

School and Community Experiences

# Placement Site Guide

**SPRING 2026**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ILLINOIS**  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

## 4-H

Champaign County University of Illinois Extension  
801 N Country Fair Dr; Champaign, IL

### **Site Supervisor:**

Allison Pratt [pratt11@illinois.edu](mailto:pratt11@illinois.edu)

Mynda Tracy [mynda@illinois.edu](mailto:mynda@illinois.edu)

### **Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

- Training on positive youth development, classroom management, ages/stages, adapting lessons, and the Experiential Learning Model.
- Adapt youth lessons to the appropriate age level.
- Teach/assist in facilitating adapted hands-on lessons.

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**Volunteer Hours:** Various programming during the school day in partnership with local schools, as well as options for after-school programming and occasional weekend workshops. We will work with you to place you in programs that work with your school schedule.

**Training Sessions:** We will schedule a training/orientation before the beginning of the in-school/after-school programming. This will take between 4 and 6 hours and will take place at the Champaign County Extension Office. Dates for the training will be set once students have selected their site placements.

Unit 4 requires background checks, as well as some of our other partner sites. A short orientation may also be needed at certain sites.

**Tentative Schedule and Planned Activities:** Monday- Friday, with potential weekends. Some activities may include: STEAM, robotics, cooking, drones, college and career readiness, photography, and gardening.

**Projected number of openings:** 6 students

**Children's Programming  
Family & Graduate Housing**

510 George Huff Drive, Urbana IL 61801

[Orchard Downs Preschool | University Housing | UIUC \(illinois.edu\)](http://Orchard Downs Preschool | University Housing | UIUC (illinois.edu))

**Site Supervisor:**

Hannah King [hrking@illinois.edu](mailto:hrking@illinois.edu)

**Kids Club After School Program**



**Student Affairs**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**Kids Club After School Program**

**Mission Statement**

University Housing cultivates a safe space for the Illinois community to achieve its full human and academic potential. We are unified in purpose: to create memorable experiences and valued services.

**Non-Discriminatory Policy**

It is the policy of the University of Illinois to not engage in discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, order of protection status, genetic information, marital status, disability, sexual orientation including gender identity, unfavorable discharge from the military or status as a protected veteran and will comply with all federal and state nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action laws, orders and regulations. This nondiscrimination policy applies to admissions, employment, access to and treatment in the University programs and activities.

**Program Description**

The Kids' Club after school program offers social, recreational, and educational activities to elementary school age students of University Housing apartments. We provide a safe and fun environment for students to interact, grow, and develop.

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

- Work with diverse international demographics of children and families.
- Provides interactions with school age children through our programming to celebrate culture.
- Assistance in implementing heritage lessons to promote a sense of belonging for international children.

- Work in collaboration with other entities of campus partners to bring representation to different cultures.
- Be creative and engaging through interactive lessons that include hands on arts/crafts, dance and music.
- Assist in our semester events that include celebrating culture event and Spring Talent Show
- Opportunities to practice professionalism and experience a childcare setting of multiage children.

**Volunteer Hours:**

\*Follows the University of Illinois Academic Schedule for days off and breaks

| FGH Children's Program  | Operational Schedule              | Program Location  |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Kids Club After School Program<br>School Age Children<br>Grades Kindergarten-5 <sup>th</sup> Grades<br><br>*Take in account Urbana School District days off w/ U of I academic calendar | Operates M-F from 3:00 pm-5:30 pm | Orchard Downs Community Center<br>510 George Huff Drive, Urbana, IL 61801 |

**Requirements:**

Background Check

**Projected number of openings:**

Unlimited

## **Community Programs – Urbana Park District**

505 W. Stoughton St. Urbana, IL

<http://www.urbanaparks.org/about-us/mission/>

### **Site Supervisor:**

Katie Bickers [kmbickers@urbanaparks.org](mailto:kmbickers@urbanaparks.org)

217-367-1544

**Urbana Park District (UPD)** manages 22 parks and natural areas, as well as several facilities. UPD offers our community a wide variety of opportunities year-round including outreach programs, fitness/wellness, community/arts, sports/athletics, nature/environmental and school/afterschool programs.

**Youth/family Programs:** Under the supervision of the Community Outreach and Wellness Coordinator, the program leaders assist in recreational and educational programs around the community including a select number of Urbana schools.

Children and families participate in activities often falling under one of the following themes: Music, Art, Sports, Nature, Food, Construction, Literacy, Science, or Dance.

