



Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer

School District U-46
Educational Services Center
355 E. Chicago Street, Elgin, IL 60120-6543
Tel: 847.888.5000 x5007
Fax: 847.608.4173

U-46.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 31, 2019

Contact: Mary Fergus

Phone: 847-888-5000 x4160

National Biodiversity Teach-In Launches for the Fourth Year

Elgin High School hosts annual webinars for environmental science enthusiasts

ELGIN - Environmental science students from Elgin High School are once again preparing to virtually bring a variety of worldwide experts to the classroom as part of the fourth annual National Biodiversity Teach-In. The Teach-In is a series of 36 free webinars which will feature scientists discussing topics including snow leopards, butterflies, elephants, sharks, soil biodiversity, coral reefs, water conservation, and climate change. The event will also feature six award-winning children's authors who write about nature, science, and our planet.

"I am so proud of the amazing line-up the students and teachers of Elgin High School have put together," said Deb McMullen-Perryman, U-46 Coordinator of K-12 Science and Planetarium. "Students from across U-46 and beyond will have the opportunity to interact with scientists, authors, filmmakers, environmental educators, and heroes."

The webinars first began in 2016 to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity. The 100-year anniversary of the extinction of the passenger pigeon and the [story of Martha](#), the last known living passenger pigeon, increased the students' interest and desire to discuss biodiversity with some of the best experts in the field.

In 2017 and 2018, the event attracted a growing number of environmental science enthusiasts from around the globe. Since the start of the event in 2016, the Teach-In has registered nearly 100,000 participants from 36 states and 19 other nations.

The Elgin High students have scheduled three dozen experts for webinars taking place during the school day and into the late afternoon on Feb. 1, 8, 15, and 22. The speakers will lead a lecture on an environmental topic and leave time for discussion.

The webinars are free and open to the public. The events will be broadcast on the Teach-In website at: www.nationalbiodiversityteachin.com.

Registration is required in advance on the website.

Friday, Feb. 1

Time	Presenter	Topic
8 a.m.	Koustubh Sharma	Working with the Mountain's Ambassador: The Snow Leopards
9 a.m.	Jeffrey Glassberg	The Butterfly Effect
10 a.m.	Lola Schaefer	Thee Surprise and Beauty of Nature, Children's Author
11 a.m.	Dr. Deborah Giles	Southern Resident Killer Whale Research Topics and Techniques
12 p.m.	Patricia Newman	Elephants! How Their Conversation Sparks Conversation
1 p.m.	Joseph Milanovich	Amphibians & Global Change: What Do We Have to Lose?
2 p.m.	Naomi Rose	Beneath the Surface: The Impact of Captivity on the Welfare of Orcas
3 p.m.	Kevin Kurtz	Biodiversity in the Ocean: From Salt



Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer

School District U-46
 Educational Services Center
 355 E. Chicago Street, Elgin, IL 60120-6543
 Tel: 847.888.5000 x5007
 Fax: 847.608.4173

U-46.org

		Marshes to Under the Seafloor
4 p.m.	Tess Krasne	Ocean Conservancy

Friday, Feb. 8

Time	Presenter	Topic
8 a.m.	CeCe Sieffert	Rhino Conservation in Africa & Asia
9 a.m.	Dr. Katharine Hayhoe	Climate Change
10 a.m.	David Shiffman	Shark Biology and Conservation
11 p.m.	Dawn Bazely	Amazing Arctic Plants Above the Treeline
12 p.m.	Leslie Bulion	Superlative Birds! Leaf Litter Critters! Science is Pure Poetry!
1 p.m.	Sandra Postel	How We Can Fix Our Broken Water Cycle
2 p.m.	Elizabeth Bach	Soil Biodiversity
3 p.m.	Cory Suski	Developing New Barriers to Stop the Movement of Invasive Asian
4 p.m.	Eva Hildago	Sea Shepherd- Vaquita Campaign

Friday, Feb. 15

Time	Presenter	Topic
-------------	------------------	--------------



Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer

School District U-46
Educational Services Center
355 E. Chicago Street, Elgin, IL 60120-6543
Tel: 847.888.5000 x5007
Fax: 847.608.4173

U-46.org

8 a.m.	Jon Armbruster	Evolution of Fish
9 a.m.	Jillian Morris	Shark Science & Media
10 a.m.	Melissa Stewart	No Monkeys, No Chocolate Q & A with the Author
11 a.m.	Dr. Kelly Jaakola	Studying Dolphins Up close and Why it Matters
12 p.m.	Zack Rago	Coral
1 p.m.	Dave Vaughan	Coral Restoration
2 p.m.	Ann Froschauer	Batty for Bats
3 p.m.	Jennifer Hopwood	Pollinator Conservation
4 p.m.	Alyssa McCall	Polar Bears in a Warming World

Friday, Feb. 22

Time	Presenter	Topic
8 a.m.	Joy Owens	The Elephant Sanctuary: Home, Herd, Rest and Refuge
9 a.m.	Pam Otto & Lisa O'Brien	Our "Wild" Pets-Canines
10 a.m.	Dr. Timothy Mousseau	Radiation, Mutations and the Chernobyl Zone
11 a.m.	Nancy Castaldo	Back from the Brink: Saving Animals from Extinction
12 p.m.	David Bain	Killer Whales: Why



Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer

School District U-46
Educational Services Center
355 E. Chicago Street, Elgin, IL 60120-6543
Tel: 847.888.5000 x5007
Fax: 847.608.4173

U-46.org

		Endangered Killer Whales Need Help and What We Can Do.
1 p.m.	Dorie Stolley	Egrets to Eagles: Introduction to Wild Bird Identification.
2 p.m.	Donna Nuger	Animal Science
3 p.m.	Tricia Bethke	Trees, Bees & Biodiversity
4 p.m.	Jordan Gray	Transforming Passion for Turtles Into Effective Conservation Action

###

School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the District encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. Nearly 39,000 pre-K through twelfth graders attend the 57 District schools and programs. To learn more, Visit the U-46 [website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).