

Good Things Happening

River Explorer program to immerse more students

More students will be roaming in and along rivers and creeks, exploring, investigating and performing field research this year thanks to a \$17,000 grant from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

The grant to the Ohio River Foundation will be used to expand the River Explorer education program.

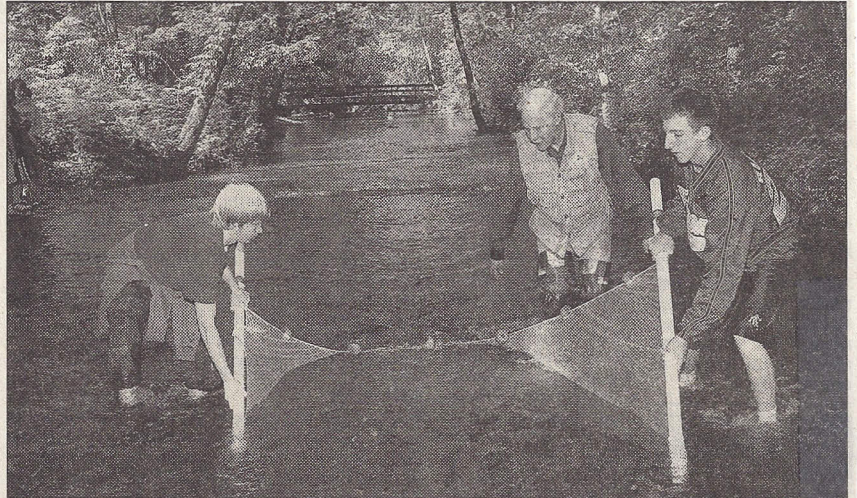
Rich Cogen, executive director of the foundation, said the River Explorer program provides hands-on learning experience for students in grades 5-12.

Cogen said they conduct water quality tests, use nets to catch aquatic creatures, hold what they catch and then place some in containers for close study. Microscopes also are used to identify plankton species found in area waters.

"Science makes sense with River Explorer and the kids love it," Cogen said.

It made a lot of sense to Sam Cogen, 11, Rich's son. He was part of the program last summer and might participate again this summer.

"It was a lot of fun," said Sam, of Blue Ash. "I especially like catching fish



Provided

University of Cincinnati professor Mike Miller (center) helps Moeller High School freshmen Jeremy Ritz (left) and Keith Rieman as they try to catch fish with seine net during a River Explorer program in Sharon Creek.

with a net."

Rich Cogen said that since 2005, almost 2,000 students from more than 25 schools have participated in the River

Explorer program.

"We will probably get about 1,000 students this year," he said.

The Ohio River Foundation is accepting donations to support its programs, including River Explorer.

For more information, call 513-460-3365 or visit www.ohioriverfdn.org.

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