

26TH ANNUAL CHICAGO RIVER STUDENT CONGRESS

Dear River Friends,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the 2023 Chicago River Student Congress. It's a unique conference during which your students interact with others and learn more about the Chicago River. Students 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.

If you can't come to the Congress, but know of another teacher / person / group who might – please share this invitation with them.

**When: Saturday, February 25, 2023
8:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Where: DePaul College Prep High School
3333 North Rockwell Street, Chicago**



This Year's Theme: *Improving Our River and Our Community*

Improving the Chicago River can seem a big task. But all big tasks are made up of smaller problems that we can overcome together. What can you do to improve the river for your community? Learn what students across the watershed are doing to care for the river, watch over it, and to improve it. We should all be part of the discussion as we propose solutions. This year's Congress will allow students to have fun as they share what they know about the river and how they serve to make it better. **During the Congress, students can teach workshops (registration enclosed), attend workshops, visit exhibits, and interact with college students and many different river professionals.**

Workshops and exhibits should highlight your experiences with the river in some way. 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, but we prefer they fit our theme. Contact Mark Hauser at mhauser@chicagoriver.org if you have any questions.

How can your school / organization participate?

- ❖ **Come and have fun:** Just attend workshops. The Student Congress can serve as a great introduction to river issues for all students.
- ❖ **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; such as those based on a game show, TV show, or board game. For more information on workshops, check out the sample topics on the back of this form.
- ❖ **Exhibit a display:** Students (and others) can display artwork, poetry, poster boards, interactive games or PowerPoint presentations. Displays should be about the river and its watershed.

Friends of the Chicago River

www.chicagoriver.org/education/student-congress



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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:

Benefits of native species vs. harm done by non-native species	Improving the river	The river's relationship to you, your family, school, and community
• What are the benefits to monitoring the Chicago River's water quality and plant and animal life? • Has the river's biodiversity changed during Chicago's development? • What native animals and plants are found along the Chicago River? • Where have our invasive species come from? • What native species are extirpated or extinct?	• 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? • Describe your school's service-learning project.	• What can we all do to help the river at home and at school? • How is the Chicago River important to you and your class? • How have your school's actions affected the people, plants and animals in the Chicago River watershed? • The importance of beautiful parks and places along the Chicago River. • How do we have fun on the river?

- ❖ All workshops are **25-minutes** long. Be prepared to present your workshop twice.
- ❖ Students should bring all necessary materials for their presentation.
- ❖ There are classrooms equipped with smart boards. AV and projection equipment are also available. If you require any of this equipment, please indicate so on your registration form. If your school can't provide what you need, or you require something special, please notify us.
- ❖ We will notify workshop presenters of their presentation schedule and location(s) in advance.

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 and chairs will be provided. If you require more than one 8 ft. table let us know.
- ❖ 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, 2023.
Late submissions will be considered, but may not be accepted!

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Improving Our River and Our Community



Registration Form

Registration Forms must be returned before Wednesday, February 15, 2023.
Late submissions will be considered, but may not be accepted!

Contact Info (Please print):

Name _____ School/Organization _____

I am a ☐ Teacher ☐ College Presenter ☐ Environmental Professional

Mobile Phone _____ Email _____

For day-of communications

You will receive a registration confirmation e-mail

Just Attending, Not Presenting:

I would like to register _____ teachers / adults and _____ students.
(Include both presenters and non-presenters)

Workshops & Displays (Please copy this page to submit more than one workshop or display):

Workshop - Title: _____

Workshop description: _____

Name(s) of presenter(s): _____

Equipment needed? (If presenters can supply their own, please do so. Don't forget to bring extension cords).

☐ Smartboard ☐ Internet ☐ LCD PowerPoint projector ☐ Access to an electrical outlet ☐ Other (please describe)

Display - Title: _____

Display description: _____

Name(s) of presenter(s): _____

We would like _____ 8' table(s) ☐ Access to an electrical outlet (Try to bring your own extension cords labeled with your name.)

PLEASE RETURN BEFORE February 15, 2023, to:

Mark Hauser, Ecology Outreach Manager, Friends of the Chicago River
411 S. Wells St., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60607 email: mhauser@chicagoriver.org

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