

Teenagers Exploring and Explaining Nature and Science (TEENS)



PEGGY NOTEBAERT

NATURE MUSEUM

OF THE CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

**Accredited Member of
the STEM PUSH Network**



The Nature Museum's TEENS program engages Chicago high school students in lab- and field-based investigations focused on urban ecology and environmental science. Participants study the living and non-living components of urban ecosystems, contribute data to community and citizen science projects, add specimens to the Museum's natural history collection, and work in teams to develop and carry out interest-driven, field-based research projects. Teens collaboratively develop research questions, design protocols and shareable mobile data collection forms, collect and analyze field-based data, and share findings on publicly viewable self-created project websites.

TEENS emphasizes & develops several targeted outcomes, including:



- Ability to work collaboratively
- STEM identity & sense of belonging
- Urban ecology and environmental science content knowledge and research skills

Students demonstrate these skills through creating field research projects shared through a public showcase and final project websites: bit.ly/CASTEENS

About STEM PUSH

STEM PUSH, an NSF INCLUDES Alliance, is a national network of pre-college STEM programs who are engaging youth historically underrepresented in STEM to learn & do in-depth, authentic science, and ultimately to persist in STEM through college & beyond. More information available at stempushnetwork.org.



Program Features

Accredited by MSA for broadening participation in STEM, one of the first in the country to earn this

Urban Ecology & Environmental Science

STEM Focus



120 hour summer STEM program

hourly wage, lunch, and additional supports provided to all participants

95% of participants (2014-present) self-identify as being from a racially and ethnically minoritized group

Program Results

74% of alumni undergraduate degrees are in STEM

Alum attend institutions including:

- DePaul University
- Loyola University Chicago
- University of Illinois Chicago
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- University of Wisconsin Madison

Connect with TEENS!

Contact David Bild at 773-755-5100 or teens@naturemuseum.org
naturemuseum.org/teens