



The Conservation Federation of Missouri



Youth Education Programs



To ensure conservation of Missouri's wildlife and natural resources, and preservation of our state's rich outdoor heritage through advocacy, education and partnerships.



Securing Missouri's natural resources for their use and enjoyment today and in the future depends strongly on the interest and direct engagement of an informed citizenry. For this reason, we strongly believe that investing in the future means investing in youth; that a critical role for the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) is to ensure future generations understand and are prepared to tackle the challenges ahead.

The Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) and the Missouri Collegiate Conservation Alliance (MCCA) are two elements of CFM's youth education program that provide opportunities for young people to learn about and participate in natural resource conservation while also further developing their personal interests and potential.

Simultaneously, CFM receives the benefits of youthful energy and fresh perspectives while promoting mentorship and engagement with professionals and affiliate organizations.

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP CORPS

CLC was established in 2002 and has become a flagship initiative of CFM as a way to help identify and develop future leaders in Missouri's conservation community, while teaching them about conservation related issues. The three words in the name truly reflect our purpose:

CONSERVATION

Students learn about conservation and natural resources and the importance of advocating for the wise use and management of these resources. Students interact and network with resource professionals in the field while learning valuable skills through service and issue-based activities.

LEADERSHIP

The program highlights leadership qualities and characteristics and emphasizes that leadership comes in many forms. Students are given opportunities to interact with leaders and see different styles of leadership, while also encouraged to take on leadership roles within the program.

CORPS

Students in the program meet other students with like interests developing a true esprit de corps. Enduring friendships are developed and a CLC alumni network exists when they leave the program. The limited size of this program promotes these strong connections.



Specifically, the CLC offers high school and college students a unique opportunity to learn about conservation and advocacy with an emphasis on leadership, teamwork, communication skills, and policy development. CLC provides a meaningful, educational experience while interacting with like-minded students and established conservation leaders, both professional and non-professional.

Through this program, we are developing the next generation of conservation leaders as well as enthusiastic future CFM members. Regardless of where their chosen careers lead them, it is our hope that CLC participants are better prepared to personally influence the management and conservation of Missouri's natural resources for the benefit of all Missourians and beyond.





“I would not be where I am now without the Conservation Leadership Corps. The years I spent as a student member helped me gain valuable networking skills, experience working with conservation professionals, and the courage to stand up for Missouri’s natural resources.

Without this program I may have never learned how to network with professionals and figure out what direction I wanted to take in my career within natural resources.”



Theresa Hyland (2015)
Environmental compliance coordinator for MDC



CLC PROGRAM GOAL

To develop the next generation of natural resource conservation leaders through educational programs and mentorship, while also promoting a life-long affiliation with CFM.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Upcoming high school juniors and seniors, and college freshman, sophomores and juniors are eligible for the CLC program. Preference is given to students who are willing to commit to the program for multiple years. Students do not have to be pursuing or interested in pursuing a career in natural resources or conservation, but they should have a strong interest and desire to learn about what it takes to conserve and manage the state's natural resources.

The program coincides with the school year. Students must apply by May 1st (before the end of the school year) to be in the program for the following school year. (i.e., apply by May 1st, 2019 to be in the program for the 2019-2020 school year). Currently, the program consists of a fall workshop in September/October, the annual convention in March, a spring field work day, a Stream Team float during the summer, and other work days and volunteer events throughout the year.

Looking forward, we hope the CLC program will continue to be an elite and sought-after program for students with a passion for conservation and natural resources. As we continue to maintain and further develop the high standards of the program, we will also work to strengthen alumni opportunities and development. We hope to see the outcomes of our investment by measuring future alumni involvement in the leadership of CFM and our affiliate organizations.

MISSOURI COLLEGIATE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

MCCA was established by CFM in 2015 as a coalition of college-level students created for the purpose of sharing information and promoting direct engagement on issues pertaining to natural resources and conservation in Missouri.

MCCA works to 1) unite college students across Missouri who care about conservation, 2) educate about key conservation issues, and 3) engage participants through advocacy efforts and CFM's Legislative Action Center.

