

BUFFALO GROVE COUNTRYSIDE

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Youngsters get up close to a T-Rex — sort of — at Indian Trails library event

By Karie Angell Luc
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Families gathered on a recent Saturday to learn about dinosaurs at the Indian Trails Public Library District.

The library, which offers free programming, had a full house for the “T-Rexplorers Dinosaur Discovery” event on Jan. 21. Families learned what it’s like to go on a paleontological dig and could experience a hands-on encounter with authentic dinosaur fossils.

“I would be thrilled if one or more kids here are able to find inspiration to go into this field or are then led to other fields similar or even just led to nonfiction books, any kind of fiction or nonfiction that will get them inspired to pursue and keep learning,” said Jeff Rozalewicz, the library’s youth services assistant who assists librarians with programming and at the reference desk.

Rozalewicz also serves as a school liaison on behalf of the library, giving book talks and promoting the library to kindergarten through fifth grade patrons. Rozalewicz is also a library ambassador at community outreach events.



David Howe, owner of T-Rexplorers Dinosaur Discovery, presents to an audience of all ages Jan. 21, 2023 at the Indian Trails Public Library District in Wheeling. (Karie Angell Luc / Pioneer Press)



A host of children took part in the “T-Rexplorers Dinosaur Discovery” event Jan. 21, 2023 at the Indian Trails Public Library District in Wheeling. (Karie Angell Luc / Pioneer Press)



Families took part in the “T-Rexplorers Dinosaur Discovery” event Jan. 21, 2023 at the Indian Trails Public Library District in Wheeling. (Karie Angell Luc / Pioneer Press)

David Howe, owner of T-Rexplorers Dinosaur Discovery, presented fossils and items such as a triceratops vertebra.

“At the library programs, my hope is that the children will realize that this wonderful building (the library) was built for them and that their life can be an adventure but it’s something that they have to kind of be an active participant in,” Howe said.

Participants at the event were from nearby towns of Buffalo Grove and Arlington Heights.

Ross and Anneliese Trotcky, of Buffalo Grove, watched their children, Georgia, 6, and Lucy, 8, experience fossils from a front row audience view.

“Hopefully, they take away some science behind dinosaurs,” Anneliese Trotcky said about the children. “I think kids find dinosaurs fascinating but they don’t know the science of exploring dinosaurs.”

Lana Garcia, 4, of Buffalo Grove, was accompanied by her father, Conrad Garcia, of Buffalo Grove, and grandmother Helen Garcia, of Bloomingdale.

“She loves dinosaurs,” Helen Garcia said about Lana.

“I like to bring her to events like this so she can socialize,” Conrad Garcia said.

Karie Angel Luc is a freelancer.