

Outdoor Adventure Festival 2021

Event Name	Date	Time	Starting Location	Description
Friday, September 10				
Self-led Hike - 3 Dunes Challenge) State Park	Friday 9/10/21	All Day	Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center	Trail 8 is a classic hike and showcases the three of the tallest dunes in the region, passing through hardwood forest to the lakefront itself. The challenging climbs are made easier by the shaded trails along the way. This is a self-led hike and can be done at any time.
Self-led Hike - Trail 9 State Park	Friday 9/10/21	All Day	Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center	Trail 9 is renowned for its stunning views atop Beach House Blowout. Many consider this trail the finest hike in the Indiana Dunes. This moderate hike first travels through a mature forest ecosystem, and then climbing to a foredune overlooking Lake Michigan. This is a self-led hike and can be done at any time.
Boat Tour - Lake Michigan	Friday 9/10/21	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Michigan City Millennium Plaza	Join a national park ranger for a guided 90-minute boat tour on Lake Michigan with Harbor Country Adventures. This is an incredible way to see the Indiana Dunes from a new perspective. See Mount Baldy and the 1933 World's Fair homes from the water. There is an additional fee and reservations are required.
Fall in Love with Your Parks - Stoney Run Park	Friday 9/10/21	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Stoney Run County Park	Lake County Parks are fantastic! Join a park naturalist this fall and learn to love them like we do. Please dress for the weather. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED; please call 219-844-3188.
Hike - Diana of the Dunes Dare West Beach	Friday 9/10/21	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	West Beach Parking Lot	Join national park ranger Cookie Ferguson for a hike on the Dunes Succession trail at West Beach. Learn about Diana of the Dunes. This short one mile trail offers spectacular views of Lake Michigan and Chicago and features over 250 stairs along the way. The trail really shows off the uniqueness of the varied habitats of the Indiana Dunes.
Beyond the Pond, Beyond the Trail Hike - Coffee Creek	Friday 9/10/21	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve Amphitheater	Join Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy's Stewardship Manager, Matt Harmon, will take hikers on an exclusive, beyond the pond and beyond the trail, into areas of Coffee Creek experienced by very few. Be prepared to crouch through trees and underbrush while on this rustic 3+ mile hike.
Hike - Keith Richard Walner Nature Preserve	Friday 9/10/21	3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Keith Richard Walner Nature Preserve Parking Lot	Join Eric Bird of the Shirley Heinze Land Trust for a hike at the awesome Keith Richard Walner Nature Preserve. The preserve features upland forest, steep ravines, and nearly a half-mile of frontage along the East Arm of the Little Calumet River. The floodplain forest includes oxbows from the river's original course.
Feed the Animals - Chellberg Farm	Friday 9/10/21	4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Chellberg Farm Barn	Assist in feeding the farm's cows, pigs, chickens, and turkeys!
Photography - Sunset at Mount Baldy	Friday 9/10/21	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Mount Baldy Parking Lot	Join national park ranger and photographer Rafi Wilkinson for a hike to the top of Mount Baldy to photograph the sunset overlooking Lake Michigan and Chicago. Bring your camera and a tripod if you have one. Rafi will give tips on how to capture a compelling sunset photo. The hike does involve a steep climb in the sand up Mount Baldy.
Night Hike - Mount Baldy	Friday 9/10/21	8:00 PM - 9:30 PM	Mount Baldy Parking Lot	For a unique experience, hike with national park ranger Rafi Wilkinson to the top of Mount Baldy in the dark to see this iconic dune from a totally new perspective. The total length of the hike is 1.5 miles. The hike does involve a steep climb in the sand up Mount Baldy.
Saturday, September 11				
America's Race - Obstacle Course Race West Beach	Saturday 9/11/21	All Day	West Beach Parking Lot	The National Park Service is partnering with Leon's Triathlon and Team Rubicon Disaster Response to present the inaugural "America's Race" on September 11, 2021 at Indiana Dunes National Park's West Beach. This event is part of a national recognition of the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and honors our military veterans and first responders.
Self-led Hike - 3 Dunes Challenge State Park	Saturday 9/11/21	All Day	Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center	Trail 8 is a classic hike and showcases the three of the tallest dunes in the region, passing through hardwood forest to the lakefront itself. The challenging climbs are made easier by the shaded trails along the way. This is a self-led hike and can be done at any time.

