

Monday, April 01, 2019  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Local Schools to Participate in Earth Day in the Parks at Dickson Mounds on May 1 and May 16**

LEWISTOWN, IL – At Dickson Mounds Museum on Wednesday, May 1, students from Elmwood Elementary School, and on Thursday, May 16 students from Cuba Middle School Community Unit School District #3 will participate in the thirteenth annual Earth Day in the Parks and assist staff with planting a variety of native wildflowers at the museum. This event, sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), is a means to provide students with an opportunity to perform meaningful natural resources stewardship activities.

Through cooperation with the IDNR, Earth Day in the Parks projects allow teachers and students to perform stewardship activities at a local state park or museum.

Students participating in the projects will: 1) Learn the importance of habitat to wildlife; 2) Become shareholders in a natural resources stewardship activity; 3) Be encouraged to return to the park/museum for further study of their work and its effect on wildlife; 4) Take part in a service learning activity; 5) Benefit wildlife directly and the general public indirectly; 6) Learn techniques and skills that can be applied in other locations and circumstances; 7) Gain health benefits from participating in an outdoor activity; 8) Reduce fear of being outdoors; and, 9) Realize that their actions can make a difference in the world.

The events also provide a unified effort within the IDNR to celebrate Earth Day and promote natural resources stewardship.

Plants for the students coming to Dickson Mounds on May 1 and May 16 are provided by the IDNR Mason State Tree Nursery in Topeka. This activity will help improve and expand the outdoor educational aspect of Dickson Mounds. Other EDITP participating sites this spring include Argyle Lake State Park, Clinton Lake State Recreation Area, Fox Ridge State Park, Kickapoo State Recreation Area, Lincoln Trail State Park, Matthiessen State Park, Walnut Point State Park, and Weldon Springs State Park.

The Illinois State Museum-Dickson Mounds is located between Lewistown and Havana off Illinois Routes 78 and 97. The museum is open free to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day. Tours and special programs are available for groups with reservations. For more information call 309-547-3721 or TTY 217-782-9175. Also visit us on Facebook at Illinois State Museum-Dickson Mounds or online at the Dickson Mounds link on the Illinois State Museum website at [www.illinoisstatemuseum.org](http://www.illinoisstatemuseum.org).

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