

For immediate release
May 9, 2011

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Peace Students Visit Official Adopted Site

Members of Queen of Peace High School's Environmental Task Force took advantage of one of the nicest spring days this season and participated in an environmental clean-up day at the Chicago Portage National Historic Site on Saturday, April 30. Peace's students worked with the Forest Preserve and Friends of the Chicago Portage. Queen of Peace is currently the largest group working at the site, which is located at Portage Woods Forest Preserve and Ottawa Trail Woods Forest Preserve in Lyons (4800 S. Harlem) and is one of two National Historic Sites in Illinois.

The students spent the morning picking hundreds of pounds of Garlic Mustard Plants, which is invasive to the area and prevents the natural plants from growing. The students also planted seeds for new grass to grow and cleared areas covered with fallen branches.

During the day the Chicago Portage Site unveiled a sign dedicated to Queen of Peace High School, which lists the site as officially adopted by Peace.

"It's amazing how the site has changed for the better over the years with the help of Queen of Peace, the Friends of the Chicago Portage Site volunteers, as well as the continuing support of the Preserve Keeper Corps," said Mr. John Dragicevich, moderator of the Environmental Task Force. "I am particularly proud of my students and how energetic they are in regards to environmental concerns."

As members of the Friends of the Portage Site, Peace's students help maintain the site and make sure the trails are clear of pollution and debris.

Along with Dragicevich, the following 17 students participated in the clean-up day: Diana Aguirre (Burbank), Alyssa Alvarez (Chicago – 60632), Yesenia Arteaga (Chicago –

60632), Natalie Benitez (Chicago – 60629), Tiara Moore (Chicago – 60621), Andrea Serratos (Chicago – 60638), Jennifer Aguilera (Cicero), Chelsea Hodur (Chicago – 60652), Candice Cheatham (Chicago – 60620), Tamara Coleman (Chicago – 60636), Sarah Stang (Merrionette Park), Melissa Arrieta (Chicago – 60638), Jessica Douglas (Chicago – 60632), Jeannie Tapia (Burbank), Melissa Cheehy (Chicago Ridge), Vanina Valadez (Burbank) and Paola Gomez (Chicago – 60629).

Environmental Task Force members demonstrate concern regarding environmental issues by promoting recycling efforts and completing conservation projects, which support local communities. Each year, the students participate in environmental workshops offered through the Chicago River Student Congress.

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Cutline:

Queen of Peace High School seniors and Environmental Task Force members (left to right) Melissa Arrieta (Chicago – 60638), Diana Aguirre (Burbank), Jennifer Aguilera (Cicero), Andrea Serratos (Chicago – 60638), Sarah Stang (Merrionette Park) and Yesenia Arteaga (Chicago – 60632) pose for a picture in front of the sign commemorating the Chicago Portage Historic Site as Queen of Peace High School's adopted site.

