

# TRAVELING SCIENCE CENTER



# I

The Traveling Science Center (TSC) is a 320-square-foot mobile classroom featuring exhibits on biodiversity, natural and cultural resources and environmental stewardship. It travels to schools and communities across Illinois, providing a hands-on educational experience for visitors through interchangeable informational panels, interactive displays, props and handouts.

## The TSC aims to:

- ▶ Promote the mission and research of the Prairie Research Institute, its five State Surveys and the University of Illinois.
- ▶ Provide visitors of all ages with an objective, quality education on natural and cultural resources and environmental stewardship.
- ▶ Foster a connection between families, science and the natural and cultural resources of Illinois.

**EST. 2006**

The TSC program has provided programs for students located in over

**150** Illinois communities

and participated in over

**200** public events

reaching approximately

**300K** people

During its first four years, the TSC operated in northern Illinois. Dedicated staffing for the TSC was funded by a gift from ComEd, part of the Exelon corporation.

In 2010, the vehicle was relocated to Champaign-Urbana to provide programs to communities across central Illinois.





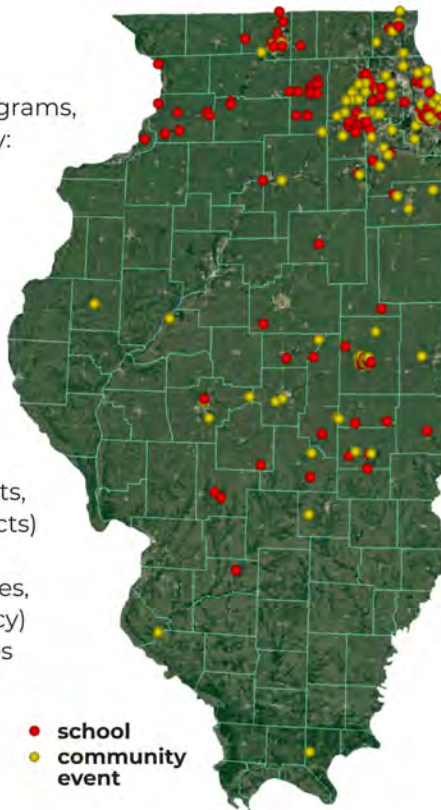
During school programs, students take a scavenger quiz based on grade level. The quizzes are designed to align with science standards and to engage the students while focusing their attention.

## VISITS ACROSS ILLINOIS

The TSC participates in outreach programs, conferences and events organized by:

- ▶ the Prairie Research Institute
- ▶ IL institutions of higher education
- ▶ not-for-profit land stewardship agencies (Prairie Rivers Network)
- ▶ non-government organizations (IL Audubon)
- ▶ nature centers (Anita Purves, Sugar Grove)
- ▶ local land management agencies (soil and water conservation districts, forest preserve districts, park districts)
- ▶ state land management agencies (IL Department of Natural Resources, IL Environmental Protection Agency)
- ▶ federal land management agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- ▶ youth camps (4-H, Boy and Girl Scout camps)
- ▶ Illinois public and private schools

WHERE THE TSC HAS BEEN



● school  
● community event

## FEEDBACK

“This was a fantastic opportunity for our students and one that our teaching team was able to expand on with our hands-on science curriculum.”

– **PRINCIPAL OF BOULDER HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

“Wonderful, engaging displays—presenters were knowledgeable and enthusiastic. The scavenger hunt kept my class enthused and they enjoyed it very much. I was very impressed and I would love for the TSC to visit next year! Well done!”

– **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TEACHER**

“Awesome! Students and teacher really enjoyed learning more about Illinois and wildlife. Great way to present the info.”

– **5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TEACHER**

“It was like having a mini field trip in our own backyard. My class really enjoyed it.”

– **3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE TEACHER**

“This was a wonderful exposure for my students!”

– **2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE TEACHER**

“We got such wonderful feedback from participants about the Traveling Science Center. I wish you were at ALL of our public events!”

– **CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT**