The Traveling Science Center

**History**

The TSC program began in 2006 and has since provided programs for students from over 150 communities in Illinois and participated in over 175 public events reaching approximately 200,000 people.

During the first four years dedicated staffing was funded by a gift from ComEd, part of the Exelon corporation, to operate in northern Illinois.

In 2010, the vehicle was relocated to central Illinois and no longer had dedicated staffing. Despite this, the TSC has attended 30 events and reached over 8,000 Illinois citizens since 2016.

**Goal**

The goal of the Illinois Natural History Survey’s Traveling Science Center (TSC) is to:

- Provide an objective, quality mobile education on natural resources, and environmental stewardship to all ages.
- Foster a connection between families and the natural resources of Illinois.
- Promote the research conducted at the Prairie Research Institute, the individual State Surveys, and the University of Illinois.

The TSC’s goal is achieved by providing visitors a hands-on experience using a stunning display of interchangeable educational panels, interactive displays, props, and handouts. The numerous venues the TSC travels to reaches a broad demographic of Illinois’ population.

Where the TSC Has Been

[Map showing locations of TSC visits]

[Image of TSC interior]

http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/outreach/tsc/
The TSC is invited to programs organized by:

- Illinois public and private schools
- Illinois institutions of higher education
- Not-for-profit land stewardship agencies
- Non-government organizations
- Nature centers
- Local governmental land management agencies
- State-level land management agencies
- Federal-level land management agencies
- Youth camps

This project is an educational initiative for children and adults that fosters respect for the environment. Making this kind of connection with future consumers, voters, public servants, and business leaders at a young age is an essential part of changing the behaviors of the next generation.

Sponsors will be serving the children, families, and neighborhoods of employees, customers, or both. By bringing a high-quality and locally-relevant museum experience to schools across Illinois, the project will strengthen communities, providing special benefits to children in poor and rural school districts that have less access than others to this type of experience.

The project would provide a high-visibility community investment for sponsors. There is room on the outside of the exhibit for acknowledgment of sponsors – sponsor logos will be seen by hundreds of people each time the Traveling Science Center travels across Illinois. Over the course of the project, tens of thousands of children, teachers, parents, and community members would be aware of sponsors’ support for the project.

Benefits to Sponsors

“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!”

- 8th Grade Teacher

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

- 5th Grade Teacher

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

- 3rd Grade Teacher

“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.