



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY PARKS FOUNDATION KICKS OFF FREE SPRING YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS IN NYC PARKS AND WATERWAYS

REGISTRATION FOR 2024 SPRING PROGRAMS NOW OPEN



MARCH 5, 2024 - New York, NY - [City Parks Foundation](#) is excited to open registration for their Spring [Learn](#) environmental education programs. The programs provide free and low-cost experiential STEM programs to students in all five boroughs. Students are able to participate in the free hands-on curricula in NYC's parks and coastlines focusing on coastal waterways, food systems, the local urban environment and more.

Teachers and school administrators throughout New York are encouraged to apply to bring these STEM programs to their schools. They can also apply for City Parks Foundation's Experiential Learning [teacher training classes](#). Participants learn advanced skills on how to teach immersive lessons in New York's parks or community gardens. They can achieve CTLE professional development credits for teachers by New York State, which can be used toward their salary differentials.

"CityParks Learn is proud to offer a robust series of inspiring programming for the Spring season. Our programs provide environmental education opportunities for youth in all five boroughs, allowing New York City's parks and waterways to become natural classrooms," **said Chrissy Word, Director of**

Education at City Parks Foundation. “We look forward to welcoming students from across the city this Spring to empower them to become knowledgeable stewards of their neighborhood parks.”

Green Girls inspires middle school girls in 6th - 8th grades to embrace the identity of environmental scientists and get excited about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) through immersive environmental programs within NYC’s parks. *See dates, times and locations below.*

Coastal Classroom takes place along the city's waterways to help foster STEM learning through immersive lessons in NYC’s marine ecosystems focused on coastal resilience, marine ecosystems, and more, for 6th - 8th graders. Internships for high schoolers are also available. *See dates, times and locations below.*

Learning Gardens foster a love of science and nature among students in 2nd - 8th grades who are living in some of NYC’s most densely populated neighborhoods in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens. Students learn community horticulture through fun, hands-on lessons growing food, identifying biodiversity in our urban environment, and more. Training and paid internships for high schoolers are also available. *See dates, times and locations below.*

Seeds to Trees partners skilled science educators with schools teaching 2nd - 6th grade students to provide hands-on classroom activities, field experiences in parks and expert teacher training. *See dates, times and locations below.*

SPRING 2024 DATES, TIMES, LOCATIONS AND PARTICIPANT AGES:

Green Girls

Open to 6th - 8th-grade female-identifying students at the following schools:

- Site 1: KIPP Academy Middle School (Melrose, Bronx)
- Site 2: The Young Women’s Leadership School of Astoria (Astoria, Queens)
- Site 3: Democracy Prep Harlem Middle School (Harlem, Manhattan)
- Site 4: Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School (South Slope, Brooklyn)

[Register here.](#)

Spring programming is currently open and runs through 5/23/24.

Sessions are held Mondays - Thursdays from 3-6 pm.

If you are interested in registering your school please contact Mayra Sanchez, Program Manager at msanchez@cityparksfoundation.org, and Necia Clarke, Associate Director of Youth Development at nclarke@cityparksfoundation.org.

Coastal Classroom

Open to 6th - 8th-grade students attending the following schools:

- Site 1: PS34 at Conference House Park (Tottenville, Staten Island)
- Site 2: PS52 at Inwood Hill Park (Inwood, Manhattan)
- Site 3: PS84 at Bushwick Inlet Park (Williamsburg, Brooklyn)
- Site 4: PS288 at Kaiser Park (Coney Island, Brooklyn)

[Register here.](#)

Programming for the Spring session begins today, 3/4/24 and runs through 6/15/24.

Coastal Classroom Summer Institute starts 7/8/24. [Register here.](#)

If you are interested in registering your school please contact Luis Gonzalez, Associate Director of Environmental Education at lgonzalez@cityparksfoundation.org.

Learning Gardens

Open to 2nd-8th grade students in the following schools:

- Site 1: Grove Hill Learning Garden (Morrisania, Bronx)
- Site 2: Abib Newborn Learning Garden (Brownsville, Brooklyn)
- Site 3: ENY Success Gardens (East New York, Brooklyn)
- Site 4: Pleasant Village Garden (East Harlem, Manhattan)
- Site 5: Liberty Learning Garden (South Jamaica, Queens)

Programming is currently open for the Spring session.

