



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY  
MUSEUMS NETWORK

EXCITE • ENGAGE • EMPOWER

# **Educator Resource Guide 2022-23**

## **A guide to area museum programs**

Anita Purves Nature Center  
Champaign County Historical Archives  
Champaign County History Museum  
Homer Lake Interpretive Center  
Illinois Distributed Museum  
Krannert Art Museum  
Museum of the Grand Prairie  
Pollinarium  
Sousa Archives & Center for American Music  
Spurlock Museum  
William M. Staerkel Planetarium

**[champaigncountymuseums.org](http://champaigncountymuseums.org)**



## Why Bring Your Students to Museums?

Museums focus on concrete experiences with objects, be they teacups or dinosaur bones, sculptures or prisms. Working with objects stimulates the imagination by pushing the “need to know” button in our brains. Once this starts, the questions come tumbling, one over another:

*What is that? Where did it come from? How old is it? Why does it look like that? Why does it feel like that? How was it made? How do I relate to it?*

To find the answers we must observe, identify, discuss, hypothesize, analyze, evaluate, listen, record, classify, and problem solve—skills of great importance to learning in all disciplines. As a result, we have extended our knowledge and vocabulary, put the things into a relevant human, environmental, or universal context, and gained an appreciation for a new aspect of the world around us...and we’ve had fun doing it.



## There’s more!

Do you know any scout leaders, home schoolers, or other educators who might enjoy our programs? Please pass the word! Some of the museums in the Network have special scout badge programs and tours for home schoolers who can make repeat visits to a museum throughout the year.

# What's New?

## **Anita Purves Nature Center**

New additions to the Anita Purves Nature Center include updates to educator resources, education wildlife, exhibits, and facilities. We have recently welcomed tiger salamanders as new amphibious ambassadors for our educational programming. Updates to our Field Station include new animal sound drawers and exhibits to explore, featuring leaf rubbing, animal dentition, and wildlife diets. One major change upcoming for our facility is a new Outdoor Learning Pavilion next to the Friendship Grove Nature Playscape. This pavilion will be equipped with a fireplace, bathroom, water fountain, and retractable sides for multi-season use. Construction has already begun and we hope to see it completed by summer of 2023.

## **Champaign County Historical Archives**

The Archives is staying busy! We continue to acquire and make available for research new special collections and are adding new digital exhibits drawing from our unique collections of books, journals, newspapers, records, manuscripts, photographs, and more. We also frequently update our digital photo albums. Be sure to check out The Urbana Free Library's events calendar to stay up-to-date on history and genealogy speakers held monthly! Stop by to visit our exhibit case and discover what is held in the Archives.

## **Champaign County History Museum**

The Champaign County History Museum's digital presence continues to grow. We have revamped our YouTube channel where recordings of our monthly History Talks as well as specially produced material will be available. In late September, 2022, an exhibit on Farm Aid will debut in our small lobby display case. It will include the newly donated Willie Nelson baseball cap.

## **Homer Lake Interpretive Center**

*Saturday, September 24, 2022-Saturday, April 8, 2023*

*Wonders of the Wetland: Thirty-two Photos in Celebration of the Homer Lake Wetland Exhibit*  
Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, During Regular Open Hours

The Homer Lake wetland was nonexistent sixteen years ago and bears testimony to the vision, planning and hard work of Champaign County Forest Preserve District staff as well as the resiliency of nature as it now thrives with an astounding diversity of life. In this exhibit, Doug Mills shares his photos, along with accompanying video and website, to reveal some of the beauty and intricacy of the lives of the creatures that now depend on this habitat.

*Doug Mills is an East Central Illinois Master Naturalist who enjoys photography as a means to capture and share glimpses of the goodness, truth and beauty in the amazing world around us.*

### *New Animal Enclosures*

Open hours: Tuesday-Friday 1:00pm-5:00pm and Saturdays, April-October 10:00am-4:00pm

The Homer Lake Interpretive Center recently upgraded the rat snake's and the aquatic turtles' enclosures. These new enclosures give the animals more space to move around and the aquatic turtles are now all housed together. Come check out their new homes!

## **Illinois Distributed Museum**

The Illinois Distributed Museum, in collaboration with the University Archives, has new field trips and programs related to their Women in Science Lecture Series. These programs focus on the history of women scientists and how information about scientists is collected, preserved, and discussed. Students will get to interact with some basic science concepts and historical scientific documents.

## **Krannert Art Museum**

The Museum will offer 5 temporary exhibits during the 2022-23 school year: Fake News & Lying Pictures: Political Prints in the Dutch Republic, Black on Black on Black on Black, Well-Designed Beauty: Trade, Technology, and Decorative Art, Pattern and Process, and The Ink Wash Paintings of Shozo Sato. Visit <https://kam.illinois.edu/krannert-art-museum> for details.

## **Spurlock Museum**

Two new exhibits will be going on display at the Spurlock this school year. Our Campbell Gallery will feature an exhibit on the *Quinceañera*, the Hispanic tradition of celebrating a young girl's coming of age on her 15th birthday. The exhibit will be open September 24 through December 4. Later this year (watch our events calendar for details), the Museum will open a new area of the American Indian Gallery that celebrates powwows and powwow dances. The exhibit is planned to last seven years, with the regalia (dance performance clothing) changing annually.

## **William M. Staerke Planetarium**

The Staerke Planetarium now has over 50 shows available for all age ranges. Live-narrated shows have been developed to align with Next Generation Science Standards. The newest live show, Patterns of Earth and Sky, was developed for 5th grade classes in the Champaign Unit 4 school district. New full-dome shows are available to showcase the search for extrasolar planets, black holes, and dark matter, northern lights, coral reefs, and the end of the dinosaurs. A guided meditation show is available as well as programs which show the sky cultures of the Maya and the Mexica (Aztecs). Several shows also have Spanish-language tracks available. A complete show listing can be found at [parkland.edu/planetarium](http://parkland.edu/planetarium).



Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, the CCMN will be offering a limited number of grants to help K-12 schools with bus fees for field trips to Network museums. Grant applications are available by contacting Kim Sanford at 217-244-3355 or [ksheahan@illinois.edu](mailto:ksheahan@illinois.edu).

# Anita Purves Nature Center

1505 N. Broadway  
Urbana, IL 61801  
Phone: 217/384-4062  
[www.urbanaparks.org](http://www.urbanaparks.org)



## General Description:

The Anita Purves Nature Center is your classroom extension where learning comes naturally. Our standards-based field trips, classroom visits, and loan items will complement your curriculum with hands-on activities. By employing direct observation and experiential learning opportunities, the Anita Purves Nature Center enriches and strengthens existing school curricula and provides students the opportunity to explore and connect with the natural world.

**Educators** - Bring your class for a School Tour through Busey Woods, Meadowbrook Park's Spomer Prairie, or Weaver Park. Programs at Busey Woods include time to explore the nature center's Field Station. Or, invite a Naturalist in the Classroom to visit your school. An environmental educator will bring hands-on materials, interactive lessons and, as related to the topic, a live owl, turtle, salamander, snake or worms to your classroom. All programs meet grade-specific Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards.

