



BAY AREA RESTORATION COUNCIL

ECOLOGY • INDUSTRY • RECREATION

Leading the Bay Youth Water Leadership Program

An experiential learning opportunity for senior secondary school students to make new connections, develop personal and career potential, and play a leadership role in restoring Hamilton Harbour.

January 8, 2018

BARC

The Bay Area Restoration Council is a registered charitable non-profit organization. Formed in 1991, BARC represents the public interest in the restoration of Hamilton Harbour and its watershed. BARC is responsible for public engagement, communications and educational activities in the implementation of the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan (HHRAP). BARC encourages community action through school programs, volunteer activities, community workshops, evaluative reporting on current issues and opportunities for digital engagement and promotion.

WHAT

Leading the Bay is a youth leadership program designed to develop, encourage and enable socially responsible student water leaders through experiential learning, networking and project-based inquiry.

Applicants must be eligible for two concurrent co-op credits and propose a water-focused project based at their school that aligns with BARC's mission and objectives.

Co-op placements will involve self-directed projects designed by the participants and supported and promoted by BARC.

BARC will facilitate leadership skills development in addition to cooperative education curriculum activities and assist self-motivated student participants (in collaboration with their co-op teachers) to engage in related activities with BARC's partner agencies and institutions involved in the HHRAP.

Participants will receive funding of up to \$200 towards the project that they lead as part of the Program.

WHO

Leading the Bay is intended for grade 11 or 12 students in the Hamilton Harbour watershed enrolled in two concurrent co-op credits.

Participants must be interested in personal growth and community service, learning how to work well with others, and in their own leadership development.

BARC will select a cohort of up to three participants per semester.

WHERE

In addition to classroom activities with co-op teachers, participants will lead a school-based water project (with peer participation). A "project" will consist of a set of mutually-beneficial activities agreed

upon by co-op teachers, students and BARC, and this project will be the primary focus of the students' program. Secondly, participants will engage in supplemental activities with BARC and related agencies that complement student goals and academic requirements.

BARC contributes to the HHRAP with public education and community outreach program and activities. With the established cooperation of several of our HHRAP partner organizations (such as the Cities of Hamilton and Burlington, Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton and McMaster University), BARC will facilitate supplemental learning and leadership opportunities. These activities will take place in classrooms, labs and out in the field, and provide learning opportunities for a breadth of leadership, programming and communications skills, from conflict resolution to budgeting to social media. Concurrently, participants will implement a water-related project at their school for which they will receive project cost support from BARC.

WHY

Participants will gain satisfaction and experience by leading their own school-based water project, develop new peer relationships and network with local water experts, learn hands-on leadership, organizing and communications skills, and contribute to community efforts to restore Hamilton Harbour and its watershed.

Benefits to students include personal and career development, direct experience and a career portfolio, personal and project financial support, and responsibility to take initiative for the common good. Additionally, the learning activities that BARC will facilitate will foster each student's own connection with local water resources and systems, and the deliverables of each participant's project will help their peers and community members to reduce their impact on our environment through new understanding and subsequent citizen action.

Finally, participants will give back to BARC and the community by sharing their experiences and contributions through a BARC blog and website, a community showcase workshop hosted by BARC, public speaking opportunities and media exposure where possible.

WHEN

Leading the Bay occurs in the second semester of the academic year (i.e., February through June). Applications are due by January 31, 2018. Email inquiries and completed applications to cmclaughlin@hamiltonharbour.ca.

Applicants will be notified by February 7, 2018, with participation in the program in the second semester of the 2017/2018 school year.

HOW

Students will fill out an application in consultation with their co-op teacher and others as applicable.

Applicants must be eligible for two concurrent co-op credits and propose a water-focused project that supports BARC's mission and objectives that the student will lead as part of their academic requirements and participation in our program.

CONTACT

Co-op teachers and principals are encouraged to contact BARC's Executive Director directly to discuss this opportunity for their students:

Chris McLaughlin
Executive Director
EMAIL cmclaughlin@hamiltonharbour.ca
MOBILE 905 570 6278



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APPLICATION

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APPLICATION

The application for *Leading the Bay* consists of a

1. Statement of Interest from the student, and a
2. Letter of Recommendation from the student's principal or cooperative education teacher.

Applications are due by January 31, 2018, and the selection of participants will occur through February 7, 2018.

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Students currently in Grade 10 or 11 making course selection decisions for the second semester of the 2018/2019 school year are eligible.

Statements are limited to one page (not including diagrams or other illustrative or supporting documents) and must include the following information:

1. Name, Address, School, Grade
2. Current Academic and Career Focus
3. Post-Secondary School Plans
4. Project Description (What do you propose to do?)
5. Motivations (Why are you a good candidate for this program?)
6. Goals (What impact do you hope that you and your project will have?)

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Participants will be interested in personal growth and community service, learning how to work well with others, and in their own leadership development.

Students will (1) participate in co-op classroom activities with teachers, (2) primarily lead a school-based water project with peer participation, and (3) engage in supplemental co-op placement activities with BARC and related agencies that complement student goals and academic requirements.

Letters should demonstrate why the Applicant is suitable to the level of responsibility, maturity and self-direction required.

Applicants and Educators are invited to contact BARC's Executive Director prior to submission.