

FAQ

Logistics

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Any undergraduate student attending a College or University in Florida is eligible to apply. You must be 18 or older by October 1, 2022.

DO I NEED TO PAY TO PARTICIPATE?

Participation in the 2022-2023 Cohort is free to students and underwritten by our generous donors. Funding is provided to cover travel for various events or program activities that present a financial barrier to participation.

HOW LONG IS THE PROGRAM?

October 2022 - May 2023 is the official length of the Cohort, although summer 2023 programming will be offered for those who wish to continue to stay involved through the summer.

HOW MUCH OF A TIME COMMITMENT IS CLI?

CLI is designed to be flexible for a student's busy schedule, and we understand that circumstances vary from person to person. Opportunities vary in date, time, and duration to offer a wide range of options to accommodate busy schedules. We ask that you commit to a minimum of five offered opportunities within your Cohort year.

HOW ARE MEMBERS OF THE COHORT SELECTED?

The CLI selection committee reviews applications as they are submitted using a rubric grading system. The committee is comprised of Audubon Florida staff and CLI alumni. Once applications close, grades are compared, and 25 students will be invited to join the Cohort. We consider a variety of factors when selecting the Cohort, with an emphasis on including students with different career interests, perspectives, and identities. Most importantly, we are looking for students with a deep desire to learn, a willingness to participate, and an interest in Audubon and conservation initiatives. We highly encourage you to apply even if you don't yet have much experience in the conservation field.

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Assembly

IS TRAVEL REQUIRED?

You are required to attend the Audubon Assembly on October 13-15, 2022 in Ft. Myers, FL. Beyond Assembly, you are expected to participate at the local level with your nearby Audubon chapter. Other optional opportunities across Florida may also be offered for those that are willing and able to travel. Funding is available to offset travel costs. We will do our best to help coordinate carpool options.

WHAT IS THE AUDUBON ASSEMBLY?

Audubon Florida's annual conference, Audubon Assembly, is taking place on October 13-15, 2022 in Fort Myers, FL. Assembly brings together Audubon leaders, members, and other stakeholders in our network for a time to socialize, learn, and strategize the future of Audubon Florida conservation. The Assembly also functions as the onboarding event for each year's CLI class.

Students will arrive Thursday evening for dinner and a social with their fellow CLI students. Students will attend a combination of regular Assembly events and CLI-specific sessions on Friday and Saturday. Hotel and food costs are covered by the CLI program, and carpool options may be provided.

Please visit fl.audubon.org/assembly for more Audubon Assembly details.

I HAVE A CLASS ON THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS. CAN I STILL ATTEND THE AUDUBON ASSEMBLY AND BE A PART OF CLI?

Attendance at Audubon Assembly is required. Most schools and/or professors will accommodate reasonable requests for absence for professional development opportunities. We are happy to provide you with a letter to verify the reason for your absence.

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP ACADEMY?

Conservation Leadership Academies, or CLAs, are one-day regional leadership events for college students. CLI students will work with regional Audubon leaders to help plan one of these events throughout the year. These single-day events give students exposure to their local Audubon chapters and the CLI program.

FAQ

Experiences

WHAT KINDS OF EXPERIENCES ARE OFFERED TO STUDENTS?

Students are offered a variety of experiences to accommodate different interests, circumstances, and availabilities. Topics include leadership and career development, community science, land management, environmental education, and more. Opportunities include remote online learning, local events, and statewide events.

Past experiences have included:

- Alternative Spring Break with FDEP Aquatic Preserves Team
- Everglades Policy Day in Tallahassee, FL
- Northshore Birding Festival, Apopka, FL
- Volunteer Workdays at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, FL
- Native plant installations
- Environmental education and outreach facilitation
- Volunteering at bird banding stations
- Land restoration and species monitoring projects
- Op-ed Writing Workshops and publishing opportunities

WHAT KIND OF PROJECT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

Over the duration of the program, students are responsible for collaborating with their local Audubon chapter to fulfill a conservation project that combines their personal interests and skills.

Projects are flexible and can vary in timespan (1 day event-longterm project) and students will receive support/guidance from mentor.

Past projects include:

- Research Projects (species monitoring)
- Event Coordination / Planning (native planting, outreach days)
- Social Media Management
- Workshop / Program Facilitation

MORE QUESTIONS?

Visit fl.audubon.org/CLI

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