## Facility Hours and Program Availability:

M-F 8-5, Sat. 9-4, Sun. Closed

## Reservation Information:

Visit: <https://www.urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs/>  
or Scan the QR Code

Call: 217-384-4062

Email: Chelsea Prahel at [ckprahl@urbanaparks.org](mailto:ckprahl@urbanaparks.org)

## Fees:

Program fees are for up to 25 students plus \$1 per each additional student (32 students maximum):

### School Tours

K-5th Grade: \$42 + \$1/each additional student

### Naturalist in the Classroom

Kindergarten: \$40 + \$1/each additional student

1st-5th Grade: \$48 + \$1/each additional student

A \$15 down payment must accompany your reservation form and will be applied to the program fee upon final payment. Payments can be made by cash, check, credit card, or a school district purchase order made out to the Urbana Park District.

The remaining balance is due on the date of your program. A \$10 late fee will be incurred if the balance is not paid on that date. Any Naturalist in the Classroom program held outside of Urbana or Champaign will be charged a travel fee based on annual federal standard mileage rates (typically ~\$0.60 per mile).



**Scan to Request a Program!**

## School Tour Locations

School Tours are available at Busey Woods, Weaver Park or Meadowbrook Park. The program table that follows on page 6 indicates which natural areas are available for each program.

### **Busey Woods, Anita Purves Nature Center and Friendship Grove Nature Playscape**

Busey Woods is a 59-acre bottomland oak-hickory forest. It is located at the north end of Crystal Lake Park with an entrance just west of the Anita Purves Nature Center.

#### Field Station and Wildlife Observation Rooms

See the nature center's education owl, turtles and snakes, and observe wildlife that visit the habitat gardens. Explore feathers, skulls, animal calls, and more in the interactive, hands-on Field Station!

#### Friendship Grove Nature Playscape

Just east of the nature center, the Friendship Grove Nature Playscape is a hands-on, kid-directed outdoor play space where boulders, logs, and other thoughtfully curated natural items give kids' imaginations room to soar. The space provides accessible play opportunities for all abilities. Make a day of it, and your class can explore this exciting feature before or after your School Tour! Picnic tables are available to reserve at no extra charge.

### **Weaver Park Wetland, Woodland & Prairie**

This 60-acre park includes 5 acres of woodland/savanna restoration, 35 acres planted with prairie and native grasses, and an award-winning watershed management wetland. Parking along Main Street (near Smith Road) offers a place for you to begin your exploration. Portable toilets are only available April-Oct.

### **Spomer Prairie in Meadowbrook Park**

Prairie was the predominant habitat in Illinois before European settlement. Since 1978, the Urbana Park District and countless volunteers have worked to re-create approximately 80 acres of native landscape. Explore this prairie in south Urbana, along Windsor Road and Race Street.

*Except for programs taking place at Weaver Park, School Tours are held regardless of the weather. Inside spaces are available at the nature center and Meadowbrook Park's Interpretive Center. Every attempt is made to hold programs outdoors. Prepare all students for outdoor conditions.*

#### **Accessibility:**

Varies at each location; call (217) 384-4062 with accessibility questions.

#### **Parking:**

Bus parking is available at all locations. If you have trouble locating the parking lot, call (217) 384-4062.

#### **Lunch Facilities:**

Spaces to each lunch vary at each location. If you are interested in reserving indoor space or picnic tables, please indicate that in your program request.



## School Tour Programs

Please note tours are available at Busey Woods (BW), Weaver Park (WP) or Meadowbrook Park (MBK) as indicated in the program descriptions. Select your preferred location on the registration form.

Grade	Program Description	Location
Kindergarten  Program Length: 1.5 hours	<b>Fall Frolickers:</b> Explore the special adaptations that squirrels have for life in the trees. (Fall)	BW
	<b>Fabulous Fall:</b> Observe seasonal changes and discover how plants and animals prepare for the coming cold season. (Fall)	BW, MBK
	<b>Sense-ational Spring:</b> Sharpen students' observation skills with a variety of activities using all five senses. (Spring)	BW, WP, MBK
	<b>Wee Wigglers:</b> Your class will learn about the multitude of tiny animals that live in, on, or under the soil and water. (Spring, Summer)	BW, WP, MBK
1st & 2nd Grade  Program Length: 1.5 hours	<b>Billions of Bugs:</b> Search for and compare insects and their relatives found in forest and prairie habitats. (Spring, Summer, Fall)	BW, WP, MBK
	<b>Nature's Hitchhikers:</b> Investigate how seeds travel, and look at ways that seeds and forest animals depend on each other. (Fall)	BW
	<b>Where Do They Go?:</b> Identify the different strategies used by animals to survive winter, and discover the adaptations that allow some animals to stay active. (Fall, Winter)	BW
	<b>Little Critters:</b> Determine what roles forest and pond invertebrates play in these ecosystems. (Spring, Summer)	BW, WP
	<b>Terrific Trees:</b> From baby saplings to grandmother oaks, explore how trees make food and support life in the forest. (Spring, Summer, Fall)	BW
	<b>A Look at Habitats:</b> Explore a forest or prairie and the animals who live there. Students will learn about the components of a habitat in this hands-on experience. (Spring, Summer, Fall)	BW, WP, MBK

3rd-5th Grade  Program Length: 2 hours	<b>Amazing Animal Adaptations:</b> Beaver feet, rabbit ears, and raptor eyes – learn how these and other amazing adaptations help animals survive. (Spring, Summer, Fall)	BW, WP, MBK
	<b>Exploring Tallgrass Prairies:</b> Explore how both plants and animals are adapted to survive in the tallgrass prairie. (Spring, Summer, Fall)	MBK
	<b>Happenin' Habitats!:</b> Investigate a habitat and the wildlife that call it home! Learn what animals need to survive in their habitat. (Spring, Summer, Fall)	BW, WP, MBK
	<b>What's in a Pond?:</b> Explore life cycles, adaptations, and interrelationships of organisms as you dip for macroinvertebrates living in local ponds. (Spring, Summer)	BW, WP

### Naturalist-in-the-Classroom Programs

Grade	Program Description
1st-3rd Grade	<b>Intestines of the Earth:</b> Students will dig this hands-on exploration of the world of worms. Prepare to get dirty!
Program Length: 1 hour	<b>Let's Make Tracks:</b> Work alongside a naturalist in a hands-on investigation of tracks and other signs that animals leave behind.
1st-5th Grade Program Length: 1 hour	<b>Powerful Plants:</b> Learn about plant structure, function, and growth during this fast-paced look at plants.
K-5th Grade	<b>Remarkable Reptiles:</b> Explore reptile characteristics when a live snake and two box turtles visit your classroom.
Program Length: 45min (K)	<b>Awesome Amphibians:</b> Explore the characteristics of amphibians with help from the nature center's newest education animals — salamanders!
1 hour (1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>Who-o-o Knows?:</b> Meet a live screech owl and learn about these native birds of prey. Want to add more to this program? For an additional \$3/student and an extra 30 minutes to the program time, each student can dissect an owl pellet.

**New!** Naturalist in the Classroom program themes are now available at the Anita Purves Nature Center! This new opportunity allows your class to extend your exploring and learning experience in the Field Station, Observation Room, Busey Woods, and the Friendship Grove Nature Playscape for no extra charge!



### **Custom Programs**

Are you looking for a program to complement a unit or lesson you are teaching? We can work with you to develop a unique environmental education program to fit your specific needs. Requests must be made at least 4 weeks in advance.

### **Other Resources**

#### Teach with a Turtle

Borrow the Reptiles & Amphibians Loan Kit and have a live turtle in your classroom for up to two weeks! The kit includes supplemental activities and instructions about turtle care and feeding and standards-based reptile and amphibian lesson plans. This hands-on kit delivers an unforgettable experience for you and your students.