This newer program, in the developmental stages with room for growth, is open to any college student. The program also serves as a way to promote and develop future conservation leaders and advocates. While less intensive than the CLC in terms of student commitment and the resources required to maintain it, MCCA can involve far more students, with the hope that these knowledgeable young adults will become leaders in communities across Missouri.





CLC did a lot of terrific things for me. It taught me the importance of networking and allowed me to build relationships that helped begin a career in conservation. CLC also grew my communication, public speaking, and leadership skills; all have been extremely valuable in both my work and personal life. But the best part of CLC for me was the friends I made.



Jake Swafford (2011)
Coordinating Wildlife Biologist with
Pheasants Forever Inc. and Quail Forever in Missouri



MCCA PROGRAM GOAL

To develop the next generation of natural resource conservation advocates through awareness and direct engagement on issues of importance and concern.

CONFLUENCE OF YOUNG CONSERVATION LEADERS

Confluence of Young Conservation Leaders (CYCL) was established in 2017 by the Missouri Conservation Leadership Corps, Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps, and the Texas Brigades. The organizations worked to bring together representatives from state and national youth conservation leadership programs, and those states considering developing such programs. They all shared both expertise and experience with the goal of improving existing programs and fostering the development of programs in additional states.

The inaugural CYCL event was held in Missouri in 2017. The event resulted in the creation of a committee with representatives from Missouri, Wisconsin, Texas and Minnesota as well as Pheasants and Quail Forever, the National Wildlife Federation, and Bureau of Land Management. Missouri sits on the planning committee as we work to expand the program and broaden the efficacy of existing groups, and encourage and include new organizations. The 2019 event was held in Austin, Texas.

CYCL PROGRAM GOAL

To promote the establishment and connection of youth natural resources and conservation leadership programs and provide education and leadership growth through a bi-annual conference.



OPTIONS FOR SUPPORT

Full Support (Endowment Level)

This option would meet all priority needs in a long-term sustainable fashion. Under this option, special recognition and naming rights will also be offered to the donor(s).

Partial Support (two years)

This option helps us to meet our highest priority needs but for a shorter period of time, and would fund all elements and activities for a two-year period.

Single Year Support, all elements and activities

This option would fund all elements and activities for a single year.

Program Coordinator Support

This option helps us to address the most vital operational component of the program, the cost of maintaining a dedicated program coordinator. Without the program coordinator, this program would be a shadow of what it is or might be in the future. Ideally, multi-year support is best.

Incremental Support (single-year support)

This option presents annual categorical needs a la carte.

- Annual Convention
- MCCA
- Scholarships
- CYCL
- Fall Workshop
- Stream Team Float
- Guest Speakers
- Student Sponsorship
- Prairie Fork Work Day





Through CLC, I learned how to network and engage current issues in conservation. I used these skills most recently at the International Congress of Entomology in Florida where 7,000 scientists from 101 countries assembled and discussed global insect-related issues. Thank you, CFM, for cultivating these qualities in students.



Colton Zirkle (2014)
Graduate student at the University of Arkansas

OPTIONS FOR SUPPORT

Full Support (Endowment Level)	\$1,632,500
Partial Support (two years)	\$130,000
Single Year Support, all elements and activities	\$65,000/year
Program Coordinator Support	\$30,000/year
Incremental Support (single-year support)	
• Annual Convention	\$17,500/year
• MCCA	\$3,500/year
• Scholarships	\$2,500/year
• CYCL	\$2,000/year
• Fall Workshop	\$1,000/year
• Stream Team Float	\$1,000/year
• Guest Speakers	\$500/year
• Student Sponsorship	\$350/student/year
• Prairie Fork Work Day	\$300/year

PROJECTED ANNUAL EXPENSES WITH ENDOWMENT NEEDS

Program	Annual	2-year	Endowment
Conservation Leadership Corps	\$29,800	\$59,600	\$745,000
MCCA	\$3,500	\$7,000	\$87,500
CYCL	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$50,000
Coordinator position	\$30,000	\$60,000	\$750,000
Total	\$65,300	\$130,600	\$1,632,500



**Contact the
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