



# The Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch

## What is the Illinois Crunch?

From the northern border to the southern tip, over 1,200 schools, daycares, offices, hospitals, and residential programs across the state of Illinois are celebrating National Farm to School Month with a Crunch!

The Illinois Great Apple Crunch is an annual celebration of fresh, local apples on the second Thursday of October, during National Farm to School Month.

The Illinois Crunch is part of the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch, which is also celebrated in the neighboring states of Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Illinois participants will join our Great Lakes neighbors in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio in crunching into locally or regionally grown apples for the 5th annual Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch. In total, over 588,000 Illinois participants -- and over 1.3 million people across the region-- took part in local Crunch events in 2019.

## How do I register?

All K-12 schools, early childhood sites, boarding facilities, groups at home and on local farms, or in community programs, along with businesses and organizations across Illinois can join us to celebrate the Crunch!

Registration for the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch begins in August at: <http://illinoisfarmtoschool.org/great-apple-crunch/>





## Ways to Participate

Participating in the Illinois Great Apple Crunch is easy. It's a celebration of local food, namely, apples! You can purchase local apples for your celebration in a number of ways, and your celebration can be held in the cafeteria, outside in a garden or lawn space, or in the classroom.

Beginning in 2021 we encourage groups at home, and in the community to join us for the Crunch! Family groups, daycare, after-school groups, local businesses and organizations, and groups on Illinois farms are encouraged to register and join in the Crunch.

Crunching into local apples on Apple Crunch day, which is always the second Thursday in October, can become a yearly event at your school, or program site. We encourage participants to include educational enrichment activities on that day to promote the knowledge of where food comes from and healthy eating habits.

Check out our web page to see the many ways you can celebrate in school, at home, or in a garden or culinary program!

<http://illinoisfarmtoschool.org/great-apple-crunch/>



### Stay Connected!

#### Email Us:

[farmtoschool@sevengenerationsahead.org](mailto:farmtoschool@sevengenerationsahead.org)

#### Join Our Network:

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

#### Facebook:

Illinois Farm to School Network

#### Twitter:

@ILFarm2School

#### Instagram:

@ilfarm2school

The Illinois Farm to School Network is a program of **Seven Generations Ahead** and a Core Partner of the **National Farm to School Network**.