**Volunteer Hours:** There are several volunteer opportunities throughout the semester. Programs include schools out camps (select Mondays and Fridays AM-PM), kids cooking programs, teen programs (select Fridays PM), toddler play groups (bi-weekly Thursdays AM) and family programs. Expect most hours to be varied. In addition, UPD is the recipient of an ISBE grant for the 2026 spring semester to provide after school programs at primary and secondary schools in Urbana for the following dates/times- Tuesdays 3/3:30-5:30, Wednesdays 2:30/3-5:30 and Thursdays 3/3:30-5:30.

**Requirements:** Complete a volunteer information form and agree to a background check after being assigned to this community placement. Volunteers are expected to give timely communication with the site coordinator if they will be missing a volunteer shift.

**Projected number of openings:** 8 students

## DREAAM

2009 Fox Drive Suite C, Champaign, IL 61820  
[www.dream.org](http://www.dream.org)

**Site Supervisor:**

Anthony Taylor, DREAAM Executive Associate  
Email: [volunteer@dreaam.org](mailto:volunteer@dreaam.org)

**DREAAM** Serving over 200 PreK through 12th grade students this fall, DREAAM is a community impact organization with the mission to reach, teach and empower youth and their families with a targeted focus on Black males. DREAAM stands for Driven to Reach Excellence and Academic Achievement for Males, and the primary aim is to:

- increase positive outcomes—academic achievement, mental health, college and career readiness
- decrease negative outcomes—suspensions, drop-out rates, violence

Dream Big! is the organization's college and career readiness program designed to provide STEM education, mentoring, social emotional learning, sports, and social connectedness.

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

- providing in-person learning support through tutoring, homework help, literacy enrichment, small-group social emotional learning, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) skills
- creating enrichment activities and academic intervention plans under the supervision of a licensed teacher

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**Volunteer Hours:** Based on EDU 201 student's availability (various opportunities available afterschool, evenings, and Saturdays in locations on and off campus)

**Requirements:** We have a tutoring training PowerPoint and program orientation.

**Projected number of openings:** 8-10 students

**Environmental Outreach Programs**  
**Anita Purves Nature Center / Urbana Park District**  
1505 N. Broadway Avenue, Urbana IL 61801  
<https://www.urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs/>

**Site Supervisor:** Connor Ross

**Email:** [cjross@urbanaparks.org](mailto:cjross@urbanaparks.org)

**Phone:** 217-384-4062 ext. 358

**Urbana Park District (UPD)** manages 22 parks and natural areas, as well as several facilities. **Anita Purves Nature Center** is a nature museum and environmental education facility open free to the public. The center features hands-on exhibits and offers programs for local classrooms and the public. Staff facilitate programs at various natural areas in the district as well as off-site programs in local schools, with community organizations and more.

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

**FRESH Crew:** Under the supervision of the Environmental Services and Outreach Coordinator, in collaboration with our Natural Areas Manager and a Teen Program Supervisor, the park district offers a volunteer stewardship program aimed at ages 12-18. This program offers volunteer hours they can claim for school, extracurriculars, Scouts, etc. FRESH Crew focuses on maintaining our natural areas, rotating through the Park District and meeting twice a month. Participants help to control invasive plants, gather seeds and plant natives, pick up trash, help with trail maintenance, and listen to guest speakers on occasion.

**Teen Hangout Zone:** The park district offers a free after-school program once a month, aimed at ages 12-18, typically at the Phillips Recreation Center. Teens are encouraged to spend time on any number of available activities, which can include arts and crafts, a nail painting station, using provided laptops or playing video games on provided consoles, enjoying a fire outdoors, meeting educational ambassador animals from the Anita Purves Nature Center, and more. Snacks and drink are provided. This program is also incorporated with the annual 3v3 Basketball Tournament for teens, held at the Health and Wellness Center.

**Requirements:** EDUC 201 students who would like to work with the Urbana Park District will need to complete a volunteer information form and agree to a background check, after being assigned to this community placement. In addition, those wanting to volunteer with the afterschool programs will need to be fingerprinted with the Urbana School District. Orientation/training sessions are available for the above volunteer opportunities. Volunteers must be able to travel to the sites.

**Projected number of openings:** 2-3

**Forest School**

**Anita Purves Nature Center / Urbana Park District**

1505 N. Broadway Avenue, Urbana IL 61801

[urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs](http://urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs)

**Site Supervisor:**

Sreelakshmi Suresh

[ssuresh@urbanaparks.org](mailto:ssuresh@urbanaparks.org)

217-384-4062 ext. 361

**Urbana Park District** manages 22 parks and natural areas, as well as several facilities. UPD offers our community a wide variety of opportunities year-round including outreach programs, fitness/wellness, community/arts, sports/athletics, nature/environmental, and school/afterschool programs. **Anita Purves Nature Center** is a nature museum and environmental education facility open free to the public. The center features hands-on exhibits and offers programs for local classrooms and the general public. Outside the center is the Friendship Grove Nature Playscape and the trailhead to the Busey Woods natural area.