#### Nature Items You Can Borrow

The Anita Purves Nature Center offers a wide variety of educational loan items such as natural history specimens, curriculum guides, reference materials and IDNR Loan Trunks. A new Climate Change Loan Kit is available! Call Chelsea Prah at 217 384-4062 or email [ckprahl@urbanaparks.org](mailto:ckprahl@urbanaparks.org) to reserve yours today.

#### IDNR Loan Trunks

Self-contained K-5 teaching units complete with natural objects, pictures, reference books, equipment and activities are great for any classroom. Free with a refundable credit card deposit of \$15. Topics include Birds, Illinois Fossils, Illinois Invasive Species, Illinois State Symbols, Insects & Spiders, Illinois Pollinators, People & Animals of Illinois' Past, and Wetlands.

### **Public Outreach Programs**

Invite a naturalist to work with your preschool, homeschool program, church group, scout troop, club, adult care center, or workplace. Programs include hands-on activities, natural artifacts, and sometimes a live animal! Visit us to explore a park district facility, park, or natural area with a naturalist. Programs are available for all ages and abilities to fit the needs of your specific group! Depending on the topic, programs can take place at the Anita Purves Nature Center/Busey Woods (BW), Weaver Park (WP), or Meadowbrook Park (MBK). Many programs can also come directly to you as a "Traveling Naturalist" Program.

Visit <https://www.urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs/> or call 217-384-4062 for more information.

**Program Fees:**

PreK: Fees start at \$47 for a 30-45 minute program for up to 20 children.

All other programs: Fees start at \$57 for a 45min-1hr program for up to 15 people. Additional fees may apply to larger groups. Any size group can be accommodated.

**Program Availability:**

Varies by program, season and request. Call 217 384-4062 or contact

[dasubers@urbanaparks.org](mailto:dasubers@urbanaparks.org) for more details.

Age	Program Topic	Location
<i>Preschool</i>  Program Length: ~45 minutes	<b>Forest Friends:</b> Meet Mr. Big Mouth Frog, then "hop" through the forest learning about the animals that live in all its layers.	BW
	<b>Who-o-o Knows:</b> Meet a live screech owl and learn about these native birds of prey.	BW, MBK
	<b>Spring Fling:</b> Practice using all five senses while exploring the springtime habitats.	BW, WP, MBK
	<b>Terrific Trees:</b> Using music, movement, and outdoor exploration, preschoolers will get in touch with trees!	BW, MBK
	<b>Remarkable Reptiles:</b> Explore reptile characteristics when a live snake and two box turtles visit you.	BW, MBK
	<b>Going Buggy:</b> Learn about where insects live and what makes them special; then try catching them yourself in different outdoor habitats.	BW, MBK
<i>All Ages</i>  Program Length: 45min-1 hour	<b>Bats:</b> Explore the adaptations of the only mammal capable of true flights as we learn about these unique nocturnal creatures.	BW, MBK
	<b>Birds/Bird Watching:</b> Discover birds common to our area as we practice using binoculars and visit a natural area to look at birds in different habitats.	BW, WP, MBK
	<b>Insects and Invertebrates:</b> Bug out as we see what makes these animals special and the important parts they play in food webs.	BW, WP, MBK
	<b>Invasive Species:</b> What is an invasive? What can we do to protect our native habitats? Learn the answers these questions and more as we explore common invasives in our area.	BW, WP, MBK
	<b>Outdoor Survival:</b> Learn the Rule of Threes and practice survival techniques such as plant identification and fire building.	BW
	<b>Owls:</b> Learn about owls' special hunting abilities, explore the many types of local owls, and meet a live screech owl.	BW, MBK
	<b>Pond Life/Amphibians:</b> Learn about a variety of local amphibians, then take a trip to a pond to see its critters up close <i>or</i> meet a live salamander.	BW
	<b>Prairies:</b> Visit a local restored tallgrass prairie and learn how the landscape of the Prairie State has changed over time.	WP, MBK
	<b>Reptiles:</b> With hands-on artifacts, explore what makes reptiles unique, and meet a live snake and turtle up close.	BW, MBK
	<b>Seasonal Nature Hikes:</b> Discover what's happening in the forest or prairie as you walk with a skilled naturalist at your park of choice.	BW, WP, MBK
	<b>Tree Identification:</b> Let's go on a walk and look at trees! Learn what to look for and tools to use in identification.	BW, MBK

## Birthday Parties:

Celebrate a birthday at the Anita Purves Nature Center with a themed program! Parties include a 45-60 minute kids' program packed with games, activities, and sometimes a live animal. Following the program, use the room to open gifts and eat treats you bring. Standard party length is 2 hours total. The birthday child will receive a gift certificate to the Nature Shop.

**To request a party, call 217-384-4062 at least three weeks before your desired party date. \$100 refundable damage deposit required at the time of booking.**

Age	Program Topic
<i>4 and up</i>	<b>Mud Kitchen:</b> Venture outside to the Friendship Grove Nature Playscape to make mud pies, mud stew, and nature art. Remind your guests to dress for mess! (Available April-October, weather permitting)
	<b>Reptiles Party:</b> S-s-s-slither into another year with a visit from the center's live snakes and box turtles. Discover what makes reptiles different from other animals.
	<b>Dino-Mite:</b> Dig into the past as you explore the lost world of dinosaurs, uncover fossils, and make your own dinosaur fossils.
	<b>Creepy Crawlies:</b> Head into Busey Woods to search for slugs and bugs. Uncover their hiding spots, and catch and release these creepy crawlers. (Available April-October, weather permitting)
<i>5 and up</i>	<b>Owls:</b> Have a hoot discovering owl adaptations when a live owl visits your party.
	<b>Nature Scavenger Hunt:</b> Explore the nature playscape, Busey Woods or the nature center in search of wildlife and more!
<i>6 and up</i>	<b>Going Batty:</b> Delight in crafts and games that reveal the special lives of bats, the only flying mammal!
<i>9 and up</i>	<b>Campfire:</b> Learn how to build your own campfire, then sit back to roast marshmallows as you learn about nocturnal animals. (Available April-October, weather permitting; additional fees apply for after-hours)

## Custom Programs or Parties

Perhaps your group or child has a special nature interest – we can create a program or party themed with your idea in mind. Additional fees apply, and at least four weeks' notice is required.

# Champaign County Historical Archives

The Urbana Free Library  
210 W. Green St.  
Urbana, Illinois 61801  
217-367-4025  
archives@urbanafree.org



## General Description:

The Champaign County Historical Archives is a department of The Urbana Free Library that maintains a research-level collection on the history and genealogy of Champaign County and its residents. Come explore our rich holdings of archives and special collections that document local life from the 1830s through the present day. We have many collections that could be relevant to school curriculums, including material relevant to local history and prominent local figures, as well as our local built history, buildings, and photographs of businesses, houses, and people. Material from the Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, and the News-Gazette archives provide a rich history of our area.

## Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10-5  
Wednesday 10-7  
Sunday 1-5

## Reservation Information:

To schedule a visit, contact 217-367-4025 or archives@urbanafree.org. Reservations are required for groups.

## Program Availability:

Call for information.

## Fees:

The archives are always free.

## Special Needs/Accessibility:

The library and archives are wheelchair accessible.

## Parking:

Metered parking spaces available in the library parking lot.

## Minimum/Maximum Tour Numbers:

No minimum requirement, maximum is 20.

## Lunch Facilities:

There are no eating facilities available at the archives.

