



Field Ambassadors

The link between The Museum and schools

The Field Ambassador program is a professional learning community through which Chicago-area educators receive on-going professional development on the Museum's resources—our exhibitions, collections, educational programs, Harris Educational Loan materials—and best practices in using museums to support student learning. In return, Field Ambassadors serve as liaisons between the Museum and their school community by sharing our resources with colleagues and keeping us abreast of the changing needs of the educator-audience.

Since its inaugural year, the program has built relationships with more than 300 educators and supported two tiers of engagement: Emerging Field Ambassadors and Field Ambassador Academy Members. Emerging Field Ambassadors participate in 25 hours of training on the Museum's four academic areas—Anthropology, Botany, Geology, and Zoology—and best practices in object-based learning and our Focused Field Trip Framework. After completing the initial series of professional development sessions, emerging Field Ambassadors graduate to become members of the Academy. Academy Members are invited to continue participating in Field Ambassador training sessions, serve on our Advisory Council, and develop school-wide initiatives designed to integrate Museum resources on a larger scale.

Through the Field Ambassador program, educators...

- Become part of a professional learning community dedicated to lifelong learning and using museum resources to support teaching practice
- Develop skills in the effective use of the Museum's resources—its exhibitions, collections, and educational programs—to enhance student learning
- Develop a deeper understanding of the Museum, its history and four areas of study—Anthropology, Botany, Geology, and Zoology
- Grow as leaders in their school communities, the Field Ambassador community, and at the Museum

To apply to become a Field Ambassador, you must be able to meet the following:

Requirements

Emerging (first-year) Field Ambassadors:

- Complete application by June 1, 2009 (You will be notified of acceptance by August 1, 2009)
- Participate in six Field Ambassador events during the 2009-2010 school year (Note: Field Ambassadors are required to attend Kick-Off, three of four Forums, and the Year-End Celebration; further absences will result in forfeiture of title)
 - Kick-Off, Thursday, September 24, 2009, 5pm – 8pm
 - Forum, Saturday, October 24, 2009, 8:30am – 2pm
 - Forum, Saturday, December 5, 2009, 8:30am – 2pm
 - Forum, Saturday, January 23, 2010, 8:30am – 2pm
 - Forum, Saturday, March 20, 2010, 8:30am – 2pm
 - Year-End Celebration, Thursday, May 20, 2010, 5pm – 8pm

- Complete a year-end project that demonstrates how you have effectively integrated the Museum's resources with your curriculum
- Serve as a liaison between The Field Museum and your school community by spreading the word about exhibitions, programs, and new resources for educators, students, and their families

Field Ambassador Academy Members (after first-year):

- Continue to serve as a liaison between The Field Museum and your school community by spreading the word about exhibitions, programs, and new resources for educators, students, and their families
- Continue to participate in Field Ambassador events (not required)
- Participate in advisory councils, lead presentations during key professional development events

If you have questions about the program, requirements, or application process please contact Jessica Wood, School Partnerships Manager at 312.665.7536 or jwood@fieldmuseum.org