



FUTURE COASTAL LEADERS

Future Coastal Leaders

Tentative schedule and overview

Fall 2023 College Level Cohort

Program Overview:

The **Future Coastal Leaders (FCL) program** is designed to teach college and university students about the challenges facing our coast and encourage them to become engaged coastal stewards through experiential learning, networking and advocacy! **Beginning September 13**, a rolling series of meetings meant to engage students in coastal restoration will occur in a hybrid format on a biweekly basis on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. The last meeting is on November 15.

The program will consist of both in-person opportunities and hybrid virtual sessions intended to prepare and embolden our participants to be future coastal leaders within environmental fields. Each participant will receive a large resource of materials including a booklet, various handouts and Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) swag.

Graduation Requirements:

For an FCL participant to graduate, they will be required to attend at least four out of our six meetings and complete either a creative project about coastal Louisiana or go to five experiential learning experiences (i.e. volunteer events, tabling events, public meetings, etc.).

Program Schedule

August

Coastal Restoration Field Trip – Saturday, August 26 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Join CRCL on Saturday, August 26, for a hands-on coastal restoration bus tour down the Mississippi River. We will travel from New Orleans, through St. Bernard Parish, and down to the border of Plaquemines Parish. This guided bus tour will include several stops to learn about restoration projects and priorities, featuring a stop at CRCL's Restoration Headquarters, where you can experience how we engage volunteers and even help in constructing our own restoration projects. We will also visit a degraded historic cypress swamp in the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans, an educational center supported by the Meraux Foundation in St. Bernard, and the site of a river diversion on the border of Plaquemines, where cypress reforestation is alive and growing! This tour is offered at no cost to high school and college students, with bus pick-up and drop-off in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. This is a full-day field trip (from approximately 8 to 5) with lunch, refreshments and snacks provided; plus, there will be a special gift for those in attendance! *Exact pick-up locations and times will be provided upon registration. [Register here!](#)

Meeting 1:

Orientation – Wednesday, September 13 from 5 to 6 p.m.

On Zoom or at 3801 Canal St. in New Orleans

Welcome to the program! Let's kick off the semester right and meet for a hybrid in-person and virtual orientation. Meet other participants, and learn about the many activities offered during the program and how to make the most out of your experience. Plus, you'll set goals and learn more about creative projects, ways you can complete the program and the perks for being a part of our alumni network.

Meeting 2:

Adaptive Capacity – Wednesday, September 27 from 5 to 6 p.m.

On Zoom or at 3801 Canal St.

Learn more about what adaptive capacity is, how it relates to Louisiana's environmental issues and how you can build adaptive capacity in your communities and personal lives. Plus, discuss with fellow students how your work in the program is building adaptive capacity for yourself and your communities.

October

Webinar 3:

Environmental Justice – Wednesday, October 11 from 5 to 6 p.m.

On Zoom or at 3801 Canal St.

Take a deeper dive into environmental justice as it pertains to Louisiana, its people and its coast! Learn more about the field through the history of flooding, housing and geography of New Orleans, and then connect that history to Louisiana's coast at large. Discuss ways we think environmental justice might be pertinent to our fields of study, and share our own knowledge of environmental justice issues in coastal Louisiana.

Meeting 4:

Professional Skills – Wednesday, October 25 from 5 to 6 p.m.

On Zoom or at 3801 Canal St.

Join us as we provide you all with resources and the how-tos to be a professional in the environmental field in Louisiana. Learn about different job fields, building your resume, tips for interviews and networking and more!

November

Meeting 5:

Advocacy and Public Policy – Wednesday, November 8 from 5 to 6 p.m.

On Zoom or at 3801 Canal St.

Learn how to advocate for your communities on environmental issues and why policy is so important for restoration and justice work. Plus, hear from professionals in the field on their stories on how they got legislation passed in the state of Louisiana!.

Meeting 6:

Student Creative Project Presentation– Wednesday, November 15 from 5 to 6 p.m.

Join us for our last meeting, where students who opted to do a creative project present on their work!

TBD: December or January

Graduation Field Trip

Students who meet the graduation requirements will join us on a free field trip to kayak in Maurepas Swamp!