



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way · Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
[www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)

JB Pritzker, Governor  
Colleen Callahan, Director

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONTACT: Ed Cross**

OFFICE: (217) 557-1240

CELL: (217) 685-7027

[edward.cross@illinois.gov](mailto:edward.cross@illinois.gov)

## **IDNR Awards Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants to Schools**

*Privately Funded Program to Assist More than 6,500 Students in Learning about  
Illinois' Natural Heritage*

SPRINGFIELD, IL – More than 6,500 students will visit Illinois state parks, natural areas, museums and other natural resources sites this year to learn about nature and conservation thanks to grant funding through the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant Program. Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Director Colleen Callahan today announced the awarding of more than \$88,000 in donated funds for 100 field trip grants. Winners represented 36 counties in the state.

“We are pleased to be able to support learning outside the classroom with these grants. This program allows students to visit locations throughout the state to see first-hand what they’ve been learning about in the classroom,” said Director Callahan. “Our future conservation leaders need the opportunity to experience Illinois’ natural resources in person.”

The entire \$88,815.13 being awarded for 2019 was made possible by private donations from the Independence Tube Corporation of Bedford Park, the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation of Skokie and the D. F. and M. T. Grohne Family Foundation of Wilmington. The donations and funding for the grants are coordinated by the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF).

The Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant Program has now distributed more than \$1,190,000 and more than 110,000 students have been provided with the opportunity to take part in a field trip since the program’s inception in 2001. Grant recipients are located throughout Illinois and represent students from pre-kindergarten through high school.

The competitive grant program allows Illinois teachers to apply for funds to take students on a field trip to study Illinois’ biodiversity. Learning activities must directly relate to the school’s curriculum. The annual application deadline is January 31. Funding administered by the ICF covers expenses such as the costs of transportation and substitute teachers.

For more information about the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant Program, contact the IDNR Division of Education at [dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov) or 217-524-4126. The Illinois Conservation Foundation gladly accepts donations for the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant Program. Visit

[www.ilcf.org](http://www.ilcf.org) for additional information.

For a list of this year's grant recipients, check the IDNR website at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Documents/IBFTGAwardees2019.pdf>.

The 2020 application form will be available soon at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsIBFTG.aspx>.

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