



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ALERT & PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers gather to plant 66 native oak trees in an effort to restore their declining ecosystems in Lake County

WHAT: Staff from **Jewish Council for Youth Services** and **Conserve Lake County** will plant 66 native trees – primarily four species of oaks – at JCYS Camp Henry Horner as part of a multi-county effort to restore the region’s imperiled oak ecosystems.

WHEN: TOMORROW, Wednesday, October 23 from 9:30 am – 12 noon

WHERE: **JCYS Camp Henry Horner**, 26710 W. Nippersink Road, Ingleside, Illinois 60041, an hour north of Chicago in Lake County.

WHY: Young oaks are almost completely lacking in the Chicago region and most remaining oaks are very old. Oaks have been the predominant feature of and influence over the area’s woodlands and savannas, supporting many songbirds, butterflies and other wildlife and plants. However, oaks are in decline throughout the region and many remaining oak woodlands and savannas may be lost. Lake County alone has already lost 88% of its pre-European oak ecosystems.

This project is part of the **Chicago Wilderness**, an alliance of conservation organizations with support from **USDA Forest Service**, which launched a comprehensive effort to map the historic and current extent of oak communities across northeastern Illinois and to develop a regionally coordinated strategy for their preservation and expansion.

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Jewish Council for Youth Services is an independent, not-for-profit agency dedicated to serving both Chicagoland's Jewish and greater communities, and developing leaders who continue its tradition of volunteer service. Embracing Jewish values and culture, JCYS provides educational and recreational programs that nurture individual growth and promote responsibility to others.