

Green Ambassadors Curriculum Map

The Green Ambassador's curriculum focuses on building skills that empower students to take action in their communities. Included in this curriculum map are a list of weekly learning objectives, paired with a select number of training activities and workshops we've developed to meet the objectives. At The Field Museum, we focus content on climate change, access to green space, and other community environmental issues. However the workshops are general enough in their focus on leadership and research skills that you can use them to prepare young people to examine a variety of community issues.

Who should use this curriculum?

- People from schools, community-based organizations, or afterschool programs that work with youth.
- The skills covered by the Green Ambassador curriculum are best suited for high school aged youth and young adults, especially those interested in pursuing social and/or environmental sciences in higher education.

How to use the curriculum?

- You can add some of these elements to an existing program to strengthen it or start your own program based on it.
- The workshops can be used on their own or in conjunction with each other by following the example of the curriculum map.
- We implement this program 3-4 days a week for a six-week summer program, however you can adapt these workshops to meet your own timeframe.

Youth Ecological Leadership Program Objectives

- Train youth interns in basic social and ecological science methods and concepts
- Build cross-cultural understanding by exploring shared interests as well as distinct values, perspectives, and activities among interns from different communities
- Deepen connection to nature among participants, residents, and community based organizations through action projects based upon interns' community-based research



Week		Objectives	Select Workshops & Activities <small>click on highlighted text for lessons</small>
What's going on?	<p>Week 1: Introduction: Setting the Stage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build familiarity and solidarity among students and staff • Orient youth to organization mission, site, and activities • Outline Green Ambassador program goals, timeline, and anticipated outcomes • Build initial leadership skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teambuilding • Community Crest • Orientation • Leadership I
	<p>Week 2: Learning Anthropological Research Methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to build trust among students and staff • Introduce and train interns to Anthropological research methods • Explore history and culture of local communities • Introduce ecological restoration and community involvement • Explore values of healthy urban nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teambuilding • Anthropology 101 • Note Taking • Interviews • Focus Group Training • Asset mapping • Meet key partners and community groups in the area • Visit local natural area to showcase and explain restoration process and community engagement, observation & ecological monitoring • Nature & Wellness Bingo (Review of Literature)
	<p>Week 3: Applying Anthropological Research Methods Research Analysis Project Selection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to build trust and leadership skills among interns • Continue to explore history and culture of local communities • Conduct community focused research • Analyze research and select issue(s) and set action research goals/questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teambuilding • Lectures • Films • Community Tours • Interviews • Observations • Focus Groups • Ecological Monitoring • Analyze your results: pick a project based on your findings • Review compiled Issues & Assets to guide topic selection
What should we do about it?	<p>Week 4: Research and Analysis for Project Work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience nature and the environment in a fun way • Conduct community research for projects, take stock of findings, revise questions and continue to focus projects • Analyze research findings and develop project action • Train interns in public speaking • Discuss and build leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team building • Visit local natural area • Observations • Focus Groups • Interviews • Ecological Monitoring • Public Speaking • Leadership II
	<p>Week 5: Presentation Prep</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight teamwork and complementary assets across communities • Prepare for final presentation • Clarify audience/stakeholders and build presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teambuilding • Public Speaking • Hold key stakeholder focus group (if needed) for support and feedback on action project
	<p>Week 6: Project Presentations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice final presentations • Polish Public Speaking Skills • Finalize projects • Present final presentations • Identify sustainability plan and next steps for teams • Reflect, evaluate and celebrate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Speaking • Teambuilding • Leadership III