

2025 Arbor Day Celebration Summary

The 2025 Arbor Day Celebration at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign took place on Friday, April 25, 2025, in recognition of the University's achievement of Tree Campus designation by the Arbor Day Foundation. The event was held at noon on the South Quad, to the west of the ACES Library, where a new tree was planted.



The celebration began with a welcome from Cheryl Bicknell, followed by the reading of a Joint Arbor Day Proclamation by Lowa Mwilambwe. Afterward, Ryan Pankau, Horticulture Educator with the U. of I. Extension, delivered a brief speech on trees and their importance. Following the speech, attendees participated in the ceremonial planting of the Arbor Day tree.



The event was both interactive and educational, featuring tabling groups from various campus organizations and sustainability initiatives, including Facilities & Services, the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment, the Illinois Student Council, the Red Oak Rain Garden, the Association of Student Landscape Architects, and the Beekeeping Club. These groups were present from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.





Preparations included a pre-dug hole and the placement of the tree earlier that Friday morning. Event equipment such as a podium, sound system, and tables were arranged by 11:30 a.m. The official event program ran from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., with takedown occurring in the early afternoon. Publicity for the celebration included listings on the Earth Week calendars of ICS and iSEE, a press release from Facilities & Services, and invitations sent to sustainability groups and academic departments.



