



2017 Youth Conservation Corps Summer Programs

Our Conservation Corps programs provide paid, hands-on experiences to youth ages 14-19 from across Cook County's diverse communities. We mobilize youth to heal and nurture the land. We focus on teamwork, basic job skills, hard work and environmental awareness.



Program Accomplishments



90%

Program Retention



17 acres

Invasive Species Removal



2,902 ft

Trail Improvement & Maintenance



255 hours
Tree Care



56 hours
Litter Pick-up

135
Youth
Participants

21,975
Conservation
Service Hours

5,051
Environmental
Education Hours

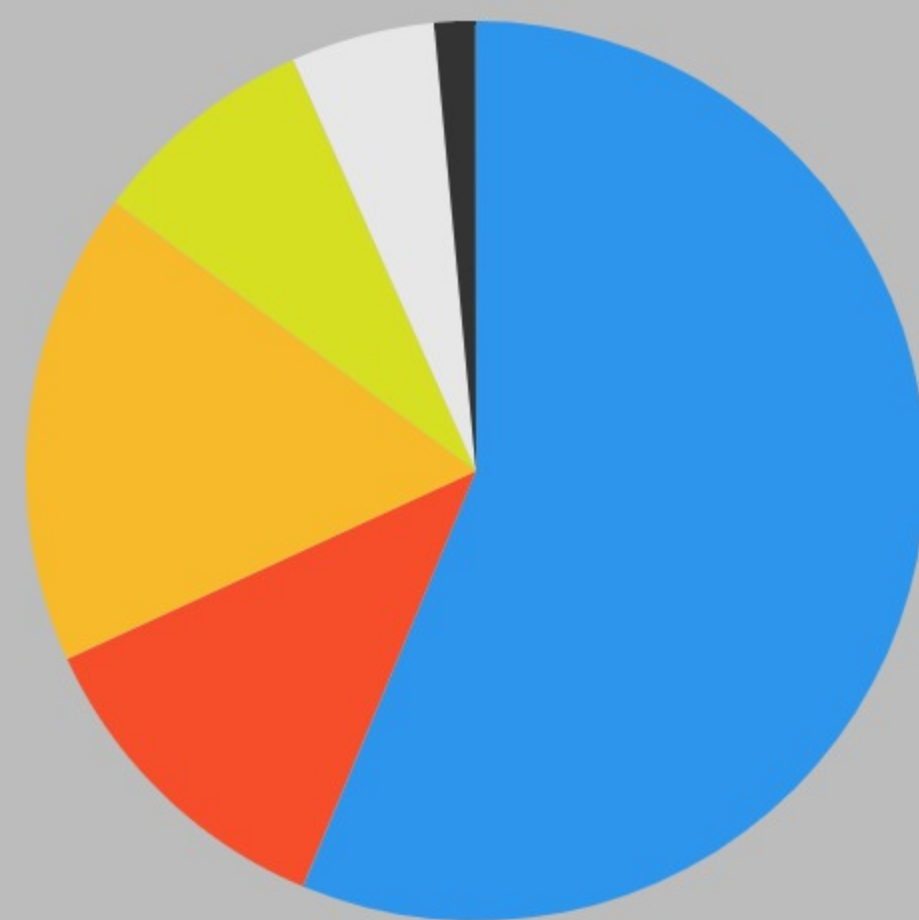
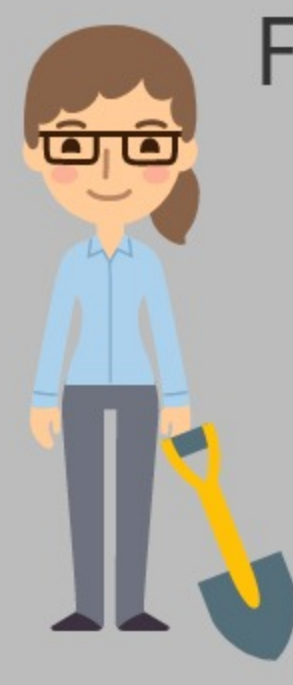


Youth Demographics

50%
Male



50%
Female



- Black (56%)
- Hispanic (12%)
- White (17%)
- 2+ races (8%)
- Asian (5%)
- No Response (1%)

67%
Suburban
Cook County
Residents

33%
City of
Chicago
Residents

Youth Survey Response

- ✓ Feel more confident being a leader & speaking in public
- ✓ Believe the forest preserves are important to their quality of life
- ✓ Feel more prepared to pursue a career in the conservation field
- ✓ Increased desire to volunteer in the preserves post program

"This program has made me a better person. I learned how nature helps us as human beings and how to appreciate nature. **This is a great program for teenagers.**"
- Sydney A. Program Youth



"Within the first week I learned about nature, the world around me, and more importantly myself. I learned that I can be a leader and that **I can pave my own path to success.**"
- Owen R. Program Youth



"This program has helped me meet and learn to cooperate with a diverse group of people from a variety of backgrounds. **I have grown as a person and as a leader,** and I will go forth as a greater steward for the environment."
- Eric L. Program Youth