



# Ranger Guided Programs

	Program	Description	Date & Time	Location
<b>Daily</b>	<b>Junior Rangers</b>	Ask a ranger to help you select the free Junior Ranger or Junior Explorer program that best fits your visit. Once completed, each participant will earn a badge, patch, sticker or temporary tattoo. Pick up materials at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or Douglas Center, download them at <a href="http://www.nps.gov/induforkids">www.nps.gov/induforkids</a> , or ask a ranger.	Anytime – Self-Guided	Pick up a Junior Ranger booklet at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
	<b>Every Day is Family Day at the Douglas Center</b>	Enjoy hands-on family activities in the park's western visitor center, especially the new Nature Play Zone, where unstructured play in nature is the tradition. You can help feed the center's resident nature critters or join a ranger for a hike in Miller Woods.	June – September 9:00 am – 5:00 pm everyday (Closed on Sundays between Labor Day and Memorial Day)	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
<b>Weekends</b>	<b>Park Focus Programs</b>	There's always something different to focus on in this diverse park. Activities and topics range from guest speakers, new research finds, to favorite park places. The programs change, but the location remains the same. Check the park's website or call the Douglas Center for specific topics at 219-395-1821.	June – September: Saturday & Sunday October – May: Saturday	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
	<b>Music Heritage Series</b>	Local musicians, Save the Tunes, help sustain the culture of the Duneland region by sharing historic tunes using instruments like the hurdy gurdy and dulcimer.	May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21, and December 19 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Firefly Walk</b>	Join a ranger to learn all about fireflies, one of the hundreds of fascinating park insects, while you view their spectacular evening show.	July 11 and July 25 only 8:15 pm – 9:15 pm	Bailly/Chellberg parking lot
	<b>Rangers Choice</b>	Explore the national lakeshore's exceptional diversity of life on a special ranger-led hike. Call or stop by the Visitor Center on Friday morning to find out the location of the week's hike.	June 13 – August 15 (Except July 4) 9:00 am – 11:00 am	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
	<b>Central Beach Sunset Hike</b>	Enjoy a sunset stroll with a ranger at the Central Beach area and learn about the threats faced by the dunes and what you can do to help protect them.	June 13, June 27 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm August 1 and August 8 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Central Beach parking Lot
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Campground Program</b>	Join a ranger around the campfire and learn about the incredible diversity of park resources.	June 14 – August 30 (except July 5) June: 8:30 – 9:30 pm July: 8:00 – 9:00 pm August: 7:30 – 8:30 pm	Dunewood Campground Amphitheater
	<b>Junior Wildland Firefighter Program</b>	Meet the park's fire crew and hear about their jobs and firefighting equipment. Learn how they use fire as a tool to protect the park's diversity. After this hands-on program, children will receive their own Junior Wildland Firefighter activity book and Junior Wildland Firefighter patch.	May 17, June 28, July 12, August 9 and September 13 10:00 am – 11:00 am  May 31, June 14, July 26 and August 23 11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Dunewood Campground  West Beach Contact Station
	<b>Chellberg Farm Open House</b>	Tour the Chellberg Farmhouse and learn about the lives of early Duneland farm families.	June 14 – August 23 (Except July 5) 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Chellberg Farm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Kids Rule!</b>	Join a ranger in the activity room for puppet shows, stories and fun.	Every Sunday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
	<b>Pinhook Bog Open House</b>	Take a self-guided hike into Indiana's only quaking bog. Rangers and volunteers stationed along the trail will help you understand this unique place filled with carnivorous plants. Allow one hour to walk the trail and tour the bog. Only open when park staff is present.	June 15 – August 17 (Except July 6) 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Pinhook Bog parking lot
	<b>Miller Woods Hike</b>	Take an afternoon ranger-led stroll through Miller Woods. The length of this hike can vary from one-half mile to three (if we hike all the way to Lake Michigan). Call 219-395-1821 for details of the week's hike.	June 1 – August 24 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education

## Trip Planning



### If you only have one – two hours:

- Explore the beach at one of the many beach access points along the 15 miles of shoreline.
- Stroll the Great Marsh Trail and possibly add birds to your life list. Over 270 species have been spotted at the national lakeshore, making this a birdwatcher's paradise.
- Stop by the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education and let the kids explore the activity room while you view exhibits or the park video.



### If you have half a day:

- Simply relax along the lakefront. Even on the busiest days you can find a quiet spot along the fifteen miles of beach.
- Take a driving tour of some of the park's historic structures. Drive along Lakefront Drive and view the 1933 World's Fair Homes. Then travel west to the Bailly Homestead or Chellberg Farm and take a short walk on the trail to view these structures up close.
- Bring the family to the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education for free activities and visit the new Nature Play Zone.