**On-site Programs:**

Tours of the archives, presentations of our resources, and show-and-tells are available on-site. Customized presentations may be made with advance planning.

**Outreach Programs:**

Off-site and virtual programs can be arranged depending on needs and interests.



**What people are saying:**

*“The program was extremely informative and hands-on. We all had a great learning experience!”*



# Champaign County History Museum at the Historic Cattle Bank

102 East University Avenue  
Champaign, IL 61820  
217-356-1010  
[www.champaigncountyhistory.org](http://www.champaigncountyhistory.org)  
[President@champaigncountyhistory.org](mailto:President@champaigncountyhistory.org)



## General Description:

The Champaign County History Museum is located in downtown Champaign's Cattle Bank, the oldest documented extant commercial building in the county. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Cattle Bank would be the only building that Abraham Lincoln would recognize if he were to pass through Champaign today. The Bank, along with the adjoining Oakley Building, houses revolving exhibits displaying artifacts related to the history of Champaign County and the lives of its people. Some special artifacts are on permanent display in the Community Room. There are three galleries plus the upstairs hallway gallery. One exhibit is typically up for 18-24 months while the others are up for approximately six months. There is also a small research library open to the public and a community room where additional artifacts and works of art from the collection are on display.

The Museum recounts local and family history through its extensive collection of photographs, clothing, furniture, textiles, documents, and other everyday objects.

## Hours:

Wednesday and Friday, 1-5. Thursday 1-7. Saturday 10-5. Appointments for other times may be arranged.

## Reservation Information:

Contact the museum at 217-356-1010 or [president@champaigncountyhistory.org](mailto:president@champaigncountyhistory.org).

## Program Availability:

Guided tours are available.

## Fees:

Regular museum admission is free, but an optional \$3 donation is appreciated.

## Special Needs/Accessibility:

First floor is wheelchair accessible. Chair lift to upper floor.

## Parking:

Free parking for 4-5 vehicles is available in a small lot behind the Museum. Metered parking is available on First Street, University Avenue, Park Street, and in the municipal lot across First Street just north of the police station. Reserved bus parking is available on First Street just north of the Museum with at least one-week advance notice.

**Minimum/Maximum Tour Numbers:**

Up to 20-25 with adult supervision (1 chaperone for each 10 students). Tours may need to be split into two groups due to space limitations in the galleries.

**Lunch Facilities:**

None.

**On-Site Programs:**

These are limited to guided tours. We would be interested to hear about other programs you would be interested in.

**Off-Site Programs:**

Our History Talks are available for online viewing.



# Homer Lake Interpretive Center

2573 S. Homer Lake Rd.  
Homer, IL. 61849  
Phone: 217-896-2455  
www.ccfpd.org



## General Description:

The Homer Lake Interpretive Center, located at Homer Lake Forest Preserve, features a variety of interactive exhibits, displays, live animals and a wildlife viewing area. The Homer Lake Interpretive Center houses the environmental education staff for the Champaign County Forest Preserve District.

## Hours:

Year-round Tues-Fri; 1pm-5pm and Saturdays, April to October from 10am-4pm.

## Reservation Information:

To schedule a school program call (217) 896-2455 or mail Stacey at [sclementz@ccfpd.org](mailto:sclementz@ccfpd.org).

## Program Availability:

Programs can take place anytime of the year, Monday through Friday. Programs can take place at Homer Lake Forest Preserve (Homer), Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve (Mahomet) and Middle Fork River Forest Preserve (Penfield) or we can come out to you.

## Fees:

In Champaign County:

On a forest preserve site:

Preschool \$1 per student (minimum fee of \$20)

K-12 \$1.50 per student (minimum fee of \$25)

Off-site

Preschool \$20 per classroom for up to 20 students (\$1 each additional student)

K-12 \$25 per classroom for up to 25 students (\$1.50 each additional student)

Outside of Champaign County:

On a forest preserve site:

Preschool \$1.50 per student (minimum fee of \$20)

K-12 \$2.00 per student (minimum fee of \$25)

Off-site:

Preschool \$25 per classroom for up to 20 students (\$1.50 each additional student)

K-12 \$30 per classroom for up to 25 students (\$2.00 each additional student)

**Special Needs/Accessibility:**

The Museum is fully accessible. Please inform us when making reservations if students or adults have special needs.

**Parking:**

Free parking is available near the entrance of the building.

**Minimum/Maximum Tour Numbers:**

Unless noted, single programs are limited to 30 students or a single class. Multiple programs may be scheduled on the same day. We request one chaperone for every ten students.

**Lunch Facilities:**

Outdoor and indoor facilities available depending on weather. Please tell us if you will require lunch facilities.

**On-Site Programs:**

<b>Pre-school</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Program Length</b>	<b>Dates Available</b>
Trees and Me	Students will explore trees through creative movement, stories and hikes.	1 hour	May-November
Beautiful Birds	Students become birds through costumes and flying games. We will make nests, lay eggs, and even peck at worms.	1 hour	Year-round
Buggy Basics	Children will learn about bugs through costumes, dances, a hike and story	1 hour	April-November
Frog Follies	Explore the frog and toad life cycle. Students will sing in a frog chorus and turn a person into a frog.	1 hour	Mid-April to Mid-October
Wild About Mammals	Explore the world of mammals through a hike and hands-on activities.	1 hour	Year-round
Reptile Romp	Students will meet our reptiles and participate in hands-on activities	1 hour	Year-round

**Elementary and Middle School**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Dates Available</b>
Branching Out with Trees	Students will broaden their knowledge of trees as they hike and learn to identify trees through characteristics such as leaves and seeds.	K-8	1.5 hours	May-November
Prairie Patterns	Students will explore the plants, animals and history of the Illinois prairie as we hike.	K-8	1.5 hours	June-November
Aquatic Ecologist	Students will test the water quality using simple kits and compare results with the aquatic organisms they collect.	3-8	1.5 hours	Mid-April to Mid-October
Hatchet	This program is designed to complement, Hatchet by Gary Paulsen. Students will interpret the book through hands-on activities, including basic survival skills. Program is only available at Homer Lake Forest Preserve	4-6	2 hours	Year-round
Sights and Sounds of Nature	Students will hike and observe the wonders of our natural world.	K-8	1.5 hours	Year-round
Remarkable Reptiles	Learn about the anatomy and adaptations of these ancient creatures. Students get an opportunity to meet our resident reptiles.	K-8	1.5 hours	Year-round
Frog Follies	Investigate the amazing frogs and toads that call central Illinois home. Explore their world through hands-on activities and a hike.	K-4	1.5 hours	Mid-April to Mid-October
Birds of a Feather	Students will learn the basic bird identification and explore their amazing adaptations. A hike is included.	K-8	1.5 hours	Year-round
Illinois Mammals	Students will learn what makes an animal a mammal. Then we'll go out in a hike to search for clues left behind by area mammals.	K-8	1.5 hours	Year-round

Into Insects	Students will have the opportunity to go searching for these six-legged creatures.	K-5	1.5 hours	April to November
The Nature of Winter	Take a break from being indoors and gain a new appreciation for this surprisingly active time of year. Students will explore physical and behavioral adaptations that allow local flora and fauna to survive winter, and then hike to observe these firsthand.	K-5	1.5 hours	December-March

<b>Middle School and High School</b>				
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Dates Available</b>
Illinois Ecosystems	Students will explore three ecosystems of Illinois: forest, prairie and wetland. Together we will learn some of the natural history of these ecosystems, how humans have impacted them, and what plant and animal species are thriving in these special habitats today.	6-12	1.5-2 hours	Year-round
Tree ID	Students will learn how to identify trees by their features. Together we will discover how to use a dichotomous key and take a hike to identify some of Illinois' most common tree species.	6-12	2 hours	April-October
Mammal Morphology	We will explore the body structures of Illinois mammals, the relationship between the form and function, and how adaptations aid survival through the use of skulls, pelts, and bones.	6-12	1-1.5 hours	Year-round

### **Classroom Outreach Programs:**

Most of the above programs can be held in your classroom. Please contact us for details.