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

**Forest School:** Under the supervision of the Environmental Public Program Coordinator, the Forest School program leaders develop and teach environmental education programs at the Friendship Grove Nature Playscape and Busey Woods (both locations outside, next to the Anita Purves Nature Center). Participant fees fund these programs.

Children age 6-12 years participate in this drop-off program each Wednesday from 1:15-4:15pm, February 4 – May 29 (2026). Forest School themes are emergent—depending on current events in nature and the interests of the students—yet may include topics such as fire building and safety, outdoor cooking, making/working with tools, and creative problem solving.

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**Volunteer Hours:** Volunteers will work as many Wednesdays as possible to meet their hour requirement. Volunteers can sign up to work from ~12:45-5:00pm (for the full duration of the program) or from ~2:30-5:00pm (to assist primarily with snack time and cleanup).

**Requirements:** complete a volunteer information form and agree to a background check, after being assigned to this community placement. Orientation/training sessions may be required for the above volunteer opportunity.

**Projected number of openings:** 2-3

**Girls Go For It**  
301 W Green St Urbana, IL  
**Volunteer Site: Urbana Neighborhood Connection Center**  
**1401 E Main St, Urbana, IL**  
<http://www.girlsgoforit.com/>

**Site Supervisor:**

Javaite Burton [girlsgoforitinfo@gmail.com](mailto:girlsgoforitinfo@gmail.com)

**Girls go For It (GGFI)** is an after-school program dedicated to educating and empowering young girls from local schools and/or community partners. Our mission is to develop the leadership potential, entrepreneurial spirit, and professional abilities of young girls through building confidence, knowledge, and creating opportunity. The leadership gap in the professional world between men and women is no secret; statistics show girls are discouraged from speaking in class and are more likely to be interrupted. Through directed professional leadership training, we will give young girls the foundation they need to bridge that gap and use their voice as an avenue to advocate.

GGFI's curriculum is focused on self-confidence, empowerment, challenges women face, entrepreneurship, and career building. Activities for the girls include team building, discussions, presentations, and more.

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

**GGFI Coach:** Our coaches will receive training and support to be a successful coach, mentor, and leader. They will collaborate with other coaches to create the best environment for the girls. Coaches will teach lessons based-off of a set curriculum (both in English or Spanish). This experience will allow coaches to utilize and continue to develop public speaking skills and facilitation skills. The coaches will also have opportunities to develop new activities and discussion topics for future Girls Go For It classes. We are looking for EDUC 201 students who are creative and excited to engage with young girls at local schools or community partner locations. This experience should appeal to students interested in public service education, program planning, mentorship and advocacy, and social justice issues/activism in education.

As this is an educational and empowerment program for girls, we are specifically interested in obtaining female coaches from EDUC 201. Providing our students with strong female role models/mentors is at the cornerstone of our mission and program objectives.

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**Volunteer Hours:** Must commit to **Wednesdays 3:30-5pm**. These times may vary slightly and any additional days will be determined at a later time.

**Requirements:** There will be mandatory training for coaches before the program begins. Training sessions may be in-person or virtual with exact dates/times to be determined.

**Projected number of openings:** 10 (female participants only) and bi-lingual a plus.

**Girls on the Run of Champaign County**

Stephens Family YMCA

2501 Fields S. Drive, Champaign, IL 61822

[Grlsontherunofchampaigncounty.org](http://Grlsontherunofchampaigncounty.org)

**Site Supervisor:**

Kim Clemons

[Kim.clemons@girlsontherun.org](mailto:Kim.clemons@girlsontherun.org)

**Girls on the Run** is an after-school program designed for girls in grades 3-5. We are a physical activity-based positive youth development program designed to enhance girls' social, emotional and physical skills and behaviors to successfully navigate life experiences. The program's intentional curriculum places an emphasis on developing competence, confidence, connection, character, caring and contribution in young girls through lessons that incorporate running and other physical activities. Teams meet at various schools in Unit 4, or at the Stephens Family YMCA

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

- Coaches will be leading participants through a practice twice a week. They will be provided with all materials and curriculum necessary. Practices include discussion, activities, and physical activity.

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**Volunteer Hours:** Teams will meet either on Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday each week for 10 weeks. Practice times vary per site, but all are about 1 ½ hours long.

