

For Immediate Release

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[Digital Images Attached.  
Credit: Prospect Park Alliance]



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## **Students Go Into The Forest for Education at Prospect Park**

**Brooklyn, N.Y.** --- In a world increasingly focused on environmental conservation, it is vitally important that urban children understand and appreciate the natural world around them. Thanks to the **National Grid Foundation's *Into the Forest Program***, students from three schools in Brooklyn are getting to experience the Prospect Park Alliance's acclaimed *Science for All* curriculum free of charge for three years. The three schools participating in the program are PS 249, PS 22, and PS 375.

*Science for All* is an environmental science outreach program for elementary school children in grades 2-5. Classes attend four sessions with Prospect Park Audubon Center naturalists in the Park and at their school. Prospect Park educators facilitate program activities for each class, focusing on one of three topic areas: pond life, forests, and birds (the current year's program is called "Bonkers for Birds"). The program stresses hands-on learning activities, utilizing the interactive exhibits of the Audubon Center and the woods, water features and varied natural settings of 585-acre Prospect Park. The *Into the Forest Program* began with students in grade 2, and will continue with the same students through grade 4; culminating with the 4th grade elementary-level science test.

The *Into the Forest Program* promotes student achievement in science, math, and language arts, in an effort to help students meet – and exceed – New York State Learning and New York City Performance Standards. The program strives to improve test scores while enriching the emotional life of underserved children and instilling them with an appreciation for nature.

"We are especially pleased to provide support of a program that cultivates the academic development of children while opening up their view of the natural world and their place in it," says **Robert Keller, Executive Director of the National Grid Foundation.**

The Prospect Park Alliance is extremely grateful to the National Grid Foundation for the Foundation's 3-year, \$100,000 grant to support the *Into the Forest Program*.

**Photo Captions:**

"Group" = Students and educators from Brooklyn's PS 249 are joined by Tupper Thomas, President, Prospect Park Alliance (2<sup>nd</sup> from L in rear), Robert Keller, National Grid Foundation Executive Director (3<sup>rd</sup> from L in rear), Jean Tesoriero, National Grid Foundation Sr. Grant Analyst (4<sup>th</sup> from L in rear), and Jillian Rubio, Director, Prospect Park Audubon Center (5<sup>th</sup> from L in rear).

**[higher-resolution versions of the following are available on request]**

"Bird watching sml.jpg" = PS 249 students on the lookout for some of the 200 species of birds that live and visit Prospect Park.

"Bird watching2sml.jpg" = Audubon Naturalist, Kelly Skaller, leads PS 249 students on their bird watching exploration of Prospect Park."

**Photo Credit: Prospect Park Alliance**

***About National Grid Foundation***

The National Grid Foundation was created to enhance the quality of life in areas where National Grid provides services. The Foundation's ongoing challenge is to create opportunities for solutions to educational and environmental issues. Its objective is based on the principle that giving people the tools to build hope is an essential ingredient in the development of individuals, families and communities. Since its inception in December of 1998, the Foundation has provided nearly \$15 million in grants to hundreds of organizations.

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**For more information on Prospect Park events, programs, membership and volunteering, call the Park Hotline at (718) 965-8999 or visit [www.prospectpark.org](http://www.prospectpark.org)**

**Dial 311 for all Parks & Recreation information**

In partnership with the City of New York and the community, the Prospect Park Alliance restores, develops, and operates Prospect Park for the enjoyment of all by caring for the natural environment, preserving historic design, and serving the public through facilities and programs. Prospect Park's 585 acres of meadows, waterfalls, forest, lakes, and athletic facilities comprise a masterwork of urban green space.

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