### **Other Educational Resources:**

Loan materials are available to check out at the Homer Lake Interpretive Center. For more information or to reserve them contact Stacey at [sclementz@ccfpd.org](mailto:sclementz@ccfpd.org) or 217-896-2455.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species Loan Box**

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District, with assistance from the Illinois- Indiana Sea Grant, developed this loan box to assist educators in making a classroom study on aquatic invasives more hands-on and interactive. The box contains aquatic invasive specimens, activities, and information on Illinois invasive species.

### **Bird Adaptation Loan Box**

Enhance your lessons on bird adaptations by exploring the types of beaks, eggs, and feet that help birds survive! This kit includes replicas of bird skulls, eggs, and tracks, as well as hands-on activities, and is appropriate for grades K-12. Refundable deposit required. Loan kit provided by the Champaign County Audubon Society ([www.champaigncountyaudubon.org](http://www.champaigncountyaudubon.org)).

### **IDNR Field Trip Pack**

The Field Trip Pack includes many items to assist your children/students as they explore nature. Hands-on equipment includes field guides, dip nets, compasses, trowels, and a whole lot more which will encourage self-initiated learning. Suggested grades: preK-3. This loan box requires a refundable deposit.

### **Insect Backpacks**

Do you want to look for insects but don't know how or don't have the tools? Well, come out to a forest preserve and borrow an insect backpack! Each backpack contains a how-to guide, insect nets, bug boxes, insect guides, and much more. They are available at the Homer Lake Interpretive Center, Museum of the Grand Prairie, and our Headquarters office in Lake of the Woods. These packs require a refundable deposit.

### **IDNR Reptiles and Amphibians Field Pack**

Amphibians and reptiles are fascinating creatures! The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Division of Education has developed an educational tool to help you learn about and observe these animals in their natural environment. Binoculars, magnifying glasses, field guides, observation equipment, a headlamp, frog call recordings, and many other hands-on items are included in the pack. This loan box requires a refundable deposit.

### **Water Quality Loan Box**

This kit is available to teachers and groups interested in learning about water quality in lakes and streams. Each kit contains equipment to test and measure the temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and nitrogen of the water. Also included are pond-dipping nets to investigate the macro-invertebrates of the water, and a binder with indoor and outdoor activities. This loan box is appropriate for 3rd grade to adults. There is a \$10 fee, and a refundable deposit is required.

# Illinois Distributed Museum

**University Archives**  
**Main Library Room 146**  
**1408 W. Gregory Drive**  
**Urbana, IL 61801**  
**217-333-0798**  
**<https://distributedmuseum.illinois.edu/>**



## **General Description:**

The Illinois Distributed Museum is a project of the University of Illinois Archives. It is a digital museum that highlights innovations and innovators from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It also points visitors to places on campus where they can see buildings, objects, documents and displays related to these innovations and features self-guided walking tours. The University of Illinois Archives preserves the history of the university. Educators working with the Illinois Distributed Museum and University Archives will be able to give students the opportunity to work with unique primary sources.

## **Reservation Information:**

To reserve tours/programs, contact Kristen Allen Wilson (217) 300-7488 or [klallen3@illinois.edu](mailto:klallen3@illinois.edu) or Bethany Anderson (217) 244-5041 or [bgandrsn@illinois.edu](mailto:bgandrsn@illinois.edu). All programs must be scheduled three weeks in advance.

## **Program Availability:**

Programs are available Monday through Friday.

## **Fees:**

Programs are free.

## **Special Needs/Accessibility:**

The University Library is wheelchair accessible.

## **Parking:**

Metered parking for cars and small vans is available in the parking lot to the west of the main library and on the street. Bus parking is available at Assembly Hall.

## **Minimum/Maximum Program Numbers:**

For on-site programs the maximum number is 25 people. Maximum number for off-site programs varies. Please call ahead for exact numbers.

## **Lunch Facilities:**

There are no eating facilities available. There are a few small tables and benches outside on the East side of the library. Groups may wish to make lunch plans at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts or the Illini Union for indoor seating options.

**On-site Program:**

Women in Science Program: Learn about how women scientists and engineers have been historically portrayed and hear about research currently being conducted by women scientists at the University of Illinois. This program features hand-on activities and examining primary sources related to different scientific disciplines such as ecology, atmospheric sciences, food and nutrition sciences, sociology and more. The program is 1.5 – 2 hours long with an optional tour around parts of the Engineering Quad. This program is best suited for grades 6 and up.

**Off-site Program:**

The off-site program adapts the above on-site program to a classroom setting. It includes discussions about women scientists and the ways they are underrepresented in the historical record. Students will view some clips from the Women in Science Lecture Series program and complete hands-on activities working with copies of primary sources. This program is 45 minutes and is best suited for grades 6 and up.

**Other Educational Resources:**

All of our Women in Science Lecture Series videos are available for viewing online at <https://digital.library.illinois.edu/collections/4fe01460-e960-0138-74c9-02d0d7bfd6e4-0>



# Krannert Art Museum University of Illinois

500 East Peabody  
Champaign, IL 61820  
217/333-1861  
Fax 217/333-0883  
kam.illinois.edu



## **General Description:**

Krannert Art Museum (KAM) promotes a vibrant exchange of ideas in the visual arts. Located at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, KAM is the second largest general fine arts museum in Illinois. KAM has a global collection of over 11,000 works of art from the 4th millennium BCE to the present. The museum's collection galleries, special exhibitions, artist lectures, concerts, films, and family activities are free and open to the public all year long.

## **Hours/General Public Admission Fees:**

Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 4pm; during U of I classes (fall/spring) late Thursdays until 8pm.

## **Reservation Information:**

Contact Rachel Lauren Storm, Director of Community Engagement and Learning, about field trips and class visits (rstorm2@illinois.edu).

## **Program Availability:**

Tours, on-site, and virtual programs can be arranged. Pre-registration is required. See kam.illinois.edu/tours for more information.

## **Fees:**

Admission, tours, and learning programs are free of charge.

## **Special Needs/Accessibility:**

KAM endeavors to be accessible to all. Virtual meetings and in-gallery video are captioned in English. Mobility assistance and D/HH accommodations are available. For accessibility questions and requests, please email kam-accessibility@illinois.edu.

## **Parking:**

Parking on campus near the Museum is metered through the Mobile Meter app, 9am to 5pm on weekdays. Evenings and weekends parking is free.

## **Maximum/Minimum Tour Numbers:**

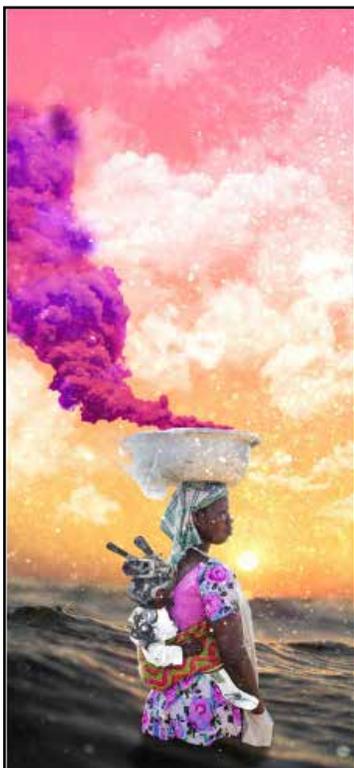
Museum staff will work with any size group and is ready to co-plan your visit or program whenever possible.