**Requirements:** All volunteers must complete online training (~5 hours), in-person training (~3 hours), and fill out a background check form and be fingerprinted if necessary. (All costs are handled by the Stephens Family YMCA, so no cost to the students)

**Projected number of openings:** 12

**GLOBE**  
<https://go.illinois.edu/GLOBE>

**Site Supervisors:**

Rebecca Hodson [rhodson1@illinois.edu](mailto:rhodson1@illinois.edu)

Welcome to the University of Illinois! Want to make your Illinois experience especially memorable? We are excited to invite you to join **GLOBE!** GLOBE stands for Global Leaders Orange and Blue Engagement. The program offers you an opportunity to make connections with domestic and international students to build these friendships throughout the semester.

**You will want to participate if you:**

- Are a current student at U of I (domestic or international)
- Have a sincere interest in sharing one's culture and building relationships
- Have an interest in getting involved in campus life
- Want to develop intercultural communication and leadership skills

GLOBE participants can at any point in the semester select one or more of four "tracks" to focus on:

- Intercultural Communication
- Leadership in a Global Context
- Service & Sustainability
- Resiliency & Well-Being

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**Volunteer Hours:** Meet & Greet **Sunday, February 8, 11a-2p** at Siebel Center for Design (1208 S. 4th St Champaign). At the Meet & Greet you will form your cohort. GLOBE participants will then be invited to a Canvas open learning space to keep track of their progress toward membership by completing required activities and reflections.

**Requirements:** GLOBE participants will need to meet with their cohort throughout the semester, attend other IE and campus programs and events, and complete some reflections and brief activities in a Canvas learning space to secure membership by the end of the semester.

**Projected number of openings:** 10 students

**The Holocaust Education Center of Champaign Urbana Jewish Federation and Illini Hillel**

Cohen Center for Jewish Life

503 E. John St., Champaign, IL 61820 <http://www.circleoffriendsadc.net/>

**Site Supervisor:**

Brian Kahn [briankah@uis.edu](mailto:briankah@uis.edu)

217-369-5039 (cell)

**The Holocaust Education Center and Illini Hillel at the University of Illinois** would like to offer EDUC 201 students a unique opportunity to advance their understanding of teaching about the Holocaust and genocide, to learn skills required for addressing issues of the Holocaust and genocide in the classroom and be provided with the opportunity (tentative) to participate and plan Holocaust Remembrance activities in conjunction with commemoration of Yom Hashoah in April. This opportunity is intended to be useful for students in exploring Holocaust and genocide education, while learning the skills of implementing state mandated instruction.

**The students participating in this project will:**

- Become familiar with the **Illinois State Mandate** for instruction about the Holocaust and genocide.
- Become familiar with the proven methodology for teaching about the Holocaust and genocide (including outlines and guidelines).
- Become familiar with various local and national resources available for implementing Holocaust and genocide methodology.
- Be exposed to the workings of a local volunteer organization and how it functions, including hearing local survivor stories.
- Prepare short presentations on **resistance and rescue efforts** during the Holocaust to share with the group and possibly select classrooms in this area via Zoom (upon request).

**IMPORTANT: Attendance Policy**

Due to the nature of this experience, **we are asking you to commit to all of the Tuesday in-person sessions. We will not be able to repeat or recreate any of these sessions.** Your attendance and participation will be required for you to complete this volunteer experience. **Emergency conflicts and/or illness will be the only exception.** We understand that this requirement may present challenges for one or more of you; that is just the nature of university scheduling and of this experience.

**If you cannot commit to all of the sessions, you may want to consider a different volunteer experience in which you can create your own schedule.** We sincerely hope that each of you will be able to join us this semester for this experience but understand the many demands on your time outside of the classroom.

In person sessions will be held on the following dates:

**Tuesdays, February 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, 24; April 14, 21, 28; May 5**

Please let me know if you have questions. Feel free to call or email me (cell number and email address above). I will be sharing additional information outlining the content for each session soon.

[The Holocaust Education Center (part of **Champaign Urbana Jewish Federation – Dana More, Interim Executive Director**) is staffed with experienced volunteers that have taught Holocaust curriculum in area schools and academic settings for several decades. They will provide the information, along with selected guest speakers, at most meetings which will be conducted via Zoom or in-person at the Cohen Center for Jewish Life (on UUC campus). Members of the Holocaust Education Center will team up with **Erez Cohen, Executive Director of Hillel**, to provide informational background to the Holocaust and assist students with the planning in conjunction with the various events and activities.]

