

# FAQ

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## 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, 2021.

## DO I NEED TO PAY TO PARTICIPATE?

Participation in the 2021-2022 Cohort is free to students, 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 2021 - May 2022 is the official length of the Cohort, although summer 2022 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 one of the regional Audubon Assembly events in October or November. 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 A REGIONAL AUDUBON ASSEMBLY EVENT?

Audubon Florida's annual conference, Audubon Assembly, is taking on a different form this fall to adapt to the rapidly-changing state of COVID-19. Audubon Assembly will offer three single-day events across the state.

Students will arrive Friday evening for dinner and socializing with their fellow CLI students\*. Students will attend regular Assembly events on Saturday with other Assembly attendees. Travel accommodations will be provided to students based on their proximity their chosen event. Students will designate which regional Assembly they would like to attend in their CLI application.

Each student in the CLI Cohort will be required to attend one of the following Regional Assembly events:

- Oct. 22-23: UF/IFAS North Florida Environmental Education Center in Live Oak, FL
- Oct. 29-30: Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, FL
- Nov. 6-7\*: Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Naples, FL

\*The Naples Assembly events will all occur on Saturday from morning until late evening. Saturday night lodging will be provided as needed for a Sunday morning departure.

Please visit [fl.audubon.org/assembly](https://fl.audubon.org/assembly) for more Audubon Assembly details.

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

It is highly encouraged that you attend the CLI events on the Friday evening before your regional Audubon Assembly. Many professors will accommodate reasonable requests for absence for professional development opportunities. We are happy to provide you with a letter for your professor. If missing a day of class is not an option, you may arrive in time to join at Audubon Assembly early Saturday morning instead. All CLI students **MUST** attend one regional Audubon Assembly event.

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## Experiences

### 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.

### 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:

- Everglades Policy Day in Tallahassee, FL
- Northshore Birding Festival, Apopka, FL
- Volunteer Workdays at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, FL
- Volunteering at bird banding stations
- Land restoration and species monitoring projects
- Op-ed Writing Workshops and publishing opportunities

### HOW WILL COVID-19 AFFECT THE CLI PROGRAM?

In accordance with CDC, state, and National Audubon Society COVID-19 guidelines, CLI is cautiously transitioning back to in-person events. We believe that a hybrid format, offering both in-person and online opportunities, is the best way to keep our statewide Cohort connected. CLI Mentors and Audubon chapters will be re-integrating in-person activities at their own discretion. We will continue to monitor the safety of our participants regarding COVID-19 and will make adjustments as necessary.

### MORE QUESTIONS?

Visit [fl.audubon.org/CLI](http://fl.audubon.org/CLI)

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