



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Visit IDNR at the 2026 Du Quoin State Fair in southern Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) invites fairgoers to experience outdoor adventure and family-friendly activities at the 2026 [Du Quoin State Fair](#) Aug. 28-Sept. 7.

Conservation Village, located near the Exhibition Building, is open 4-8 p.m. weeknights and noon to 8 p.m. weekends. Fairgoers can enjoy the following IDNR activities:

Buy-one-get-one camping coupons

Stop by the IDNR tent to pick up a coupon good for one free night of camping at any IDNR site with the purchase of at least one additional night of camping. Campers can present the coupon as a form of payment at the IDNR campground of their choosing when registering for a campsite. There will be 100 coupons distributed per day. Coupons cannot be accepted online or through IDNR's [reservation system](#). They must be used by Dec. 31, 2026, and only one coupon can be used per camping trip.

Fishing opportunities

IDNR will offer children the opportunity to fish for hybrid bluegill from a 5,000-gallon tank inside the conservation tent. Hours and dates for this activity are:

- Saturday, Aug. 29: 1–3 p.m. and 4–7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 30: 1–3 p.m. and 4–7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 4: 4–7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 5: 1–3 p.m. and 4–7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 6: 1–3 p.m. and 5–7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 7: noon–2 p.m.

In addition, staff will host kids' casting clinics on the 32-acre lake of the fairgrounds daily from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on weekdays and noon to 7:30 p.m. on weekends. And fairgoers can explore the 2,800-gallon see-through aquarium filled with native fish.

Mining and oil well information

The IDNR Office of Mines and Minerals will have materials and staff on hand to help answer questions about coal mines, mine subsidence and mine reclamation in southern Illinois. Children can explore the Rock Box trailer, enjoy a rock dig, and pick up a plastic hard hat.

Conservation Police

The Illinois Conservation Police will have a walk-through education trailer and an air boat on display at Conservation Village. Fairgoers can pick up a copy of the Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations for 2026-2027 and talk with conservation police about hunting, trapping, and fishing regulations.

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About IDNR

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources was established in 1925 as the Illinois Department of Conservation, bringing under one umbrella oversight of fish and game, forestry, public works, and lakes. Today, IDNR's work encompasses management of about 400 sites across Illinois, including state parks and historic sites; wildlife, fisheries, forestry, and natural heritage; Lake Michigan water allocation and coastal management; conservation police; mines and minerals; oil and gas; issuance of licenses, permits, and numerous grants; the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta; and the Illinois State Museum. Visit <https://dnr.illinois.gov> and follow us on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).