

Litzsinger Road Ecology Center



Ecological Restoration Corps

July 7–18, 2008

The Ecological Restoration Corps (ERC) is a service-learning program for high school students.



Join a team of ten students to undertake a unique mission and to make a difference. As a member of the Ecological Restoration Corps, you can be an essential part of real-world projects that help restore St. Louis' natural environment and build a link to our region's ecological past and future.

During a brief two-week summer session, you'll learn a lot about Missouri ecosystems while you gain skills in plant identification, orienteering, and field work. You'll also develop leadership skills that you can apply to future involvement with community projects. Throughout the school year, you will have opportunities to enhance those skills and assist in ongoing community projects. Participants will receive a stipend upon completion of each phase of the program.

Our hands-on study of local environmental issues will take place mostly outside. Field trips, guest speakers, readings, and discussions will enhance what we learn through the hands-on experiences.



MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

"Ecological Restoration Corps was one of the best experiences I've ever had! I made so many great memories and great friends too. I would definitely recommend ERC."

—ERC participant





About the Ecological Restoration Corps

Program Guidelines:

Project Dates:

Summer Session:

July 7–18, 2008. Each student must be available on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the entire session.

September–May:

Monthly work days and weekly after-school sessions will be held throughout the school year. Though it is understood that participants might not be able to attend every meeting, attendance at as many as possible is expected.

Eligibility: Students must be entering grades 9–12.

Transportation: Students must arrange transportation to and from the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center.

Lunches: Students must bring their own lunches.

Possible Restoration Activities Include:

- ◆ Collecting native prairie seeds for propagation
- ◆ Restoration projects at Shaw Nature Reserve and Calvary Cemetery
- ◆ Invasive species removal
- ◆ Plant and pollinator monitoring
- ◆ Monitoring water quality

Field Trips May Include:

- ◆ The Center for Plant Conservation
- ◆ Wastewater treatment plant
- ◆ EarthWays Center

Complete application must be received by May 15, 2008:

Martha Schermann, Registrar
ATTN: ERC Applications
Litzsinger Road Ecology Center
9711 Litzsinger Road
Ladue, MO 63124
(314)442-6717



Want to Learn More?

Come to a *program preview*:

March 19, 2008, 3:30–4:30 p.m.
Litzsinger Road Ecology Center
9711 Litzsinger Road
Ladue, MO 63124

OR

March 25, 2008, 7:00–8:00 p.m.
Missouri Botanical Garden
4344 Shaw Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63110

RSVP to (314)442-6717 for either.

Checklist for Application:

- ◆ Check family calendar to make sure there are no scheduling conflicts with ERC dates.
- ◆ Check school calendar to make sure there are no scheduling conflicts with ERC dates.
- ◆ Check with parents and siblings to arrange for daily transportation to and from the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center in Ladue.
- ◆ Talk to science teacher and request a recommendation letter.
- ◆ Follow up with science teacher to make sure a recommendation letter has been sent.
- ◆ **Application (including letter of recommendation) must be received by May 15, 2008.**
- ◆ Be ready to sweat, learn about the environment and restoration, make new friends, and have FUN!



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

LITZSINGER ROAD ECOLOGY CENTER Ecological Restoration Corps Enrollment Application

(Please print or type)

Name _____
Last First

Telephone (_____) _____ Social Security Number _____

School _____ Current Grade _____

Email _____

Home Address _____
Number and Street

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Why do you want to be a part of ERC?

How will ERC benefit you? What will you do with the skills and information you gain from ERC?

List any volunteer activities, group programs and/or youth organizations in which you have participated and briefly describe your experience:

(This application continues on the reverse side)

Briefly describe one area of environmental concern that you would like to explore in more depth:

List any job experiences you have had (including babysitting, mowing lawns, etc.):

What are some of your educational and career interests? Please explain:

In your opinion, what characteristics or qualities do you possess that will contribute to the success of group projects and interactions during the Ecological Restoration Corps? Please list these characteristics and explain why they are important:

A letter of recommendation from your high school biology teacher or environmental science teacher is required in order to make your application complete. Please return this application form and your letter of recommendation by May 15, 2008 to:

Martha M. Schermann, Registrar
ATTN: ERC Application
Litzsinger Road Ecology Center
9711 Litzsinger Road
Ladue, MO 63124

Upon review of submitted applications, we will contact selected students for an interview.