Learning Gardens Summer College Internship Program starts in July 2024. [Register here.](#)

Learning Gardens Summer Institute starts 7/8/24. [Register here.](#)

If you are interested in registering your school please contact Katina Leir, Program Manager, Learning Gardens at kleir@cityparksfoundation.org or fill out [this form](#).

Seeds to Trees

Open to schools serving students 2nd - 6th grade in all five boroughs.

Programming is now open for the Spring session.

If you are interested in registering your school please contact Luis Gonzalez, Associate Director of Environmental Education at lgonzalez@cityparksfoundation.org.

Teacher Trainings

Experiential Education Session 1: Using Gardens as Outdoor Classrooms - May 4, 2024

Experiential Education Session 2: Using Gardens as Outdoor Classrooms - May 18, 2024

Experiential Education Session 3: Using Gardens as Outdoor Classrooms - June 1, 2024

[Register here.](#)

For more information, please contact Luis Gonzalez, Associate Director of Environmental Education at lgonzalez@cityparksfoundation.org.

For more information on education programs, please visit:

<https://cityparksfoundation.org/learn/>

Generous private support for CityParks Learn programs is provided by The Pinkerton Foundation, The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, the Guru Krupa Foundation, ExpandED Schools through funds administered by the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development in Partnership with the City Council, the Glenn W. Bailey Foundation, The Linda B. and Howard S. Stern Family Foundation, the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Rose M. Badgeley Charitable Trust, the Catskill Watershed Corporation in partnership with New York City Department of Environmental Protection, the Michael Tuch Foundation, the Watershed Agricultural Council, and the Jane and Frances Stein Foundation. Supporting sponsor ING Financial Services, Ernst & Young, and The Walt Disney Company. Generous public support for CityParks Learn is provided by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund, NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program, New York State Department of Agriculture

and Markets, and by the New York City Council under the leadership of Speaker Adrienne Adams. In partnership with NYC Parks.

Generous private support for CityParks Coastal Classroom is provided by The Pinkerton Foundation, The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, the Guru Krupa Foundation, Glenn W. Bailey Foundation, the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, and the Rose M. Badgeley Charitable Trust. Public support is provided by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program and the New York City Council under the leadership of Speaker Adrienne Adams, with special thanks to Council Member Joseph Borelli and Council Member Ari Kagan. In partnership with NYC Parks.

Generous private support for CityParks Green Girls is provided by The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, Glenn W. Bailey Foundation, the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Rose M. Badgeley Charitable Trust, the Catskill Watershed Corporation in partnership with New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and the Watershed Agricultural Council. Public support is provided by the NYC Council under the leadership of Speaker Adrienne Adams, with special thanks to Council Member Alexa Avilés and Tiffany Cabán. Supporting Sponsor: The Walt Disney Company. In partnership with NYC Parks.

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Generous private support for CityParks Learning Gardens is provided by The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, Expanded Schools through funds administered by the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development in Partnership with the City Council, Glenn W. Bailey Foundation, the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Rose M. Badgeley Charitable Trust, the Michael Tuch Foundation, and the Jane and Frances Stein Foundation. Public support is provided by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYC Council under the leadership of Speaker Adrienne Adams, with special thanks to Council Member Farah Louis, Council Member Julie Menin, Council Member Chi Ossé, Council Member Lynn Schulman, and Council Member Nantasha Williams. Supporting Sponsor: Ernst & Young. In partnership with NYC Parks.

About CityParks Learn

Our STEM-based programs for elementary and middle school students teach youngsters that science is fun, while making a direct connection to the natural world and the ways in which they can help protect our environment. Our programs -- Seeds to Trees, Learning Gardens, Green Girls, and Coastal Classroom -- reach more than 4,400 students in school, after school and during the summer. Programs are supported by nearly 100 high school and college interns who gain critical job skills. Teacher training encourages educators to plan their own lessons using parks as outdoor classrooms.

About City Parks Foundation

At City Parks Foundation, we are dedicated to invigorating and transforming parks into dynamic, vibrant centers of urban life through sports, arts, community building and

education programs for all New Yorkers. Our programs -- located in more than 320 parks, recreation centers and public schools across New York City -- reach over 278,000 people each year. Our ethos is simple: thriving parks mean thriving communities.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Hallie Grossman / hallie_grossman@dkcnews.com

Lena Lee / lena_lee@dkcnews.com

Jeanna Chin / JChin@CityParksFoundation.org