

Calumet Environmental Education Program



Mighty Acorns (grades 4–6)

The aim of Mighty Acorns is to introduce students to nature through stewardship and exploration in a way that fosters a personal connection to natural areas.

<http://www.mightyacorns.org>



Earth Force (grades 6–8)

Through Earth Force youth create lasting solutions to environmental issues in their communities. Earth Force provides educators with innovative tools to engage young people in community action and environmental problem solving.

<http://www.earthforce.org>

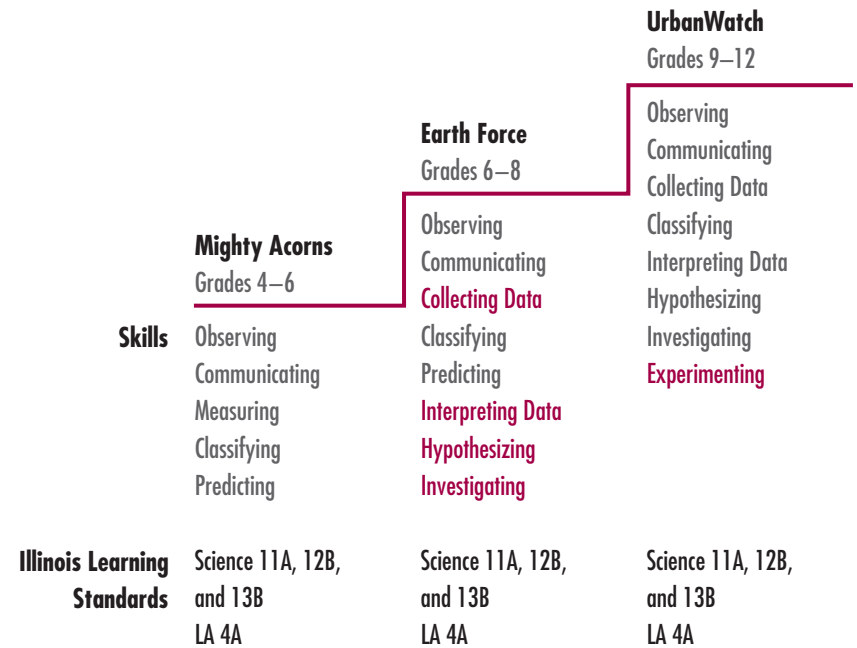


UrbanWatch (grades 9–12)

UrbanWatch is a monitoring program in which citizen-scientists track the condition and extent of urban green spaces. Through UrbanWatch high school teachers and students conduct biological inventories of local natural areas.

<http://www.fieldmuseum.org/urbanwatch>

Ladder to Environmental Knowledge and Action



Calumet Environmental Education Program

Program Overview

The Calumet Environmental Education Program (CEEP) has developed and tested a model curriculum for grades 4–12 that is sequenced from grade to grade, so that students can acquire the knowledge and skills to take effective environmental action in their communities. Key components of the model are:

- **Teacher Professional Development Workshops.**
- **A Sequenced Curriculum.**
- **Assessment and Evaluation.**
- **School Administrative Support.**
- **Regional Partnerships.**

For more information, visit the CEEP website at www.fieldmuseum.org/ceep or e-mail ceepeval@fieldmuseum.org.

Objectives

- Develop a consecutive, sequenced curriculum including in-class learning and fieldwork, and identify support networks to promote learning and skill development in students.
- Implement a new teacher training program connecting teachers from 4th–12th grades that focuses on ensuring that students are learning sequentially as they move through the CEEP program. Provide structure for teachers to share curricula and keep each other informed of student skill levels.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the CEEP program and measure its impact on students and teachers.

Major Evaluation Findings

- Students and teachers made statistically significant gains in knowledge about biodiversity, the local community, and environmental issues.
- Teachers wrote teaching objectives specific to the environment and focused on the goal of preparing students for further study about the environment.
- Teachers felt more confident about their knowledge of environmental issues and content.
- Teachers coordinated their work with teachers at other grade levels and integrated material about the environment across their curriculum.