and-outreach/chicago-river-schools-network/river-database>. You can get your school's username and password from Mark Hauser.

Money is sometimes available for buses to/from field trips and for river monitoring equipment. Apply using the Small Grants Application found on the forms page.

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 are also encouraged to join forces with Friends by cleaning up their adopted site during Friends' annual **Chicago River Day**. [Chicago River Day is held every year in May.](#)

Share their knowledge:

Students are encouraged to 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. Have your students share their experiences with other students, government agencies and local nonprofits. [The Chicago River Student Congress is held every year in February.](#)

Have questions?

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

