



# GECO Goes To Springfield

**PLEASE, DON'T LEAVE OUR CHILDREN BEHIND DAY 2008**

- Sponsored nationally by the Illinois Association for Gifted Children and locally by GECO

## APRIL 17, 2008

**A day for gifted and talented children, their families, and their teachers to gather in Springfield, Illinois**

Join GECO and hundreds of gifted and talented children, their parents, and their teachers from across the state on a **visit to Springfield**, our state capital. The objectives of this visit are twofold. First, we want our children to experience democracy in action, see how laws are made, and visit the new Lincoln Museum or other attractions. Second, we want to meet with legislators to make them aware of the needs of gifted and talented students and to show how many families and teachers from across the state support funding for Gifted Education. Last year, thanks to everyone's efforts in *Please Don't Leave Our Children Behind Day 2007*, \$5 million was restored in the State's Board of Education budget! These funds helped to restart programs in Gifted such as professional development for teachers, online distance courses for teachers, and start-up grants for underserved children. But if we do not keep advocating for these programs that children and teachers so desperately need, we will risk losing them. Families, teachers, parent organization groups, and school groups will all participate. **We – parents, teachers, and children - are all in this together! Join us. It will be a day your family will never forget!**

### **WHY PARTICIPATE IN SPRINGFIELD DAY?**

- Meet with your representatives IN Springfield. Meeting them in person in Springfield leaves a lasting impression for legislators, and we get a great appreciation for what legislators do.
- Hear legislators speak on how laws are made, what they do in Springfield, and what we will see from chamber balconies.
- See law-making in action and our busy capital. Both House and Senate are scheduled to debate or vote on bills that day. We will be able to see this from chamber balconies.
- Show children they can shape the future of their education.
- Visit museums and see the history of our great state.

### **TENTATIVE/ OVERALL PROGRAM FOR APRIL 17, 2008**

**TRAVEL APRIL 16 (evening before) \*State House Inn or arrive April 17**

**8:00 am Illinois State Capitol Guided Tour**

**9:00 am Old State Capitol Guided Tour**

**10:00 am Lincoln Herndon Law Office Guided Tour**

or

**9:00-11:00am VISIT THE LINCOLN MUSEUM – Self Guided Tour**

**11:30 am LARGE GROUP PHOTO** by the State Capitol;

**INTRODUCTION** of Families and Groups;

**MEET AND GREET** each other.

**12:05 pm LARGE GROUP COMMON ACTIVITY FOR ALL GROUPS AND FAMILIES**

**Picnic lunch** in the Howlett Building's Hall of Flags, and

**Hear Legislators** speak in the Howlett Building Auditorium.

**1:30 pm SMALL GROUP TIME** to meet with representatives,

watch legislative proceedings, participate in children's activities planned by IAGC, and visit Springfield attractions.

**3:00 pm Lincoln Tomb**

**4:00 pm Illinois State Museum or VISIT Representatives and watch proceedings**

For more information, visit <http://www.geco181.info/> info or IAGC website [www.iagcgifted.org/advocacy/index.shtml](http://www.iagcgifted.org/advocacy/index.shtml) or email [geco@arvamont.com](mailto:geco@arvamont.com).

\*State House Inn Information Below

## State House Inn – A Clarion Hotel

101 East Adams Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
217-528-5100

GECO has reserved a block of rooms at a discount. Please reference Illinois Association for Gifted Children when you reserve your room. Parking is included. The Rooms are held until **March 17<sup>th</sup>**. If the rooms are not booked they will be put back into the reservation system.