## **Lunch Facilities:**

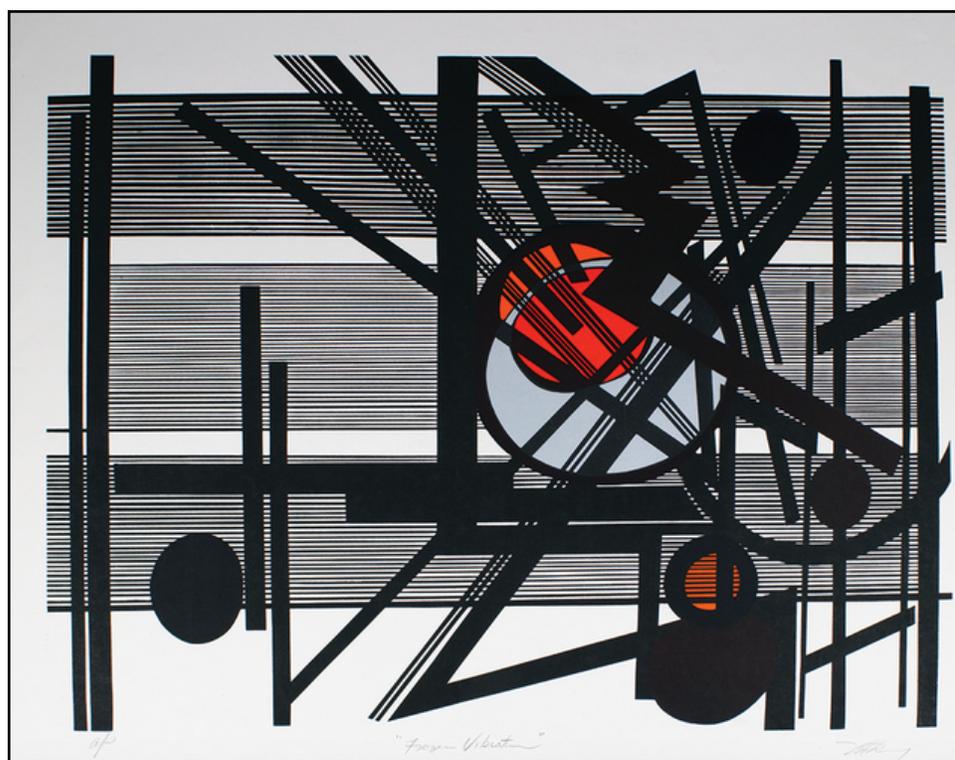
Students may eat in the outdoor garden or in the museum cafe. Please plan ahead for larger groups or inclement weather.

**Museum Programs:**

Visit our Plan a Tour webpage for details (<https://kam.illinois.edu/node/139>)



**From upcoming exhibits**



# Museum of the Grand Prairie

950 N. Lombard St.

Mahomet, IL

217-586-2612

<https://www.museumofthegrandprairie.org/>



## General Description:

The Museum of the Grand Prairie collects, preserves and interprets the natural and cultural history of Champaign County and East Central Illinois for all generations. We offer hands-on, interactive field trips that explore national history and culture topics through a local lens. Learning tubs with artifacts, books and lesson ideas are available at no cost for educators. Zoom fieldtrips are available.

We are always happy to collaborate with educators to develop a visit that will meet you and your students' needs.

## Hours:

Spring and Fall Hours: 1-5 every day of the week

Summer Hours (Memorial Day-Labor Day) Monday-Saturday 10-5, Sunday 1-5

Museum is closed to the general public (but open for field trips) January and February. We are closed Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

## Reservation Information:

Katie Snyder, Museum Programs Specialist, 217-586-2612 or [ksnyder@ccfpd.org](mailto:ksnyder@ccfpd.org)

## Program Availability:

Group visits are welcome! Field trips, special programs and groups with 12 or more patrons are required to make arrangements with staff two weeks prior to arrival. Programs are available Monday-Friday. We will schedule out throughout the year. Schedule as early as possible to secure your desired date(s).

## Fees:

General admission to the museum is free.

\$1.50 per student, per program for Champaign County schools and organizations. \$2.00 per student, per program for out of county schools and organizations. A minimum of \$25 per group.

Teachers and chaperones are free.

## Special Needs/Accessibility:

The museum and the Maybery Gelvin Botanical Gardens behind the museum are fully accessible.

## Parking:

Ample bus and car parking is available. Parking is free.

## Minimum/Maximum Tour Numbers:

Single programs are limited to a single class. Depending on current health concerns, that number can be extended to two classes.

### **Lunch Facilities:**

Outdoor and indoor facilities available depending on weather. Please tell us if you will require lunch facilities.

### **On-site Programs:**

The museum offers a wide variety of programs exploring history, culture and the natural world of East-Central Illinois. Our staff can also collaborate with educators to develop a program to meet your individual needs. Fieldtrips run for 1.5 hours and typically take place from 10 -11:30. It is possible to schedule two programs, one taking place from 10-11:30, a break for lunch, and a second program taking place from 12-1:30.

Some of our popular programs include: Seed Safari, Botany Basics, Life on the Grand Prairie, Immigration in Champaign County and our popular One Room School House Program.

### **Off-site Programs:**

The museum provides outreach programs. Programs last 30-45 minutes or one class period.

### **Virtual Programs:**

We are always willing to work with you to develop a zoom fieldtrip especially as public health concerns dictate. Currently, we have three established zoom fieldtrips available: From Sheep to Market, Seed Safari and Immigration. Zoom fieldtrips run from ½ hour to 1.5 hours depending on the needs of the educator and students. Field trip fees apply.

### **Other Educational Resources:**

The museum offers learning kits at no cost to educators (\$50 deposit required) with delivery and pick up available in Champaign County. Some popular learning kits include: Old Fashioned Indoor Games, Old Fashioned Outdoor Games, Civil War, Revolutionary War and Colonial Times, 1960's, Illinois Native American Kit, Life on the Grand Prairie, Then and Now Artifact Discovery, Civil Rights, Women's Rights.



What people are saying:

***"Your program (as always) was very well presented! It was informative, hands-on and 'fun,' even with such a difficult subject matter as the Civil War."***

# Pollinatarium

**University of Illinois**  
**606 W. Windsor Rd.**  
**Urbana, IL 61801**  
**Email: [uibeas@life.illinois.edu](mailto:uibeas@life.illinois.edu)**  
**<http://www.life.illinois.edu/pollinatarium/>**



## **General Description:**

The University of Illinois Pollinatarium is the first free-standing science center in the nation devoted to flowering plants and their pollinators. Why do plants and pollinators merit such special attention? The ecological interaction between pollinators and plants is vitally important because most terrestrial life on Earth depends in one way or another on pollination for survival. Over 75% of all flowering plant species depend on animal pollinators in order to reproduce, so pollination is a key process that sustains all kinds of communities around the world. Among Earth's inhabitants depending on pollinators for their existence are humans; about one-third of the diet consumed by people around the world—the part with most of the vitamins and minerals—is the result of the pollinator-plant interaction. Pollination is therefore economically important as well. In the U.S. alone, pollinator efforts contribute close to \$20 billion to the economy and worldwide pollinator activities are worth over \$200 billion. Because so much depends on pollination, the UI Pollinatarium is dedicated to increasing awareness and appreciation of pollination as a remarkable ecological partnership and an essential ecosystem service.