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**Volunteer Hours:** All in-person meetings will be held on Tuesdays, in early evening hours, 5-7 PM, with dinner provided. Please alert me if you have food requirements. Additional times will be scheduled based on event and student availability.

**Projected number of openings:** 15-20 students

**Hope Center Free Food Pantry**

1500 + 1802 N Lincoln Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

<http://www.thevineyardchurch.us/community/ministries/hope-center/>

**Site Supervisor:**

Paula Barickman

[paula.barickman@tvc.us](mailto:paula.barickman@tvc.us)

Juan Morales

[juan.morales@tvc.us](mailto:juan.morales@tvc.us)

**Hope Center Free Food Pantry** is an outreach of the Vineyard Church of Central Illinois, meets basic food needs for all Champaign County residents. Individuals and families may visit the pantry once a week to receive groceries free of charge: canned goods or boxed foods, fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy and meats are regularly available. Help sign in at 1500 N. Lincoln as well as help fill carts, load cars and serve walk-up clients at 1802 N. Lincoln.

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

Students will assist with serving families on Wednesdays from 9:45 am – 12:15 pm or 4:15- 6:15 pm. Includes drive through services.

These opportunities should appeal to students interested in food and social justice, education policy, and community organizing.

Language Note: We refer to the community members we serve as clients, guests, or families.

**Volunteer Hours:** Wednesday serving the public from 9:45 am – 12:15 pm or 4:15-6:15 pm

**Training:** The Hope Center Food Market training will be one on one with a more experienced volunteer. Students must fill out their application in addition to the EDUC 201 application. <https://www.hopecenter.us/get-involved>

**Projected number of openings:** 10 students

**International Education**  
1210 W Nevada St, Urbana, IL 61801  
&  
Room 222, The University YMCA, 1001 S. Wright St. Champaign  
<https://internationaled.illinois.edu>

**Site Supervisors:**

Dr. Yun Shi [yunshi@illinois.edu](mailto:yunshi@illinois.edu)

Rebecca Hodson [rhodson1@illinois.edu](mailto:rhodson1@illinois.edu)

**International Education** is a unit under Student Success, Inclusion and Belonging (SSIB) of Student Affairs. It is housed within Asian American Cultural Center and the University Y. IE offers programs and events throughout the year to support students, international and domestic. IE's mission is - To embrace world cultures and global perspectives, engage international and domestic students, and empower all students with global learning opportunities through co-curricular activities and programs. Its vision is to provide transformative learning experience to nurture world citizens and future leaders in local and global contexts.

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

- Participating in cultural events
- Interacting with students of different backgrounds
- Developing intercultural communication skills
- Exploring identities and self-awareness
- Enhancing global perspectives
- Honing customer service skills
- Assisting program/event logistics

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**Volunteer Hours:** Volunteers can choose flexible/ shorter/rotating shifts, depending on students' schedules.

**Requirements:** There will be on-site training and no background check is required.

**Projected number of openings:** 2-3 students

**iRead • iCount**

<https://www.champaigncounty.org/iread-icount/>

**Site Supervisor:**

Cheryl Barringer [ireadcount@champaigncounty.org](mailto:ireadcount@champaigncounty.org)

**iRead • iCount** is a community program that organizes volunteers to work with kindergarten and first grade students on literacy and math skills. For one hour a week, over nine weeks, volunteers help students who need additional practice to develop and reinforce basic skills that are crucial for academic success. The iRead Program is offered in the spring and the iCount Program is offered in the fall at Urbana elementary schools.

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

Students will volunteer in kindergarten and first grade classrooms in the Urbana School District. Students will work with one student at a time for 10-15 minutes but will see four to six students in one hour. Volunteers go to the same classroom at the same time each week and usually see the same students. This spring's iRead Program focuses on reading skills. EDUC 201 students will gain experience working one-on-one with students in the primary grades.

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**Volunteer Hours:** All volunteer timeslots will be on Monday-Friday, during the school day. The students get to choose their school, the day of the week, and their timeslots from a list of times that are provided by classroom teachers. There is a lot of flexibility for volunteers to choose timeslots that work for their schedules as there are timeslots in the morning, in the middle of the day, and in the afternoon. EDUC 201 students can reach 20 hours by volunteering multiple times each week. iRead volunteers will work with students between March 3 and May 8, 2026. The iRead Program will not operate during the week of Spring Break.

