

Take a Child Outside Week

Sept. 21-29,
2013



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You're Invited!

This fall, an exciting new community-wide event will raise awareness about the benefits of nature play for children. To offer children and families many opportunities to get out into nature, the Take A Child Outside Week planning committee is inviting organizations to submit programs or activities in Champaign County for inclusion in this community event's calendar.

The benefits of nature are profound and varied - research suggests that children who play outdoors in nature are more likely to engage in creative play, have healthier body weight, greater capacity for concentration and self-discipline, greater motor skills, are less likely to experience depression, and more likely to grow up to be environmental stewards.

Will you join us? Please see the attached proposal form to find out how to get involved. Visit <http://www.ccfpd.org/childoutside/home.html> for more information.

Other **Take A Child Outside Week** Events:

- Film screening, *Mother Nature's Child*, Sunday, September 22, 2:00 pm, Knight Auditorium at the Spurlock Museum, Urbana (free)
- A **community forum** for scholars, educators, and practitioners to share research about the benefits and best practices for supporting children's nature experiences, Thursday, September 26, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, University of Illinois ARC (\$10/person)
- An evening with **Richard Louv**, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, Thursday, September 26, 7:00 pm, Alice Campbell Alumni Center, Urbana (\$10/person)

We hope you can join us!

Sincerely,

Pam Leiter

"Passion does not arrive on videotape or on a CD; passion is personal. Passion is lifted from the earth itself by the muddy hands of the young; it travels along grass-stained sleeves to the heart. If we are going to save environmentalism and the environment, we must also save an endangered indicator species: the child in nature."

— Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*, 2005