



HIGH SCHOOL LAKE ECOLOGY (HSLE)

High School Lake Ecology is designed for teens with a passion for exploration. In this unique opportunity, participants will be immersed in the natural wonders of the Great Lakes, build new friendships and develop deeper connections to the natural world. Join Shedd Aquarium staff members on the southern shore of Lake Superior in the Apostles Islands National Lakeshore and get to know how you're connected to an amazing global ecosystem.

HSLE Applicant Basic Requirements

- High school students at least 14 years old with an interest in connecting with local environments
- Must permanently reside in Illinois or immediately surrounding states
- Must be comfortable near water and open to outdoor living experiences; no kayaking or camping experience necessary
- Have the capability and endurance to participate in the physical activities such as hiking, kayaking and backpacking

During the field component, participants will

- Explore the Apostle Islands and their amazing history, ecology and natural beauty
- Develop skills to stay comfortable and have fun while exploring the natural world
- Participate in team-building activities that foster personal growth
- Have fun and make lifelong friends and memories

Tuition

The \$950.00 fee covers tuition, textbooks, additional readings, transportation to and from field program sites, specialized outdoor equipment, instruction and support from Shedd Aquarium and Wilderness Inquiry mentors.

Scholarships

Full and partial scholarships are available based on family financial need. To apply, the included scholarship form must be filled out completely.

Safety

Safety is our highest priority when planning and implementing educational experiences in the outdoors. All Shedd staff members are experienced in facilitating outdoor education programs and are certified in wilderness first aid, water rescue and CPR. While in the field, we will be equipped with satellite phones to communicate with support staff.

Shedd is excited to be partnering with Wilderness Inquiry (WI) of Minneapolis, MN, for the High School Lake Ecology program. All WI staff members are experienced wilderness leaders, have gone through extensive training programs and bring with them a wealth of experience and knowledge. For more information on WI, please visit www.wildernessinquiry.org.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Completed student application form (including two essays or one essay and one multimedia submission)
 - A copy of your high school transcripts
 - In a sealed, signed envelope, personal reference form (front and back) and recommendation letter
 - Scholarship application (if applicable) and copy of parent's tax return
- All of the above in one package, mailed to Shedd and postmarked no later than February 1, 2012.

Please note: We will not review any applications postmarked after February 1, 2012.



Dear HSLE Applicant,

The application and interview process for the High School Lake Ecology program is an opportunity for us to get to know you and for you to get to know the program and its facilitators. As with many things in life, the more you put into it, the more you get out of it. This process will ask you to reflect on your relationships with nature, your peers and your mentors. As you complete this application, please invest in it what you would like to receive in return. In the end, you should be able to take pride in your submission. Take the time to read each part of the application thoroughly and respond thoughtfully. We look forward to reviewing your submissions and getting to know you better.

Many thanks,

The Teen Mentor Programs Team

HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete the student application form (including essay question and art/multimedia question).
2. Obtain a copy of your high school transcripts.
3. Ask an adult who is familiar with your interests and abilities to complete the reference form and the letter of recommendation (this cannot be from a family member).
4. Have your parent or guardian complete the scholarship form (if applicable) and include a copy of the family's most recently filed tax return.

Please mail application materials together to ensure the application is complete and all pieces are received before the deadline. We recommend that you contact the program coordinator to confirm receipt of your application.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications are to be completed and postmarked by **February 1, 2012**. Applications must be mailed to the program coordinator:

Stephanie Bohr
Shedd Aquarium—Education Department
1200 S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Phone: 312-692-3158
E-mail: sbohr@sheddaquarium.org



PROGRAM DATES

Note: Participants in the High School Lake Ecology program are required to attend **ALL** of the program-related activities. Below are the required dates and times.

1. Program orientation at Shedd Aquarium

Wednesday, May 2: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

2. Pre-trip sessions at Shedd Aquarium (3 days)

Wednesday, June 20: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 21: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday, June 22: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

3. Field component in the Apostle Islands National Park (8 days)

Monday, July 2 through Monday, July 9

(First and last days are for travel to and the from program site)

4. Post-trip sessions at Shedd Aquarium (3 days)

Monday, July 23: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 24: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 25: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

5. Mentor programs: End-of-summer celebration at Shedd Aquarium

Thursday, August 2, 2012 beginning at 7 p.m.