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Photography - Sunrise Great Marsh	Saturday 9/11/21	5:30 AM - 7:00 AM	Great Marsh Gravel Parking Lot	Join national park ranger and photographer Rafi Wilkinson for an early morning hike at the Great Marsh to catch a sunrise. Bring your camera and tripod for tips on how to capture photos in the twilight of the morning. The total hike is less than a mile and completely flat.
Birding Hike - Miller Woods	Saturday 9/11/21	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education	Join Julie Bonnema, local birding expert from the Indiana Audubon Society, for a birding hike at the national park's awesome Miller Woods.
Nature Hike - Howes Prairie	Saturday 9/11/21	9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Cowles Bog Trail North Parking Lot	Join Nathanael Pilla of Orbis Environmental Consulting for an insiders' tour of the amazing Howes Prairie, an area of the national park that is not publicly toured. Nathanael, formerly of the national park, is one of the foremost botanists of the region and can truly showcase the uniqueness of this area. The total trail length is approximately 3.0 miles.
Nature and Birding Hike - Great Marsh	Saturday 9/11/21	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Great Marsh Gravel Parking Lot	Join national park ranger Cookie Ferguson for a nature hike in the Great Marsh. The marsh is teeming with life and a great place to get into nature.
Geology Hike - Mount Baldy	Saturday 9/11/21	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Mount Baldy Parking Lot	Join Erin Argyilan for an expert's behind-the-scenes tour of iconic Mount Baldy. Erin, a Professor with Indiana University Northwest, is one of the foremost geologists of the region and was a lead investigator of the causes of the mysterious holes in Mount Baldy. The hike does involve a steep climb in the sand up Mount Baldy.
Bike Ride West End National Park	Saturday 9/11/21	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education	Join a national park ranger for a bike ride around the west end of the national park. Begin at the Douglas Center and ride the Chanute and Marquette bike paths to see shoreline, oak savanna and wetland habitats. Bring your own bike and helmet. The path is relatively flat and only a short section of the ride will be on roadways.
Kids Scavenger Hunt - Paul H. Douglas Center	Saturday 9/11/21	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education	Bring your kids for a monarch butterfly-themed scavenger hike with a park ranger at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education. Kids will enjoy the outdoor beauty of the Nature Play Zone.
Fur Trader Encampment - State Park	Saturday 9/11/21	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Indiana Dunes State Park Pavilion	Indiana Dunes State Park invites guests to relive the area's fur-trading past during History Comes Alive Weekend. Members of the Ouiatenon Brigade, a re-enacting group, will land on the beach and set up camp near the beach pavilion. The brigade portrays the French-Canadian voyageurs of the 1700s in dress, food and lifestyle.
Geocaching - Indiana Dunes Visitor Center	Saturday 9/11/21	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center	A new cache will publish at 10 am at the Dorothy Buell Visitor Center on September 11. Be one of the first to find it. Meet with NW Indiana Geocacher Nancy Lakin at the entrance to the visitor center to learn about caching in the area. View the Top 10 geocaches as determined by favorite points awarded.
Boat Tour - Lake Michigan	Saturday 9/11/21	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Michigan City Millennium Plaza	Join a national park ranger for a guided 90-minute boat tour on Lake Michigan with Harbor Country Adventures. This is an incredible way to see the Indiana Dunes from a new perspective. See Mount Baldy and the 1933 World's Fair homes from the water. There is an additional fee and reservations are required.
Beaver Trading Hike - State Park	Saturday 9/11/21	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center	Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for a trek through the dunes and a meeting with the early French fur traders that inhabited this area nearly 200 years ago! Bring your beaver pelt or borrow one of ours!
Ecology Hike - Great Marsh	Saturday 9/11/21	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Great Marsh Gravel Parking Lot	Join local ecologists Steve Sass and Amanda Smith from Indiana Nature LLC for a fun-filled, educational hike of the Great Marsh. On this hike, participants will explore many facets of nature including botany, insects, fall bird migration, natural and cultural history, and plant succession while enjoying a brisk autumn hike through the dunes.
Rocks on the Beach: Geology 101 in Sandals, a History of Great Lakes Geology	Saturday 9/11/21	11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Kemil Beach Parking Lot	Join Professor David Dolak from Columbia College for a truly revealing presentation and stroll along lake Michigan. Beachcombing for rocks along the beaches of Lake Michigan is not only fun, but also serves as a textbook study into the geologic story of the Great Lakes region.
