*Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation by the deadline listed on the SSC website to* *Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu**. The Working Group Chairs will be in contact with you regarding any questions about the application. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee at* [*http://sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.*](http://sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.)

**General Information**

Project Name: Ohio River Cleanup: Rabbit Hash, KY, Student Service Project of the Office of Volunteer Programs, Illini Union.

Total Amount Requested from SSC: $1,000

Project Topic Areas: [x]  Land & Water [x]  Education [ ]  Energy

[ ]  Transportation [x]  Food & Waste

**Contact Information**

Applicant Name: Qingying Zheng (Psychology, Senior), Yutong Wang (Advertising/Statistics, Junior), John Lang (EPOL, Doctoral Candidate)

Unit/Department or RSO/Organization: Office of Volunteer Programs (OVP)

Email Address: jlang10@illinois.edu

Phone Number: 217.333.7424

Project Team

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Name* | *Department/Organization* | *Email* |
| Qing Zheng | OVP | qzheng13@illinois.edu |
| Yutong Wang | OVP | ywang490@illinois.edu |
| 12 UIUC Students | Registration opens 10/5 |  |
| Veronica Bjorkman (staff chaperone) | Student Programs & Activities, Illini Union | vb4@illinois.edu |

Financial Contact’s Name: Dementro Powell, Assistant Director

Faculty/Unit/Department: Office of Registered Student Organizations, Illini Union

Email: dementro@illinois.edu

Phone: 217.300.5792

**Project Information**

***Provide a brief background of the project, its goals, and the desired outcomes.***

The Office of Volunteer Programs has a long tradition of student-led service trips focusing on environmental conservation. For example, on Saturday, September 23, thirty undergraduate and graduate students traveled to Weldon Springs State Park, an hour west of campus, to work with park officials on invasive species management. ([See News Story](https://illinois.edu/blog/view/6641/560214))

The present request is in support of OVPs student-led weekend service trip (Oct 20 to 22) to Rabbit Hash, KY. The volunteer service team will work through the nonprofit, [Living Lands and Waters](http://livinglandsandwaters.org/about-us/), to help in a large-scale cleanup of the Ohio River (see attached). The Ohio River runs from Pennsylvania to Illinois. According to Wikipedia, based on 2009 and 2010 data, the Ohio River is the most polluted in the United States.

Living Lands and Waters was established in 1998, and has worked throughout Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana on education and conservation projects. For the Rabbit Hash project, students will spend Saturday, October 21, working from the project barge to extract tires, bottles, trash bags, Styrofoam and a wide range of waste and pollutants.

***How will this project improve sustainability at UIUC?***

Living Lands and Waters advances a three-fold mission, which aligns with the aims of OVP in strengthening a campus commitment to environmental sustainability. The mission states:

1. To aid in the protection, preservation and restoration of the natural environment of the nations’ major rivers and their watersheds.
2. To expand awareness of environmental issues and responsibility encompassing the river.
3. To create a desire and an opportunity for stewardship and responsibility for a cleaner river environment.

The service team will contribute to the protection of our shared natural environment. In addition, students who participate will return to UIUC with a deeper understanding of adverse effects of discarding things we use every day — tires, bottles, plastic cups, grocery bags and on and on — and the massive undertaking required to counteract pollution. Finally, students who volunteer for OVP service trips often return for future project as team leaders. As a result, these service trips are cumulative in effect as student leaders share their experiences with others.

***Where will the project be located? Do you need special permissions to enact the project at this site? If so, please explain and attach a letter of support to your application.***

The project is in Rabbit Hash, KY, about 4 hours from campus. No special permissions are needed, since the project will take place through Living Lands and Waters.

***Other than the project team, who will have a stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments indirectly or directly affiliated to this project. This includes any funding entities (immediate, future, ongoing, etc.) and any entities that will be benefiting from this project.***

The Rabbit Hash service project is organized through OVP. Students register online and receive pre-trip training and preparation. Veronica Bjorkman, of Programs and Activities, will service as the staff chaperone, along with twelve students, and two student-staff of OVP.

***Please indicate how this project will involve or impact students. What role will students play in the project?***

Over that past month, OVP student-staff, Qing Zheng and Yutong Wang, have led efforts to plan and organize the trip. They have worked with Living Land and Water crewmember, Leah Cafarelli, on project logistics, and have planned out trip itinerary and logistics.

During the trip, OVP staff will be present as support, but the actual trip will be lead by two student who volunteer to serve as designated team leaders.

***Have you applied for funding with SSC previously? If so, for what project?***

N/A.

**Scope, Schedule, and Budget verification**

***What is the plan for project implementation? Describe the key steps of the project including the start date, target completion date, target date for submitting a final report, and any significant tasks or milestones in the table below. Please be as detailed as possible.***

Under the direction of Living Land and Water staff, the service team will participate in river clean up efforts on Saturday, October 21. While service team involvement is only one small piece of the larger project, our milestone will be in the extend of the garbage we extract from the river.

In the week following the service trip, OVP completes an internal project report. We are happy to share the report with SCC.

***List all budget items for which funding is being requested. Include cost and total amount for each item requested. Please be as detailed as possible.***

See attached Budget.

***If the project is implemented, will there be any ongoing funding required? What is the strategy for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs? (Note: SSC provides funding on a case by case basis and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding)***

n/a

***Please include any other sources of funding that have been obtained or applied for, and please attach any relevant letters of support.***

See attached Budget.

***What is the plan for publicizing the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project get reported?***

Similar to the News link above, after each service trip, OVP publishes a news story that highlights the scope of the project and the work of students. This story goes out to over 7,000 students through our weekly UPDATE, and is posted on our website.