

Possible Education Grant Opportunities

Supplied by Valerie Keener (IDNR)

Registration Closing Soon for this ENTICE Workshop

Tracks, Scats and Habitats, Mayslake Peabody Estate, Oak Brook, January 11, 2014

Often when exploring nature, instead of seeing an animal, we find what it left behind. Join us in this exploration of animal signs and how they relate to habitats. We'll be practicing our skills on an outdoor field trip, too. We'll show you how to incorporate the topic into your lessons and provide resources to help you do so. Although targeted to teachers of grades prekindergarten through six, other educators are welcome to register and attend the workshop but may need to adapt the materials as appropriate. REGISTRATION FOR THIS WORKSHOP WILL CLOSE AT 8:00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2014.

Register at <https://www.enticeworkshops.com>. Continuing Professional Development Units are available. Lunch and continental breakfast are provided. You'll receive many educational resources to help you instantly use the topic to supplement your curriculum. The registration fee is \$10.00. This workshop is part of the ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) program from the IDNR.

Project Squirrel Mobile Phone App

With the new Project Squirrel mobile phone app, your students can easily become involved in citizen science activities that can be incorporated into lessons to support the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The app is free and both Apple and Android versions are available. Go to iTunes or the Google Play Store and download the app today. All citizens can take part in the data collection. Lessons to support squirrel observations will be posted soon at <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/standards.htm>. You can learn more about Project Squirrel at <http://www.projectsquirrel.org/>. The Project Squirrel mobile phone app is sponsored by the Chicago Academy of Science's Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, the IDNR, the University of Illinois Chicago and Motorola.

Earth Day in the Parks

Applications will be accepted from January 1 – February 28, 2014, for *Earth Day in the Parks* events from the IDNR! Visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/EDITPinstruct.htm> to download the application form and to see the list of participating Illinois state parks. Involve your students in these natural resources stewardship activities and help them make a difference in their environment. A grant from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund helps support these events.

Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant Applications due this Month

Teachers, the IDNR's Division of Education offers *Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants* to help you take learning to life. State parks, nature centers, the Shawnee National Forest, forest preserve districts, national wildlife refuges and museums are just some of the qualifying destinations. The field trip must occur within Illinois. Each teacher may apply for up to \$500 to pay for transportation and substitute teacher costs. The application deadline is January 31, 2014. Visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm> for details. Check out the video podcasts and

other information to assist you in completing the application form. Funding for this program is provided by the Independence Tube Corporation in Chicago and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation in Skokie.