



Minnesota Conservation Leadership Corps

Have you ever dreamed of being a leader in the conservation field?

Being the next Aldo Leopold? Sigurd F. Olson? Jane Goodall? John Muir?

If you are passionate about the outdoors and want to play a role in the future of conservation in your community and Minnesota here is an opportunity for you!

The Minnesota Conservation Leadership Corps is starting its second class this fall of 2017 in Minnesota. It is based off the successful Conservation Leadership Corps programs in Wisconsin and Missouri and run by the Minnesota Conservation Federation the Minnesota state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. This is a program that gives students training and experience in leadership, communication, advocacy, policy and additional opportunities to network with leaders and professionals in the Minnesota conservation community. The training takes place over the course of four sessions and is conducted by leaders and professionals throughout the school year taking place on a Saturday at a central location in the state.

- **Leadership Training Session:** Fellows will read a text on leadership prior to starting the program, and will develop those leadership ideas with an instructor at the first session. Fellows will learn about the multiple stakeholders involved in issues, and complete activities to help them build leadership skills.
- **Communication/Advocacy Training Session:** Fellows will complete activities, such as role-playing a specific stakeholder in an issue, and then giving testimony and meeting with different "legislators" (also role-played) to advocate for their character's viewpoint. At the end of this session fellows will pick a conservation issue in the state of Minnesota, and divide into teams to research that issue for the next session.
- **Policy/Resolution Writing Session:** Fellows will come back together and meet with an expert on the topic they've picked to ask questions and receive feedback as they write a resolution. The resolutions are based on their research and take into account the expert's experience on the topic. The resolutions ultimately seek to change policy or actions on an issue in an attempt to improve a conservation challenge in Minnesota.
- **Final Session:** Fellows will get together to present their resolutions to the Minnesota Conservation Federation and Sponsors of the Minnesota Conservation Leadership Corps. Their resolutions will be voted on, and if passed, sent to the stakeholders the resolution includes in attempting to improve the problem.

All the expenses in the program are covered by the Minnesota Conservation Federation and organizations sponsoring the program. So we highly recommend you to check out these groups as well because they are doing a great service to the community and our students by supporting developing the next generation of conservation leaders in our state! Additionally many of them have youth programs, scholarships, and job opportunities for students as well. The Conservation Leadership Corps Sponsors and Instructors will also provide a great networking opportunity for the students with local, community, state, federal, private, and non-profit organizations.

Minnesota Conservation Leadership Corps Sponsors 2017-2018

Blaze Orange Sponsors >\$2,000
New Market Sportsmen Club

Camo Sponsors \$501 to \$1,999

Green Sponsors <\$500

Minnesota Conservation Leadership Corps Sponsors 2016-2017

New Market Sportsman's Club
Lake Superior Chapter – Safari Club International
Frontenac Sportsmen's Club
Prior Lake Sportsmen's Club
Lake City Sportsman's Club
Rice Area Sportsmen's Club
St. Croix River Association
Minnesota Association of Environmental Education
New Brighton Sportsmen's Club
Fish Lake Sportsmen's Club
Byron Sportsmen and Conservation Club
Bluffland Whitetails
Minnesota Conservation Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps
Wilderness in the City

This is a program for students in their senior year in high school up to their senior year in college and all are encouraged to apply. Fellows who complete the program by attending all four of the training sessions will receive a certificate of achievement, recommendation letter for their resume, a \$250 scholarship to continue their education, and lifetime membership to the Minnesota Conservation Leadership Corps. Students who miss one of the sessions may receive a scholarship at the discretion of the MCF Board. Students who complete this program will have the opportunity to be elected by their peers to serve a 1 year term as president of the Minnesota Conservation Leadership Corps and apply to work as the Coordinator for the MNCLC for following years either position may also have the opportunity to attend the National Wildlife Federation's Annual Meeting as alternative delegates for the Minnesota Conservation Federation.

For more information check out the page about the Conservation Leadership Corps on the Minnesota Conservation Federation's website at <http://mncf.org/blog/conservation-leadership-corps/>. You may also email the Conservation Leadership Corps Coordinator at mn.clc.coordinator@gmail.com or speak with Elsa Litecky, the Board Member for the Minnesota Conservation Federation overseeing the CLC Program at elsa.litecky@gmail.com; or contact Gary Botzek, Executive Director of the Minnesota Conservation Federation at 651-293-9295 or at gary@capitolconnections.com



Minnesota Conservation Federation

Minnesota Conservation Leadership Corps Application

Background and Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Present School: _____

Grade you will be in next year (include college or high school): _____

Conservation / professional organization affiliations? If yes please list:

Where did you hear about the Minnesota Conservation Leadership Corps?

Please include a name and contact information for 2 references related to your conservation interest. The reference can be a parent, teacher or other adult that you have had contact with related to conservation. **The reference is a very important part of the application.**

Reference1:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Any Organization Affiliations? If yes please list:

Reference2:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Any Organization Affiliations? If yes please list:

Selection Questions: Please limit your response to all questions to 2 pages in length

1. What is your personal and professional interest in conservation?
2. Why do you want to be a member of the Minnesota Conservation Leadership Corps?
What do you hope to gain from being a part of it?
3. What do you believe you will bring to the program, if accepted?
4. What are or were important points in your life around conservation, either from an educational, personal, or organizational standpoint?
5. What role do you see conservation organizations having in the future of conservation in Minnesota?
6. Who do you admire most related to the field of conservation and why?

Applications can preferably be sent electronically to to the Minnesota Conservation Leadership Coordinator at mn.clc.coordinator@gmail.com or mailed to the Minnesota Conservation Federation at 542 Snelling Ave. S. #104, Saint Paul. MN 55116. Applications are due by May 22nd 2017 in Coordinator's email inbox or in the Minnesota Conservation Federation's mailbox.