



# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Illinois Agencies Host 26th Annual Earth Stewardship Day at Illinois State Fairgrounds**

*Area Fourth Grade Students Learn Ways to Take Care of the Earth*

SPRINGFIELD — The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Stewardship Day welcomes over 430 fourth grade students to the Illinois State Fairgrounds today. The students represent 18 classes from six schools in Sangamon County. As in past years, the event is hosted and jointly sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Departments of Agriculture and Transportation and the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Today's event features 17 interactive presentations and attractions for the students and their teachers. Presenters represent a wide range of agencies and organizations, all focusing on the importance of protecting, restoring, recycling and reusing natural resources. In keeping with the focus on stewardship, students and teachers were asked to bring "waste-free" lunches and beverages. The event runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

"Earth Stewardship Day is about taking the next generation of environmental stewards out of the classroom and teaching them how they can make the world a better place through educational, hands-on activities," said Illinois EPA Director Alec Messina. "We appreciate our cosponsors and presenters who make each station a memorable learning experience and thank the schools for supplementing their science curriculums with this event."

"The students who visit the fairgrounds on Earth Stewardship Day are the decision makers of the next generation," said Ag Director Raymond Poe. "These fun, interactive exhibits will teach students invaluable lessons about key conservation practices and preservation techniques so they can carry on the great tradition of protecting our state's valuable natural resources."

This year's event was scaled back after severe weather forced the cancellation of the previously scheduled event on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Fortunately, nearly half of the previously scheduled participants were able to reschedule for today's event. The annual celebration of environmental protection and conservation is free and typically open to the first 900 students whose schools registered, depending on the number of presenters, with preference given to those schools that have not attended in the past year. More information can be found at <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/education/earth-stewardship-day/index>.

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## 2017 Earth Stewardship Day/2

The schools represented at today's event are Dubois Elementary School, McClernand Elementary School, New Berlin Elementary School, Ridgely Elementary School, Rochester Intermediate School and Wilcox Elementary School.

Each station at Earth Stewardship Day offers students something new to learn. Stations include:

- Environmental Jeopardy
- A Little About Honeybees
- Planting Seeds for the Future
- Recycle Dash
- Monarch Migration
- Smart Grid Technology
- Water Conservation
- Turning Recycled Paper into Art
- Biodiversity of IL – Traveling Science Center
- Importance of Monarch Butterflies
- What's the Buzz about Bees?
- Groundwater Contamination
- Many Lands – One Earth
- Water Treatment and Testing
- Global Warming – Save the Polar Bears
- What Does It Mean to be a Good Steward of our Aquatic Natural Resources?
- Environmental Decision Making for Roads

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