

NEWS

Champaign County Forest Preserve District
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LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE • HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE • MIDDLE FORK RIVER FOREST PRESERVE
HERON VIEW FOREST PRESERVE • SANGAMON RIVER FOREST PRESERVE • RIVER BEND FOREST PRESERVE • KICKAPOO RAIL TRAIL

Thursday, October 30, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Champaign County Forest Preserves, Urbana Park District, and Urbana School District 116 Unite to Bring Cultural and Environmental Education to Thomas Paine Elementary

Urbana, IL — On Thursday, November 6, the Champaign County Forest Preserves and Urbana Park District will partner with Urbana School District #116 to deliver a day of immersive cultural and environmental education to all students at Thomas Paine Elementary School.

This collaborative initiative aims to inspire young learners to connect with their local environment, discover historical perspectives, and engage with nature in new and exciting ways. Students will engage in three interactive activities led by educators from both the Forest Preserves and the Park District, exploring the history of play, citizen science and local wildlife.

"This partnership shows the power of coming together to support our local schools," said Stacey Clementz, Youth Programs Manager for the Forest Preserves. "By combining resources and expertise, we're helping students see that nature, history, and science are all part of their everyday world. Experiences like this encourage curiosity, creativity, and a deeper connection to the community they live in."

Partnerships like this highlight the incredible things that happen when organizations work together. By helping students learn about the unique history, wildlife, and natural spaces of their area, this program gives them new perspectives, lasting memories, and a deeper appreciation for the place they call home.

For more information, please contact:

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