Your signature below indicates that you are available to participate in all the required activities.

NOTE: An individual who has been accepted into the program and is unable to attend these required events will be removed immediately from the program with no refund.

Applicant signature

Parent/guardian signature



GENERAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Last name: _____ First name: _____ Middle initial: _____

I prefer to be called: _____

Gender: [male] [female]

Applicant home phone: (____)-____-____ Applicant cell phone: (____)-____-____

Applicant e-mail: _____@_____

Home mailing address
PO Box/Street/Apt: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Age: _____ Date of birth: ____/____/____

I identify myself as... (optional)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Arab or Middle Eastern | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or South Asian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino/a | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiracial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> White (Non-Hispanic) | Other: _____ |

Academic Information:

Current school: _____

Street address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Current grade level: _____

Parent/Guardian Information:

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Parent/guardian e-mail: _____@_____

Parent/Guardian home phone:(____)-____-____ Parent/guardian cell phone: (____)-____-____



SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

You may write directly on this page or submit your answers on a separate page.

1. How did you learn about the High School Lake Ecology program?

2. Have you applied for a Shedd program before? If so, in what year(s) did you apply?

3. Have you previously been involved in any Shedd programs or opportunities? Please list the program(s) and what year you were involved.

4. Please list any school or community organizations in which you are currently active (e.g., team sports, student publications, clubs, student government, youth groups, etc.).

5. Choose the answer that best describes your experience in the following areas:

<u>Kayaking</u>	<u>Camping</u>
a. I'm excited to learn!	a. I'm excited to learn!
b. I have some experience	b. I have some experience
c. I have lots of experience	c. I have lots of experience

6. What are your special interests or hobbies?

7. If you had an extra hour in your day, how would you use it and why?

8. What are your favorite and least favorite things about spending time outdoors?

9. Describe a time in the past week when you've felt proud.

10. What is the best advice anyone has ever given you?

ESSAY and ART/MULTIMEDIA CONTENT QUESTIONS

We want to know more about you!

We're hoping that your responses to these questions will give us a better idea of who you are and why you're interested in the High School Lake Ecology program. Please take the time to reflect before responding. There is no wrong answer. Be creative, be yourself!



1. ESSAY QUESTION

To the right in the above photo, you will see a picture of a real tree with a very unusual shape. Please answer the following:

- a. **What is one question you have about the tree in the above picture?**
- b. **How would you go about answering this question?**
- c. **What resources would you like to have that would help with your investigation?**

2. MULTIMEDIA/WRITTEN QUESTION

Please consider the following question:

What connects you to the natural world? What experiences in your life have led you to discover these connections?

We would like to give you the opportunity to express yourself in a way that best fits you. Please include a brief written explanation. Submissions should be included in your application packet:

- Two- to three-minute video burned to DVD in Windows Media Player (.wmv) or Quicktime (.mov) format.
- A paper photo collage
- A poem or essay
- Other art piece



NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (optional)

The objective of this fund is to allow qualified students the opportunity to participate in a program that would not be accessible to them without financial assistance. *(The applicant's eligibility is not affected by the request for scholarship).*

The following information is to be completed by a parent or guardian and is required as a basis for deciding tuition scholarships. ***A copy of the family's most recently filed income tax return must also be attached. Feel free to block out personal information such as Social Security number.*** The information will be considered confidentially.

No scholarship forms will be accepted after February 1, 2012.

Applicant's name: _____
Last First Middle

How much are you and your family able to contribute to your participation in HSLE?

\$0 \$100 \$300 \$600

Father's (or legal guardian's) occupation: _____

Place of employment: _____

Mother's (or legal guardian's) occupation: _____

Place of employment: _____

Total family income for 2011: _____

Projected family income for 2012: _____



TO THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Please explain why you are seeking financial assistance. Include the number of family members in the household who are supported financially; number of children in college or private schools; special circumstances such as high medical bills or unemployment; and other pertinent information.

Print or type in the space below or in an attached letter.

I certify that the information contained herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Parent/guardian