

1. Kids for Conservation® for January: *Illinois Hawks*

Kids for Conservation® from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is great for schools, youth groups and families to participate in. The January topic is *Illinois Hawks*. Information, teacher resources, Kids in Action, videos, a quiz and upcoming youth events can be found on the Web page. The January Web page will also feature a new look!

Visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/outreach/kidsconservation/Pages/default.aspx> for details. The February topic is *Snow Geese*.

2. Lesson Revisions Now Available

The *Illinois Birds* (grades 3-4), *One Bird--Two Habitats* (grades 5-8), *Kids for Trees* (grades prekindergarten-2), *Aquatic Illinois* (grades 4-9) and *Wild Mammals of Illinois* (grades 1-5) lessons from the IDNR have been revised and posted to the Web page at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/LessonCD.aspx>. Use these lessons, their video podcasts and other resources to support your teaching! Search for specific learning standards, topics, grade levels and/or subject areas in the lessons by using the Learning Standards search page at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/Learning-Standards.aspx>.

3. *Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant: Application Deadline January 31, 2016*

Take your students on a field trip to explore the bountiful natural heritage of Illinois with the help of an *Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant*! Teachers in Illinois schools and home-schooling educators in Illinois may apply. Funds may be used for transportation and substitute teachers. You'll find the application form, instructions, answers to frequently asked questions and explanatory video podcasts at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/grants.aspx>. Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2016. All funds for this program are donated to the Illinois Conservation Foundation by the Independence Tube Corporation in Bedford Park and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation in Skokie.

4. *Earth Day in the Parks 2016*

Applications for 2016 *Earth Day in the Parks* events will be accepted by the IDNR from January 1 through February 28, 2016. Events will be held in April and May. *Earth Day in the Parks* is the IDNR's program to promote natural resources stewardship by school children. You'll find the application form and much more information at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/EDITPinstruct.aspx>.

5. Visit the Revised IDNR Division of Education Web Site!

The IDNR Division of Education's Web page has been revised and is now available at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/default.aspx>. You'll find a new look as well as new features to make the information more easily accessible. Updates are being made regularly so visit the site often. Change your bookmarks to reflect the new Web address!

6. New Learning Standards Interactive Web Page

Looking for IDNR lessons to help you meet the Next Generation Science Standards or Illinois Early Learning Standards? Now you can easily find them with the new interactive Learning Standards Web page from the IDNR Division of Education at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/Learning-Standards.aspx>. You can search by grade level, topic, learning standard and/or subject area. Try it today!

7. Video Podcasts

The most recent additions to the video podcast library of the IDNR Division of Education are the *Illinois' Amphibians and Reptiles Field Pack*, *Illinois Furbearers* and *Trail Camera* video podcasts. In early January, the *Illinois Hawks* video podcast will be added. You can access these and all of the other educational video podcasts at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/podcasts.aspx> or through YouTube.

8. Resources Trunks and Packs are Great Teaching Tools

Have you reserved any resources trunks or packs from the IDNR for your teaching, scout troop activities or other youth programs? The topics include: amphibians and reptiles; aquatics; birds; fossils; state symbols; insects/spiders; invasive species; mammals; Native Americans; prairies; and trees. The *Field Trip Pack* is designed for exploring nature with young children. Let the IDNR's resources trunks and packs provide you with the teaching tools that you need. The trunks and packs are available at lending locations statewide. Visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/ItemsForLoan.aspx> for links to all of the resources trunks and packs. Several lending locations have recently been added or updated, so be sure to check the list for changes

in your area. NEW! We've just added a video podcast to show you the contents of the *Illinois' Amphibians and Reptiles Field Pack* and how they could be used to help you and your students study these animals. View the video through the link at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/herppack.aspx>.

9. ENTICE Professional Development Schedule

Registration for all ENTICE educator workshops scheduled during January 1 through June 30, 2016, is suspended pending the implementation of an approved state budget for fiscal year 2016. Registration remains open for those workshops scheduled in the State of Illinois' 2017 fiscal year. Updates will be posted on the IDNR Division of Education's Web page and list server and on the ENTICE registration Web site at <https://www.enticeworkshops.com>.

10. Illinois Conservation Foundation Scholarship Applications Accepted through January 15, 2016

Applications are being accepted through January 15, 2016, for the 2016 Conservation Achievement Scholarship program. This award is given to outstanding high school seniors in Illinois who demonstrate effective, long-term dedication to the preservation, protection and/or enhancement of the state's natural resources. Up to three scholarships of \$2,000 each are available for this application period. Detailed instructions and the application form can be accessed at <http://www.ilcf.org/portal/sponsorship-opportunities>. Please contact the Illinois Conservation Foundation at [217-785-2003](tel:217-785-2003) or dnr.icf@illinois.gov for more information.

11. Coastal Management Project Grant Applications Available

Visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/cmp/Pages/grants.aspx> to access the application form and other information regarding these grants from the Coastal Management Program of the IDNR. The application deadline is January 29, 2016.

12. Coastal Zone Resources for Teachers

The IDNR has a new document to help teachers who want to take their students on a field trip in the Chicago area but may be unaware of some of the options available to them. Produced by staff of the IDNR Coastal Zone Project in Chicago, you can access the "Coastal Zone Resources for Teachers" document at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Documents/TeacherResourcesCoastalZone.pdf>. It may inspire you to apply for an *Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant* to one of these locations!

13. Flying WILD - Tools for Teaching about Birds, Science and Culture

Volo Bog State Natural Area, Ingleside

Thursday, February 25, 2016, or Saturday, February 27, 2016, 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

\$27.00 fee includes book, lunch and snacks, Professional Development Hours are available.

Targeted to middle school teachers and students, Flying WILD is adaptable across a range of ages. Teachers, librarians, naturalists, home-schooling educators, scout leaders and others can use the activities to bring an appreciation and understanding of birds to people of most ages. The amazing set of 40 activities quickly becomes a favorite among a spectrum of learners. Some can be presented by middle school teachers to their students; others can be put together by middle-schools students to be shared with their younger peers. Still other activities are ideal for bird festivals conducted by volunteers and/or students for the whole community. Contact Volo Bog State Natural Area at dnr.volobog@illinois.gov or [815-344-1294](tel:815-344-1294) for more details or to register.

14. Central Illinois Educators: Fishing and Aquatic Ecology Programs Now Available from the IDNR

Educators, if you teach in any of the following counties, the IDNR can help you bring hands-on aquatic education to your students. These programs work to develop positive attitudes towards natural resources, conservation and fishing in young people. Lessons align with the state and national learning standards and are adapted to all grade levels. For more information or to schedule a program, contact Van Grissom at [217-720-3501](tel:217-720-3501) or van.grissom@illinois.gov.