*Additional programs may be available. Ask a ranger or check [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu) for updates. Programs subject to change without notice.*

# Special Programs and Events

Program	Description	Date & Time	Location
<b>Kayaking the Dunes' Lagoons</b>	Join a ranger for a paddle through the Miller Woods area lagoons. You must have your own kayak and life jacket.	June 7 & August 16 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Marquette Park Lagoons
<b>Get Outdoors Day</b>	Pack up the family and spend the day outdoors with the park and its partners. Take a hike, learn about kayaking, explore the river, make a craft, and enjoy lunch on the lawn.	June 14 11:00 am – 3:00 pm	Dunes Learning Center
<b>Fort Building Contest #1 Celebrate Get Outdoors Day</b>	Form a family or small group team and test your architecture skills in the Nature Play Zone. Fun prizes for different themed forts will be awarded throughout the day.	June 14 10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
<b>Midsummer Celebration and Evening Concert</b>	Celebrate the longest day of the year and learn about the traditions of the Swedish immigrants at Chellberg Farm. Enjoy the music, dance and food associated with this special day. The outdoor concert features Chris Vallillo who performs an energetic array of traditional American music. In-case of bad weather, the concert will be moved to the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.	June 21 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  Evening concert: 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Chellberg Farm
<b>Bats Alive! Workshop and Night Hike</b>	Join us for presentations about bats from Purdue University, Mammoth Cave NP, Ravenswood Media (Chicago), and the Organization for Bat Conservation. Instrumentation demonstrations, educational activities, and live bat encounters will highlight the program. This workshop runs throughout the day; contact the Douglas Center for specific times and sessions.	June 21 9:00 am – 5:00 pm  Night hike: 8:30 pm – 10:00 pm	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
<b>Our Duneland Heritage</b>	Explore the Chellberg Farm during this open house hosted by a ranger and enjoy traditional craft or farming demonstrations.	July 19, August 16, and September 20 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Chellberg Farm
<b>Civil Rights Through the Life and Times of Martin Luther King</b>	Discuss the lasting impacts of the Civil Rights Act and celebrate the 50th anniversary of this important piece of legislation.	June 28 1:00 pm – 2:00pm	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
<b>Fort Building Contest #2 Celebrate Independence Day</b>	Form a family or small group team and build a patriotic fort in the Nature Play Zone. Fun prizes for different themed forts will be awarded throughout the day.	July 5 10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
<b>Kayak Fishing with a Ranger</b>	Join a ranger for a paddle on Lake Michigan or in the Burns Waterway and join in the pursuit for the elusive Skamania Steelhead. You must provide all of your own equipment, obey state fishing laws, and wear a lifejacket.	July 12 7:00 am – 9:00 am	Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk
<b>Fort Building Contest #3</b>	Form a family or small group team and test your architecture skills in the Nature Play Zone. Fun prizes for different themed forts will be awarded throughout the day.	August 2 10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
<b>Persied Meteor Shower</b>	Join a ranger for a spectacular evening light show courtesy of this annual meteor shower and the beauty of natural starlight. There is a \$6 per vehicle fee at West Beach.	August 11 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	West Beach
<b>Pinhook Bog Fall Open House</b>	Take a self-guided hike into Indiana's only quaking bog. Rangers and volunteers stationed along the trail will help you understand this unique place filled with carnivorous plants. Allow one hour to walk the trail and tour the bog. Only open when park staff is available.	September 27 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Pinhook Bog
<b>Century of Progress Homes Tour</b>	Join National Park Service rangers for a one-hour tour (fee required) of five historic homes from the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. These limited tours are offered <b>by reservation only</b> . Call 219-395-1882 for more information.	October 18 8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
<b>Holiday Traditions in the Dunes</b>	Enjoy live holiday music and dance, tour two historic homes decked out in their holiday finest, let the kids make some holiday crafts, and sample some traditional holiday treats. You don't have to get chilled thanks to a free shuttle bus that runs between Chellberg Farm and the Bailly Homestead.	December 6 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Locations: Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, Douglas Center, Bailly Homestead, and Chellberg Farm

## Stewardship and Volunteer Days

<b>Planting an Heirloom Garden</b>	Please join a ranger and lend a hand in getting the Chellberg Farm garden off to a good start. We will be doing everything from pulling weeds to planting seeds.	May 17 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Chellberg Farm Garden
<b>Attacking Invasives</b>	Join a ranger and volunteer in helping to care for your local national park. As we remove oriental bittersweet and other invasive species in the Central Avenue Beach area.	June 21 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meet at the Central Ave. parking lot
<b>Bailly Cemetery Clean-up</b>	We need your help in caring for your local national park. Join in as we wash the stone walls and spruce up the grounds of the historic Bailly Cemetery.	July 19 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meet at 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road at the flagpole (Park Headquarters)
<b>Look out Invasives</b>	Join us as we continue to restore this dune area by removing sweet clover, and other invasive plants. Meet at the first parking area inside the entrance.	August 16 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk
<b>National Public Lands Day: Improving the Cowles Bog Wetland</b>	National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance America's public lands. Join a ranger to help improve one of our most threatened wetlands.	September 27 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meet at the Cowles Bog south parking lot
<b>Harvesting the Prairie</b>	Help collect seeds from this tall grass prairie that will be used to restore additional prairie lands throughout the national lakeshore.	October 11 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meet at the Mnoke' Prairie parking Lot
<b>Oak Savannas</b>	Join a ranger as we improve the quality of the Miller Woods Oak Savana. Please lend a hand to help improve "Your Neighborhood National Park."	November 15 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meet at the Douglas Center parking lot