**Requirements:** Volunteers will need to complete a volunteer application and send it to the Urbana School District once they receive their EDUC 201 placement. The Urbana School District will then complete a background check on all volunteers because they work directly with students. (Detailed information on how to complete the volunteer application and background check will be emailed to students once they receive their EDUC 201 placement.) Volunteers will also be given information on how to select and sign up for their volunteer timeslots in classrooms. On February 23 volunteers will be trained on the activities that they will do with students and will be oriented to their building's sign-in procedures, location of program materials, where they will work with students, etc.

**\*Students must be available for the in-person orientation/training meeting at the College of Education in Room 22 on Monday, February 23 at 4 pm. Students should bring a computer to the meeting.**

**Projected number of openings:** Unlimited

**Reading Rally After School Program**  
**Urbana School District #116**  
2501 Windsor Rd, Champaign, IL 61822  
<https://www.windsorroad.org/free-food-store>

**Site Supervisor:**

Tonya Dieken  
[tdieken@usd116.org](mailto:tdieken@usd116.org) 217-384-3527

**Reading Rally ASP** offers students an extended day for learning and enrichment activities. The program meets three times a week, provides students with a snack, transportation, homework support, intervention activities and enrichment. Volunteers will be providing homework support, activity supervision, and educational work with students in grades 2-5

**Participating Schools:**

**Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Elementary**  
1108 Fairview Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

**Dr. Preston L. Williams Jr. Elementary**  
2102 E Washington St, Urbana, IL 61802

**Thomas Paine Elementary**  
1401 James Cherry Dr, Urbana, IL 61802

**Yankee Ridge Multilingual Elementary**  
2102 S Anderson, Urbana, IL 61801

**Urbana Middle School**  
1201 S Vine St, Urbana, IL 61801

**Urbana Sixth Grade Center**  
1602 S Anderson St, Urbana, IL 61801

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**Volunteer Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3 – 4:30 pm (pick your days)

**Requirements:** The district will provide orientation and training. Background checks will need to be conducted prior to work with students.

**Projected number of openings:** 4 students per building

## Salt & Light

1819 South Philo Road, Urbana, IL 61802

[www.saltandlightministry.org](http://www.saltandlightministry.org)

**Site Supervisor:** Lisa Sheltra

**Email:** [lisa@saltandlightministry.org](mailto:lisa@saltandlightministry.org)

**Phone:** 217-355-5654

**Salt & Light** is a community-development-based poverty alleviation organization that operates non-profit grocery and thrift stores. The stores work on a participant-based payment option that allows people experiencing financial hardship to earn store credit through volunteering. Participants also take part in classes and educational activities, and small affinity group meetings as part of their program. Thrift and grocery store revenue provides economic support for programs.

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

- **Thrift store**—stocking, staging, rotating, and quality control of inventory and presentation in the thrift store
- **Processing**—working alongside participants and staff to sort, process, and price donated items for resale.
- **Course Allies**—attending classes and educational activities as supportive co-participants; **LIMITED OPENINGS**, so students need to express interest early

These opportunities should appeal to students interested in food security, dignity-based poverty alleviation efforts, and personal and community development.

**Volunteer Hours:** *Preferred thrift store and processing volunteer hours are Monday – Friday between 9 am – 3 pm.* Other hours are available Monday – Friday 3pm - 8pm, Saturdays 9 am – 8 pm, and on Sundays from 11am - 5pm. Course Ally times will depend on program schedules.

**Training Session:** Students must attend one of Salt & Light's regular weekly volunteer orientations, Mondays from 12-1pm or Thursdays from 6-7pm.

**Transportation:** Off-campus site accessible by car or MTD. There is ample free parking on site. If using MTD, you may plan your route with MTD's most current information at <https://mtd.org/maps-and-schedules/plan-trip/>

**Projected number of openings:** 20-50+

**SOAR**

2001 Garden Hills Dr. Champaign, IL  
61821

**Site Supervisors:**

Mackenzie Gillespie

[dankle@illinois.edu](mailto:dankle@illinois.edu)

**SOAR** is an after-school program directed at Latina/o bilingual student in grades 3-8. They are looking for student volunteers interested in learning more about the local community, participating in a program that promotes positive cross-cultural understanding, and in being tutors, mentors, and positive role models for children.

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

- Assisting the children with reading and homework completion

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**Volunteer Hours:** The program takes place from 2:45-4:15pm every Tuesday and Thursday at Garden Hills Academy. Students can attend either or both days.

