Calumet Is My Back Yard (CIMBY) is helping Chicago’s South Side and Northwest Indiana 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 sows native plant seeds.
- Monitors ecological health.
- Connects stewardship to larger environmental issues in the region and the country.


**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

VISIT: www.fieldmuseum.org/cimby

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**Engaging the next generation of Chicago’s environmental leaders**

**CALUMET IS MY BACK YARD**
CIMBY engages high school students and teachers in the Calumet region in educational activities and experiences that connect classroom learning with stewardship opportunities.

**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 at The Field Museum
- a guided Toxics to Treasures tour of the Calumet region and workshop,
- the CIMBY Science Summit at 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 and Forest Preserves of the Parks, Sand Ridge Nature Center, and the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization. The Field Museum offers additional opportunities for nine Environmental Leadership Interns funded by the Ford Motor Company.

**CIMBY in the Classroom**
CIMBY offers engaging curriculum that meets next generation science standards and Common Core state standards, 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 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 joint program of Chicago Public Schools (CPS), The Field Museum’s Science Action Center, Dunes Learning Center and Shirley Heinze Land Trust.