## **Hours:**

Saturday 1:30- 4:30 pm  
Weekdays (Tuesday through Friday): by appointment  
Closed Sundays and Mondays

## **Reservation Information:**

- Field trips are reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Field trips will be scheduled and confirmed by email using the Pollinatarium Visit Request Form (<https://pollinatarium.illinois.edu/visit-pollinatarium-request-form/>).
- After you've submitted your request form by email, we will process your request within five business days. While we are booking your field trip, we may send you one or more emails with options or questions. Once we've booked your field trip, we will send you a confirmation email. Your field trip is not confirmed until you receive this email. After 5 business days, if you have not received an email, please email [uibeas@life.uiuc.edu](mailto:uibeas@life.uiuc.edu) to check on your request.

## **Program Availability:**

We do programs for all ages and group sizes: school groups, community groups, and families. Please email us to discuss details.

## **Fees:**

Free admission. \$1 suggested donation.

**Special Needs/Accessibility:**

The building is wheelchair accessible.

**Parking:**

Free Parking next to building. Limited space for parking one to two buses.

**Minimum/Maximum Tour Numbers:**

We normally only take one to two classes at a time (Maximum: one bus load). For larger groups, we need at least two weeks' notice to be able to schedule volunteer helpers.

**Lunch Facilities:**

We have 2 outside picnic tables and a picnic pavilion with more tables is available at nearby Meadowbrook Park operated by the Urbana Park District.

**On-Site Programs:**

We offer insect catching, interviewing, and observing in the yard. Inside we have displays that can be used as teaching tools and discussion points for lessons on pollination, bee keeping, honey bees, monarchs, bats, bumble bees, and other pollinators. Programs can be tailored to the lesson needs of each teacher or group.

**Off-Site Programs:**

We will come to your classroom or other facility to give talks and Power Point presentations on different topics. We have live plants for demonstration and insect drawers.

**Other Education Resources:**

We have story books and references materials available for story time and finding answers to your questions.

**What people are saying:**

“Being able to watch the live bees and look at the colorful close-up photographs made this a delightful, unique experience.”

# Sousa Archives and Center for American Music

**Sousa Archives and Center for American Music**  
236 Harding Band Building (second floor)  
1103 South Sixth Street  
Champaign, Illinois 61820  
Telephone: (217) 244-9309  
[www.sousaarchives.org](http://www.sousaarchives.org)



## **General description:**

John Philip Sousa is best known as America's "March King," but few would recognize him as an avid sportsman and boxer. Uncover and discover the hidden treasures and stories of America's exciting musical past through the many different collections and exhibitions of the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music. The Sousa Archives holds the world's largest collection of original music compositions by John Philip Sousa. In addition, historical sound recordings, photographs, music instruments, and sound recording machines document the band movement and the evolution of electronic and avant-garde music in America. Our exhibitions allow visitors to actively experience the sights, sounds, and stories of America's exciting musical past. Knowledgeable staff members provide guided tours to both small and large groups. Special concerts on the Center's historical instruments are performed regularly throughout the community. Let the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music be your first stop for all your musical adventures.

## **Hours:**

Open 8:30 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Closed federal holidays.

## **Reservation information:**

To reserve a tour, music program, or research session, complete the form at <https://archives.library.illinois.edu/sousa/make-an-appointment>. You can also contact us at (217) 244-9309 or [sousa@illinois.edu](mailto:sousa@illinois.edu).

## **Program availability:**

The Center is available for scheduled tours from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Special tours can be arranged outside normal hours. Reservations are required for group tours.

## **Fees:**

Tours and music programs are free. Concerts may require a small payment. Donations appreciated.

## **Special needs/accessibility:**

Wheelchair accessible. Enter through the south-side building entrance.

## **Parking:**

Metered parking is available on the street. Bus parking is available at Assembly Hall.

## **Minimum/maximum program numbers:**

No minimum. Maximum number is 50 per group.

**Lunch facilities:**

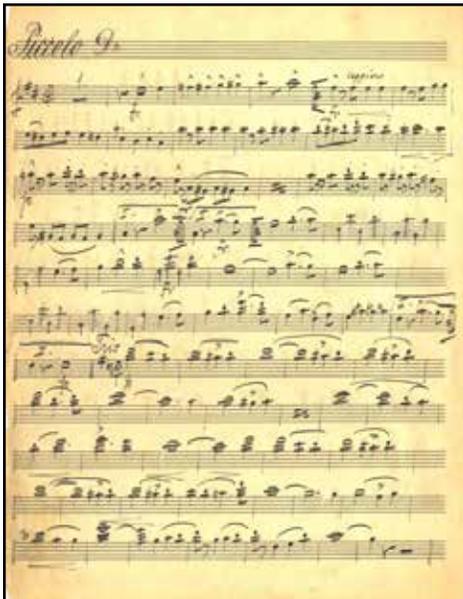
There are no eating facilities available at the Museum. Groups may wish to make lunch plans at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Krannert Art Museum, or the Illini Union.

**On-site programs:**

Guided tours of the collections are provided throughout the year. Tours include demonstrations and easy-to-understand explanations of our American music exhibits. Customized tours on special themes or for specific audiences must be arranged in advance.

**Off-site programs:**

Concerts using historical music instruments, audio recording devices, and documents from the Sousa Archives' collections are regularly held throughout the community each year and a special educational music program, "America's History and Culture through Music," is made available to area elementary schools. In addition special music programs are held each November to celebrate American Music Month. For a schedule of these American Music Month concerts visit [www.sousaarchives.org](http://www.sousaarchives.org).



# Spurlock Museum

University of Illinois  
600 S. Gregory  
Urbana, IL 61801  
217/333-2360  
[www.spurlock.illinois.edu](http://www.spurlock.illinois.edu)



## General Description:

The Spurlock Museum celebrates human cultures throughout time and around the world. The five feature galleries celebrate the Americas (Indigenous cultures), Europe, the Ancient Mediterranean, Africa, the Middle East (Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia), East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania. The Campbell Gallery and Central Core hold changing exhibits. The Spurlock Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

## Reservation Information:

To reserve Pre-K-12 tours/programs or discuss artifact loans from the Resource Center, contact Kim Sanford at 217/244-3355 or [ksheahan@illinois.edu](mailto:ksheahan@illinois.edu). To reserve university class programs or discuss Museum-based extra credit activities, contact Abigail Padfield Narayan at 217/265-8981 or [akpn@illinois.edu](mailto:akpn@illinois.edu). Requests can also be made online at <https://www.spurlock.illinois.edu/visit/tours/book-your-visit>. All programs/tours (including self-guided) should be scheduled three weeks in advance.

## Program Availability:

Guided tours are available during most open hours. Outreach programs are available to schools Monday—Friday.

## Fees:

The Museum's tours and programs are free. Limited grant funds are available to assist with bus fees. Visit <https://www.spurlock.illinois.edu/educators/financial-assistance/> for details.

## Special Needs/Accessibility:

The Museum has complete wheelchair accessibility. Language and sign language interpreters can be made available with sufficient notice. The Auditorium is equipped with a hearing assistance system.