**Requirements:** Spanish-speaking skills are helpful but not required. Unit 4 background check required.

**Projected number of openings:** 20

## **Tutoring at Urbana School District**

**Site Supervisor:**

Lisa Mosley [lmosley@usd116.org](mailto:lmosley@usd116.org)

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

- Tutoring
- Homework help

**Leal Elementary School**

*312 W Oregon St, Urbana, IL 61801*

**Volunteer Hours:** 3:15 – 5 pm, Monday – Friday (pick your days)

**Requirements:** Background check and site orientation

**Projected number of openings:** 5 students

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## Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign

309 W. Green St, Urbana, IL 61801

<http://uucuc.org/>

### Site Supervisor:

Kelly Skinner [religious-exploration@uucuc.org](mailto:religious-exploration@uucuc.org)

217-384-8862

UUCUC is a liberal, inclusive religious community coming together in love to support each other as we seek spiritual growth, connection, and more fulfilled lives through our actions together to create a more just, compassionate, and equitable world.

A liberal religious voice on the Urbana community for more than 160 years, we are diverse in our faith, our backgrounds, and our beliefs. We have no creeds. We welcome everyone regardless of age, sexual orientation, race, gender identity and expression, abilities, or theology. We offer a community of faith that recognizes the interconnected web of life and calls us to make a difference for each other and in the world. We strive to support each other in living our values in a challenging and fast-changing world.

Our mission is to... Build Community. Seek Inspiration. Promote Justice. Find Peace.

### Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:

**CLASSROOM ASSISTANT (Early Childhood/Elementary):** This position typically works with infants through age 8 but may be asked to work with children up to age 12. It works with adult staff and volunteers on Sunday mornings in one of three age-specific classrooms: infants to 5 years old, PreK-K classroom, or grades 1-3. Play, storytelling, crafts, and conversation help provide engaging learning and social experiences in these rooms.

#### Duties may include:

- Caring for and playing with children, soothing children, changing diapers, bottle feeding, serving snacks, and communicating with parents.
- Coming up with, preparing for, or leading age-appropriate crafts and activities.
- Parent communication/Sign-in and sign-out.
- Setting up or cleaning/disinfecting learning spaces.
- Coming up with, preparing for, or leading age-appropriate crafts and activities.
- Occasionally provide childcare for evening or weekend events such as our Saturday morning Parent Support Group, Parent's Night Out, Playground Playdates, or church meetings and events.

**Volunteer Hours:** On-site Sunday mornings between 9:30-11:30 am and various evenings or weekend events.

**Requirements:** Previous experience in early childhood education or working with infants or toddlers is preferred. Must be able to pass a background check.

**Projected number of openings:** 8

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**CLASSROOM ASSISTANT (Middle and High School):** This position typically works with youth in 4th through 8th grade or high school. They may occasionally help with childcare for kids between 5 and 12 years old. This position works with adult volunteers on Sunday mornings in a mixed middle school classroom or with the high school youth group. These groups play games, build community, do service activities, and engage in conversation to create engaging learning and social experiences.

Duties may include:

- Helping facilitate conversation and get-to-know-you
- Preparing for or leading age-appropriate activities
- Parent communication/Sign-in and sign-out.
- Setting up or cleaning up learning spaces
- Occasionally provide childcare for evening or weekend events such as our Saturday morning Parent Support Group, Parent's Night Out, Playground Playdates, or church meetings and events.

**Volunteer Hours:** On-site Sunday mornings between 9:30-11:30 am and various evenings or weekend events.

**Requirements:** Previous experience working with teens or tweens. Desire/comfort level to initiate and sustain conversations and relationships with middle school and high school youth. Must be able to pass a background check.

**Projected number of openings:** 8

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**PROGRAM ASSISTANT:** Assist the Director of Faith Development in administrative tasks related to carrying out the regular program for children, youth, and adults.

Duties may include:

- Supporting classes including lesson planning, gathering supplies, making sample crafts, and making copies.
- Creating bulletin boards
- Writing newsletter articles, creating resource lists, and other parent/family communication
- Planning, gathering materials, and working at programs for children & families
- Data entry for weekly class attendance
- Occasionally provide childcare for evening or weekend events such as our Saturday morning Parent Support Group, Parent's Night Out, Playground Playdates, or church meetings and events.

**Volunteer Hours:** Regular weekly office time (pick your hours) Tuesday through Friday between 9 am and 6 pm, occasional evening or weekend events

**Projected number of openings:** 6

**University Primary School**  
2202 Kirk Drive, Champaign, IL  
<https://uniprimary.illinois.edu/>

**Site Supervisor:**

Dr. Alisha (Ali) Lewis, Principal  
[alilewis@illinois.edu](mailto:alilewis@illinois.edu)  
217-333-3996

**University Primary School** is a Prek-5th grade Reggio Emilia inspired lab school where children and staff are engaged in creative, challenging, and meaningful curricular inquiries informed by Common Core Standards. Our school has been The College of Education's lab school for 50+ years. Located here on campus, we enjoy the intellectual resources of our amazing University, model recommended practices in education, work with student teachers and volunteers from a myriad of programs, and we are a hub for collaborations across campus and in the Champaign- Urbana community. Volunteers will support small groups of children during the school day or after school, working alongside teachers.

