

21ST ANNUAL CHICAGO RIVER STUDENT CONGRESS

Dear River Friends,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the 2018 Chicago River Student Congress. It's a special conference where your students have the chance to shine while learning more about the Chicago River. 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.

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 24, 2018
8:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**Where: Taft High School
6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60631**



This Year's Theme:

Missing, Presumed Eaten: A Chicago River Mystery

Something's missing from this year's Congress. Can you follow the clues and unravel the secret surrounding a mysterious disappearance of an important river animal? This year's Congress will allow students to have fun as they interact and celebrate what they know about the river. Many have improved the Chicago River through their dedication and studies. **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. Call Mark Hauser at (312) 939-0490 ext. 11, 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.

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



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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? 	<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? • Describe your school's service-learning project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 14, 2018.

Late submissions will be considered, but may not be accepted!



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Missing, Presumed Eaten



Registration Form

**Registration Forms must be returned before Wednesday, February 14, 2018.
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 two workshops or more than one display):

Workshop #1 - 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)

Workshop #2 - 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 14, 2018, to:

Mark Hauser, Ecology Outreach Manager, Friends of the Chicago River
411 S. Wells St., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60607 Fax: (312) 939-0931



Free food and a free t-shirt...

**Hang out with others who
care about our environment...**

**Learn about current river
issues and research...**

...at the 2018 Friends of the Chicago River

Chicago River Student Congress.

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

When and where is it?

**Saturday, February 24, 2018
8:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**Taft High School
6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60631**



Want to join us?

Ask your teacher about putting together a presentation...

or just come to the event.

JUST DON'T MISS OUT!



Friends of the Chicago River

www.chicagoriver.org/education/student-congress

