

What is ECO-Camp?

Eco-Camp is presented to Rock Island County and neighboring-area county schools and home-schooled children in 4th – 6th grades as a hands-on learning field trip opportunity. It is the shared vision of Eco-Camp committee members that programs will provide youth with a basic understanding of environmental ecology and introduce youth to skills for wise natural resource management and use.

Past presenters include representatives from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, University of Illinois Extension Master Naturalists/Gardeners, Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Quad Cities Audubon Society, IDNR, and Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District. Presentation topics can include aquatics and/or fish, soil, watersheds, wetlands, trees, nature hikes, birds, wildlife, prairie, etc.

There are 6 different stations/presentations at each Eco-Camp. After an introduction on conservation, 6 preassigned groups (of 20 – 30 kids) will split up and begin at a different station. Each group will rotate around to each station with each one taking 30 minutes with a 30-minute break for lunch. This event is held outside at Illiniwek Forest Preserve in Hampton, IL from 9am – 2:15pm. Please arrive promptly! This event may be cancelled due to inclement weather.

Partners of the event include University of Illinois Extension and Rock Island County Regional Office of Education. The event is sponsored by QCCA and River Action. This is one of our biggest educational events every year and it's a great example of a broad community partnership and collaboration to foster conservation awareness and appreciation for nature in our youth. This is a free event.

We would love to have your school group attend!