## Parking:

Metered parking for cars and small vans is available on two sides of the building (\$1 per hour). Bus parking information is available at <https://www.spurlock.illinois.edu/visit/location/>.

## Minimum/Maximum Program Numbers:

The program minimum is 10. The program maximum varies per program and is listed online.

## Lunch Facilities:

There are no eating facilities available at the Museum. Groups may wish to make lunch plans at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts or the Illini Union.

## On-site Programs:

Program	Description	Grades
Stories Around the World	Every object has a story. Come hear it!	pre-K-adult
Celebrations	Revel in special occasions around the world	1-3
Masks Around the World	Discover the many faces and uses of masks.	3-8
In the Shadow of the Pyramids	Journey to the afterlife.	4-7
Life in the Polis	Spend time in ancient Greece.	4-7
Greek and Roman Mythology	Listen to the voices of the ancients!	4-12
General Tour	Shake hands with the people of the world.	4-12
Medieval European Craftspeople	Connect with life, work, and play in the Middle Ages.	5-8
Human Connections	Find the perfect artifact.	5-8

## Outreach Programs:

Stories Around the World	Every object has a story. Come hear it!	pre-K-adult
In the Shadow of the Pyramids	Journey to the afterlife.	4-7
Greek and Roman Mythology	Listen to the voices of the ancients!	4-12
Medieval European Craftspeople	Connect with life, work, and play in the Middle Ages.	5-8

## Virtual Programs:

Stories Around the World	Every object has a story. Come hear it!	pre-K-adult
Human Connections	Find the perfect artifact.	4-8
Greek and Roman Mythology	Listen to the voices of the ancients!	4-12

Special programs and events for schoolchildren also are offered in conjunction with the Museum's changing exhibits. See descriptions of upcoming exhibits in the What's New section.

## Other Educational Resources:

The Spurlock Museum features the following educational facilities:

- The Collaboration and Community Gallery for workshops, meetings, classes, presentations, etc.
- A 219-seat Knight Auditorium for lectures and performances.
- The WHM Guild Educational Resource Center with lending materials for area educators.

### What people are saying:

*"We had a really fun time!"*



# William M. Staerkel Planetarium

Parkland College  
2400 West Bradley Avenue  
Champaign, IL 61821-1806  
Office: 217-351-2568  
Public show schedule: 217/351-2446  
[www.parkland.edu/planetarium](http://www.parkland.edu/planetarium)



## General Description:

The William M. Staerkel Planetarium is the second largest planetarium in Illinois and one of the largest community college planetariums in the nation. The Digistar 6 projection system brings the universe to life with fully immersive digital video in addition to reproducing the current night sky. The Carl Zeiss M 1015 mechanical star projector is still in the center of our room, projecting 7600 stars onto a 50-foot aluminum hemispheric dome. Check our web site for a current listing of available school programs. All programs are linked to the state science standards.

## Hours/General Public Admission Fees:

Open 8 am–4 pm Monday–Friday for school and civic group reservations. Public show hours: Friday and Saturday evening shows at 7 and 8 p.m. Summer matinees. Closed Saturdays in June and July. Public show rates: \$6 adults; \$5 students, seniors, and children under 12. Special group rates (20+). Doubleheader Discount: See two shows back-to-back and you get the second show half price.

## Reservation Information:

Erik Johnson or HeatherAnn Layman at 217-351-2568. Email: [planetarium@parkland.edu](mailto:planetarium@parkland.edu).

## Program Availability:

School programs are booked on the hour on a first come, first served basis. Book your field trip at least two weeks in advance. There are special rental rates for evening hours. No reservations are needed for weekend public programming unless you have a group of 20 or more.

## Fees:

Student group rate is \$3/person (\$4.50/person for two consecutive shows). There is a \$60 minimum.

## Special Needs/Accessibility:

The planetarium is fully accessible. A red light can be provided for the hearing impaired with advance notice. The circle drive outside the facility is available to drop off visitors. Sensory-friendly information is on our website to help you prepare for your visit.

## Parking:

Park in the M1 lot north of the planetarium. The main entrance is across from the entrance to the Parkland Theater.

## Minimum/Maximum Tour Numbers:

Up to 128 people (group rate available for 20+). There is a \$60 minimum charge.

## Lunch facilities:

None on-site, but groups can reserve a space to eat on the Parkland campus.

## On-Site Programs:

See the planetarium web site for show descriptions, teacher resources, and availability.

\* Live show + Digital remaster of an older show

# Fulldome presentations (grade level in parentheses) = Spanish-language audio available

Sun, Moon, and Stars (Pre-2)*	Expedition Reef (5 & up)#
One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure (Pre-2)#=	The Planets (5 & up)+
Shapes in the Sky (Pre-2)*	Violent Universe (5 & up)+
In My Backyard (Pre-2)+	The Stargazer (5 & up)#
Santa's Secret Star (Pre-2)+	Expanded View (5 & up)#
The Little Star That Could (K-3)#	Skywatchers of Africa (5 & up)+
Amazing Stargazing (1-4)+	Spirits from the Sky, Thunder on the Land (5 & up)+
Did an Asteroid Really Kill the Dinosaurs? (1 & up)#	Mayan Archaeoastronomy (5 & up)#=
Solar System Safari (2-5)+	Mexica Archaeoastronomy (5 & up)#=
Coyote Explores the Earth, Moon, & Sun (2-6)#	Big Astronomy: People, Places, Discoveries (5 & up)#=
Prairie Skies (3 & up)*	Out There: The Quest for Extrasolar Worlds (5 & up)#
Flight Adventures (3 & up)*	Phantom of the Universe (5 & up)#=
Reasons for the Seasons (3 & up)*	Solar Superstorms (5 & up)#
Two Small Pieces of Glass (3 & up)#	Sunstruck (5 & up)#
Forward! to the Moon (4 & up)#	From Earth to the Universe (5 & up)#=
Dawn of the Space Age (4 & up)#	Unveiling the Invisible Universe (5 & up)#=
Light Years from Home (4 & up)*	Europe to the Stars (5 & up)#=
Our Place in Space (4 & up)#	Einstein's Gravity Playlist (5 & up)#=
Secrets of the Sun (4 & up)#	The Sun, Our Living Star (5 & up)#
Cosmic Colors (5 & up)#	Hot and Energetic Universe (5 & up)#
Sky Cycles (5 & up)*	Rising Star (5 & up)#
Patterns of Earth & Sky (5 & up)*	Seeing! A Photon's Journey (5 & up)#
Messages of Starlight (5 & up)*	Dark Matter Mystery (8 & up)#
Experience the Aurora (all)#	Sunset Meditation (all)#
Season of Light (all)+	

## Off-Site Programs:

"Traveling Space Suit Show" (fee)

"Tonight's Sky"

"How to Purchase a Telescope"

"Effective Streetlighting and the Sky"

## Other Educational Resources:

- The website has teacher's guides with pre- and post-visit activities and printable star charts.
- The planetarium offers a telescope rental program where you can rent a large telescope overnight or for the weekend. Inquire about availability.
- Drive through the Campus Solar System model. The Sun is located across the drive from the planetarium.
- The planetarium has assisted with the Boy Scout Astronomy merit badge and the Girl Scout Space Science badge. Call or check the website for details.
- The James B. Kaler Science Lecture Series, featuring a local scientist, is held on the first Friday of the month from October through April. A current list of scheduled speakers appears online.
- Rent the planetarium for your special occasion. Rental rates appear on our web page. Birthday party packages are also available.