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

- Working alongside school teachers in their classrooms on tasks and activities with children.
- Supporting children's play in the afterschool setting.
- Materials organizing and sorting.
- Library book organizing, stickering, and sorting.
- Outdoor playground work, resetting spaces and materials.
- Copying and collecting materials/manipulatives as directed by teachers.
- Working with Ali Lewis (school director) to plan and support a few evening Family Events

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**Volunteer Hours:** School days Monday-Friday between 8:00 AM-3:00 PM or afterschool 2:45-5:45 PM; volunteers should plan on a 2-3-hour block of weekly, consistent time(s).

Uni Primary is composed of young children for whom reliable and consistent relationships are important. Therefore, a consistent weekly volunteer schedule that covers the duration of the academic semester is expected. **If you agree to volunteer with us, you are expected to volunteer weekly through the end of the semester, likely exceeding your EDUC 201 minimum hours.**

**Requirements:** Students are required to complete an online orientation prior to volunteering. Volunteers will be required to pass a fingerprint background check and any other necessary background checks prior to beginning volunteering. The cost of the background check will be paid by the school.

**Projected number of openings:** 15-20 students

**Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center**

1401 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802

<https://www.urbanaconnectionscenter.org/>

**Site Supervisor:**

Jeniece Mitchell / Laura Parks

[jeniece@urbanaconnectionscenter.org](mailto:jeniece@urbanaconnectionscenter.org)

217-954-1749

**Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center** is a community center for families and an after school academically oriented program for children primarily from the Urbana School District. UNCC provides in-person services for kindergarten through high school youth 3:00-6:00 p.m. daily during the school year working on academic, recreational, STEAM, mentoring, and life skills.

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

- Assisting with homework for students from kindergarten through high school
- Tutoring students in kindergarten through middle school
- Reading intervention for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade
- Assisting activity leaders in group activities

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**Volunteer Hours:** 3:15 – 5:45 pm Monday through Friday (pick your day)

**Requirements:** UI students will have an orientation before starting. The site supervisor will be available for assistance on some days. Background checks are required and will be arranged and paid for by the Center.

**Projected number of openings:** 5 students

**The Well Experience**  
1803 Philo Rd, Urbana, IL 61802  
<https://www.thewellexperience.org/>

**Site Supervisor:**

Stephanie Cockrell [scockrell@thewellexperience.org](mailto:scockrell@thewellexperience.org)  
217-530-0147

**The Well Experience – Well Kids Learning Hub** provides after-school programming for K - 12th grade youth with a focus on closing the achievement gap for Black children.

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

We will train volunteers to facilitate culturally relevant math and reading sessions with the support of the classroom leaders. The Well Experience welcomes after-school program staff to help us meet these goals. The after school program will focus heavily on math, reading, literacy, and writing. We need people who are willing to work individually with students to help them with homework and structured interactive activities to help with these core subjects.

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**Volunteer Hours:** Pick your days/times:

After school hours: Monday - Friday, 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm

**Requirements:** Volunteers are required to pass a DCFS Background Check and will be trained on Cultural Competency, Trauma Basics, PRIDE Reading, and IXL Math.

**Projected number of openings:** 10 after school openings

**Windsor Road Free Food Store**  
2501 Windsor Rd, Champaign, IL 61822  
<https://www.windsorroad.org/free-food-store>

**Site Supervisor:**

Michelle Santiago [msantiago@windsorroad.org](mailto:msantiago@windsorroad.org)

**Windsor Road Christian Church Free Food Store** - This ministry is designed to assist families during difficult times by organizing food, information, and support for community survival and dignity. Our community shopping hours allow time for shoppers from our congregation and community to select their own items from our Free Food Store.

**Opportunities for EDUC 201 students include:**

- Restock shelves, organization, assist shoppers, setup/clean-up.

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**Volunteer Hours:**

- 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 10:30am-12:30pm for food deliveries
- Weekly on Thursdays from 2:30-6:30 for Thursday Food Shopping
- 1st, 3rd, 5th Tuesdays for Food Organization
- 1st Saturday from 10am-3pm for 1st Saturday Food Shopping

**Requirements:** 30 minute orientation on-site your first day.

**Projected number of openings:** 5