

## PICTURING MY CLIMATE FUTURE

### Step 1: Research (Estimated Time Commitment: ½ day outside of school hours)

#### A. Climate

Think about what the Chicago area will look like decades from now—say, 2053. Although you may be far gone, try to imagine what your environment will be like if you remain—flora and fauna. Then identify a locale for your photo(s). It's your choice, but you might want to consider:

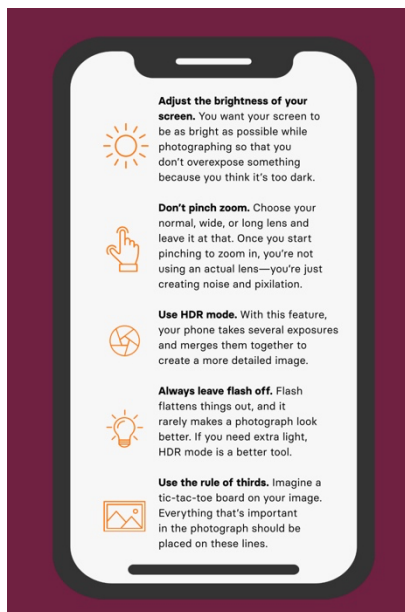
- How will the local woods have evolved?
- The beaches?
- The lake?
- The woods
- Wildlife?
- Will newcomers have arrived here, climate refugees from hotter locales?

It is perfectly fine to portray a hopeful scene, such as a recycling center or a house with solar panels.

#### B. Photography

You'll be taking photos with your own smartphone or camera. (While film cameras are as acceptable as digital ones, you'll need to process the film and scan the printed photos.)

No photography instruction is available, but you almost certainly have had enough experience taking photos to produce striking images. Following these simple guidelines will take your smartphone photos up a notch:



For a bit of training in landscape photography specifically, take a peek at this [online guide](#).

Step 2: Field Work (Estimated Time Commitment: ½ day outside of school hours)

You're ready to head out on your photo expedition! Grab your smartphone and/or camera and head for the locale of your choice. (Sorry, we cannot provide transportation.)

Consider what will be the most evocative way to photograph the scene. You can capture the way it is now or the way it may appear in the future. (Filters may help with the latter.) You can try GenAI apps like Midjourney for one or two images at most; this project is about photographers roaming the Chicago area, not sitting at a computer.

Or maybe you'd prefer to envision your climate future symbolically, like a ticking clock. (You can do this one at home.) The sky's the limit!

Then take the picture, experimenting with different angles and perspectives. Take many photos; you'll figure out the best ones later.

We may be able to arrange for a professional cinematographer to shoot video of the picture-taking one Saturday or Sunday. They will meet up with you where you're photographing this day. (Bring a parent or other escort if you like.) You will also be interviewed on camera as to what led you to take part and what you hope will result. The footage may wind up in a podcast and/or film about this project! (Check out the [teaser](#) here.) Let us know on the sign-up sheet or at the orientation meeting if you're willing to participate in this part of the project.

Just be yourself. The livelier the footage, the better!

### Step 3: Captioning and Submittal (Estimated Time Commitment: 1 day outside of school hours)

#### A. Captioning

When you get home, decide on your favorites (a maximum of 10 photos). Then add a caption to each, conveying what you felt when you took the picture. Try not to say, “This is a photo of...” but relate what was in your mind. Adding an intriguing fact isn’t necessary but can take your image to a whole new level.

Check out the [gallery of photos](#) from the 2023 Maine pilot. Click on a photo to see the caption.

#### B. Sharing with **Seeing for Ourselves**

Then upload your work to Google Drive, Dropbox, or something similar, and send Seeing for Ourselves a link no later than **xxxx xx** at this email address: [info@seeingforourselves.org](mailto:info@seeingforourselves.org). Be sure to upload the original hi-res photos. The nonprofit will select the best photos from all those submitted and work with the photographer to fine-tune the captions by **xxxxxx xx**.

The photos themselves will be exhibited by Seeing for Ourselves during June 2025 in Thomas Memorial Library, Cape Elizabeth, Maine (and possibly a Chicago area gallery as well). And the entire enterprise could wind up in a film or book! Today’s teens have the most skin in the game, and it’s way past time for their concerns to become a prominent part of the national conversation about climate change.

#### C. Sharing with **Home Stories**

- The final task is to contribute these final works to [Out of Eden Walk HomeStories](#). A global storytelling initiative supported by National Geographic Society, [Out of Eden Walk](#) created the HomeStories portal—a space to connect with the world and our neighbors in it through multimedia narratives. Add your voice to [the collection](#), and your HomeStory will be seen by people all over the world. Please contribute your final photos and narratives **by xxxxxx xx**.
- First, upload your photo.
- The **Title of Submission** should include this parenthetical: (“Picturing My Climate Future” Project with Everyday Climate Champions)
- Adapt your photo caption to **What’s the Story of This Place**.
- The rest is up to you!

The example provided to participants in the Maine pilot follows.

## Add Your HomeStory



Photo (original, not from the Internet) of a place that feels like home \*



[Use a different photo](#)

**Title of Submission \***

Crescent Beach ("My Climate Future" Project with Seeing for Oursel

**Location \***

Crescent Beach State Park



Locate Me



Find on Map

**What's the story of this place? \***

I enjoy spending time on the outskirts of Cape Elizabeth, where I live. But how will this locale cope with rising sea levels? Will the ocean come to lap Route 77, a half mile away?

**Name \***

Mona

**Optional (one or two sentences each, please...)**

I am a junior at Cape Elizabeth High School in Maine.

I was born in Anhui, a province in China.

I plan to go to college after I graduate from high school next year.

### Add a photo of yourself



[Use a different photo](#)

### Your email (also optional -- for editorial questions only)

mona@foomail.com

[Show terms and conditions](#)

[Show HomeStories terms and conditions](#)

Accept Terms and Submit

Close

\* Required Fields

**Stipends**

Thanks to the generosity of donors, a total of \$900 is available for stipends to the first nine individuals to enroll in the program.

Subject to this ceiling, you can earn \$100 for simply participating in a serious way—or \$25 per usable captioned photo, to a maximum of six per participant.

- If there are up to six individuals in the program, they can each earn up to \$150.
- If there are as many as nine, they can each earn \$100.
- Other combinations are possible.

All judgments and allocations are the responsibility solely of Seeing for Ourselves.