



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 Learning Collection* 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 400 educators and supported two tiers of engagement: Emerging Field Ambassadors and Field Ambassador Academy Members. Emerging Field Ambassadors participate in 30 hours of training on content relevant to The Field Museum's areas of study as well as 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...

- Improve their ability to teach and learn through collections by:
 - Exploring new science conducted by researchers at The Field Museum
 - Developing skills in object-based teaching and learning
 - Constructing meaningful focused experiences in museum exhibitions for students
 - Completing training to utilize a range of museum resources in a classroom setting to enhance student learning
- Dedicate themselves to lifelong learning in a professional learning community by:
 - Participating in sessions on a wide scope of topics highlighting The Field Museum's research, collections, exhibitions, and educational efforts
 - Conducting practitioner action research designed to inform and improve their own practice
- Grow as leaders in their school communities, the Field Ambassador community, and at the Museum by:
 - Disseminating information from The Field Museum and guiding colleagues in the use of Museum resources
 - Reporting on trends in formal education to improve The Field Museum's resources for students and teachers
 - Sharing museum-school connections with fellow Field Ambassadors
 - Implementing new ideas gained through this professional learning experience in their classroom and school

To become a Field Ambassador, you must meet the following requirements:

- Complete application between March 1 and July 1.
- Participate in six Field Ambassador training sessions during the school year of acceptance (see dates below)
- Complete a year-long practitioner action research project designed to inform an area of your practice that connects with the Museum's resources and or content
- 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

2017-2018 Field Ambassador Program Dates *(all dates subject to change)*

- Emerging Field Ambassador Orientation: Saturday, September 23, 2017, 9am – 3pm
- Expedition I: Saturday, October 7, 2017, 9am – 3pm
- Expedition II: Saturday, December 2, 2017, 9am – 3pm
- Expedition III: Saturday, January 27, 2018, 9am – 3pm
- Expedition IV: Saturday, March 10, 2018, 9am – 3pm
- Year-End Celebration: Thursday, May 3, 2018 4pm – 8pm

School Learning Experiences Sponsor:

