Stewards of Their Streams

_A Menu_ of the Friends of the Fox River
Formal Education Programs

**Purpose - “Our Cuisine”**
We are promoting environmental stewardship through water quality experiences in which students are scientists. Students are charged with collecting, refining, and reporting data to a database allowing the public to observe trends over time by looking at their school’s data from past to present. Below is a list of educational opportunities organized as menu items that are offered. The chef may be able to accept special orders to satisfy a classroom’s unique dietary needs!

*Students in the stream during the field experience at their local tributary.*

**Select your service – “A Three Course Meal”**
If your schedule allows it, our recommendation is a three-component water quality education experience for students beginning with a classroom session (see appetizers), followed by a field session at a local creek (see entrees), and concluding with a virtual and/or classroom session for reflection, data interpretation, and calls to action (see desserts).

*Students conducting a water chemistry stream-side experiment.*

*Stewardship is appreciating and protecting something you care about.*
**Friends of the Fox River Fare**

*Appetizers Course: Classroom*

During this course FOFR educators visit your classroom to present information, encourage inquiry, and lead activities. If a field study is to follow, this visit will set the tone for the stream experience helping students prepare for activities and understand their responsibilities.

**Appetizer Selections**

- Concepts overview slide show
- Expectations/techniques videos
- River geography: using maps to learn about the watershed
- Enviroscape: a visual display of the fate and transport of pollution
- Water quantity and source activities
- Macroinvertebrate Identification activities
- Pollution tolerance Discussion
- Velocity and Discharge simulation and calculation
- Cultural history of site

* denotes a recommended item if field study is to follow classroom visit.

**Allotted time**

- 15 – 20 mins*
- 5 – 10 mins*
- 5 – 20 mins
- 15 – 20 mins
- 15 – 25 mins
- 15 – 30 mins
- 5 – 10 mins
- 5 – 15 mins
- 5 – 10 mins

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*Entrée Course: At Your local Fox River Tributary*

This course is a field study with boots-on data collection and interpretation for physical, chemical, and biological parameters. FOFR provides one or more educators, boots and gear for all participants to get in the water and collect samples. Currently the service is provided at no cost to you. Field trip grants are available, and donations are gratefully accepted!

**Entrée Selections**

- Physical: site survey, habitat analysis, velocity/discharge
- Chemical: testing for dissolved oxygen, pH, nutrients, temperature
- Biological: collecting, observing, and identifying invertebrates
- Inclement weather in class-alternative: stream simulation

* In the event of inclement weather or unsafe field conditions, all field activities can be simulated in the classroom.

- 20 – 25 mins
- 15 – 20 mins
- 30 – 40 mins
- 30 – 90 mins*
Dessert Course: Classroom and Virtual Space

Rounding out the meal is a teacher and FOFR Educator led data interpretation and data posting to a virtual public forum based on needs/wants of school and teacher.

Dessert Selections

- Data verification and analysis: viewing pictures, discussion of finds  
  15 - 20 mins
- Slide show: human impact on environment, what does our data mean?  
  10 - 20 mins
- Developing and sharing a deliverable: a scientific report, a piece of literature, a fine-arts interpretation… the sky is the limit!  
  open-ended
- Stewardship activities: discussion on follow-up field work, project ideas, citizen involvement  
  5 - 15 mins

Web Links

A guide to the stream monitoring protocols employed in the field:  
https://friendsofthefoxriver.org/get-involved/monitoring/

Ask us about sending you a PDF demonstrating our formal educations programs alignment to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).