Calumet Is My Back Yard (CIMBY) is helping Chicago’s South Side high school students become the next generation of environmental leaders. CIMBY strengthens and connects the Lake Calumet region’s human and natural communities through place-based education and stewardship.

CIMBY improves academic success.
- Provides locally-focused, real-world place-based science education.
- Reaches out to students who face enormous challenges from limited school resources and the threat of violence in their neighborhoods.
- Sparks enthusiasm for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.
- Teaches important civic and 21st century work skills including critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity.

CIMBY makes an environmental impact.
- Heals damaged ecosystems through ecological restoration practices.
- Removes invasive species and sowing native seeds.
- Monitors ecological health.
- Connects stewardship to larger environmental issues in the region and the country.

For more information visit: www.fieldmuseum.org/ceep

Contact:
Samantha Mattone
Chicago Public Schools
Department of Literacy, Service Learning Initiative
320 N. Elizabeth, Room 402 | Chicago, IL 60607
scmattone@cps.edu | 773.553.6386

CIMBY engages high school students and teachers in Chicago’s Calumet region in educational activities and experiences that connect classroom learning with stewardship opportunities.

CIMBY in the Classroom
CIMBY offers engaging curriculum, professional development and model curriculum and activity implementation for teachers to use with their students in the classroom.

CIMBY in the Field
Through a series of field trips, students perform ecological restoration at adopted natural sites. Students monitor biodiversity and water and soil quality in prairie, woodland and wetland sites. Students remove invasive species and perform additional stewardship tasks that are aligned with site management plans. Students also participate in exploration activities, helping them to build a stronger connection to their adopted natural area.

CIMBY Special Events
CIMBY offers six major events over the course of the year which bring together students from all participating high schools. These include:
- a kick-off day of restoration and exploration at the Indiana Dunes
- a Biodiversity Day at the Sand Ridge Nature Center
- a CIMBY Student Leadership Retreat to the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
- an Environmental Leadership and Careers Conference
- a guided Toxics to Treasures tour of the Calumet region and workshop,
- the CIMBY Science Summit hosted by The Field Museum.

CIMBY Summer Internships
Students who successfully complete the full CIMBY school year are eligible to participate in paid summer environmental internships with established environmental organizations in the Chicago area. Interns have previously been placed at the Chicago State University’s Aquaponics Center, the Sierra Club, Friends of the Parks, Sand Ridge Nature Center, and the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization. The Field Museum offers additional opportunities for seven Ford Environmental Leadership Interns.

CIMBY Student Leaders
Select high school students enrich their CIMBY experience by participating in special events and opportunities which allow them to take on leadership roles. Student Leaders host stewardship activities in the field, attend city-wide conferences, present their work to stakeholders in Calumet, and use their expertise to train the next generation of environmental caretakers.

Founded in 1999, CIMBY is a program of Chicago Public Schools (CPS), The Field Museum’s Calumet Environmental Education Program (CEEP), and the BOLD Chicago Institute.