Hike - Bailly / Chellberg	Saturday 9/11/21	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Chellberg Farm Parking Lot	Join national park ranger Brittany Mathis for a hike at the historic Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm. Learn about the some of the earliest settlers of the region while hiking through a beautiful landscape.

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Ecology Hike - Cowles Bog	Saturday 9/11/21	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Cowles Bog Trail North Parking Lot	Join Laura Brennan, a National Park Botanist and habitat expert, for a special tour of Cowles Bog. Laura has been instrumental in the care and restoration of these incredible habitats. Please wear long pants and hiking boots to be able to walk off trail. The total trail length is approximately 3.0 miles and moderate in difficulty.
J.D. Marshall Shipwreck Program - State Park	Saturday 9/11/21	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center	Set anchor in the Nature Center's auditorium as the Naturalist describes one of Lake Michigan's shipwreck stories.
Geocaching - Baily Chellberg	Saturday 9/11/21	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Chellberg Farm Parking Lot	Have you ever heard the word geocache, but do not know what it is? Join geocacher and park ranger Steve Rossi for a trip around the Maple Sugar geocaching trail at the Chellberg Farm. During this family-fun event, you'll learn what geocaching is, how to get started, and even find a few geocaches hidden around the farm.
Art in the Park	Saturday 9/11/21	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	On-line Zoom Class	An experienced art instructor will guide students through the process of painting a scene inspired by the Indiana dunes. Each class will feature a different nature-related theme. Call 219-395-1882 to register.
Feed the Animals - Chellberg Farm	Saturday 9/11/21	4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Chellberg Farm Barn	Assist in feeding the farm's cows, pigs, chickens, and turkeys!
Relaxation Hike - Gibson Woods	Saturday 9/11/21	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Gibson Woods Parking Lot	Spending time in the great outdoors has been scientifically proven to reduce stress levels, help you find clarity, and rejuvenate your mind and body, so join us for a leisurely afternoon hike to relax and renew. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED; please call 219-844-3188.
Photography - West Beach	Saturday 9/11/21	4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	West Beach Parking Lot	Photograph West Beach like never before. Join national park ranger and photographer Rafi Wilkinson for a truly rare experience as we photograph areas of West Beach that are normally off limits. Bring your camera. Be prepared to hike in loose sand.
Owl Prowl - State Park	Saturday 9/11/21	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center	Join Julie Bonnema, local birding expert from the Indiana Audubon Society, for an evening hike looking for owls. The State Park is one of the best spots in the whole region for birding. Please bring binoculars if you have them.
Singing Sands Stargaze - State Park	Saturday 9/11/21	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Indiana Dunes State Park Pavilion	Bring a blanket and join us on the main beach east of the pavilion for an annual event with local astronomers from the Calumet Astronomical Society. Several telescopes will be set up as well as periodic constellation talks. This program is weather-dependent.
Sunday, September 12				
Self-led Hike -(3 Dunes Challenge State Park	Sunday 9/12/21	All Day	Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center	Trail 8 is a classic hike and showcases the three of the tallest dunes in the region, passing through hardwood forest to the lakefront itself. The challenging climbs are made easier by the shaded trails along the way. This is a self-led hike and can be done at any time.
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Photography Sunrise Mount Baldy	Sunday 9/12/21	5:30 AM - 7:00 AM	Mount Baldy Parking Lot	Join national park ranger and photographer Rafi Wilkinson for an incredible opportunity to watch the sun rise over Mount Baldy. Bring your camera and tripod for instructional tips on how to capture a pleasing sunrise photograph. The total length of the hike is 1.5 miles. The hike does involve a steep climb in the sand up Mount Baldy.
Birding Hike - State Park	Sunday 9/12/21	7:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center	Join Matt Kalwasinski, local birding expert from the Indiana Audubon Society, for a morning birding hike. The State Park is one of the best spots in the whole region for birding. Please bring binoculars if you have them.
Bike Ride - Geology of the Region	Sunday 9/12/21	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Calumet Dunes Trail (USGS Research Station) Parking Lot	Join professor Dave Dolak for a unique bicycle-level perspective of the Indiana Dunes National Park. Dave is an avid cyclist and has studied the geology of the region for over 30 years. The highlights of the interpretive ride include views along the lake, visiting Mount Baldy and Pinhook Bog, and learning about the fascinating history that the land tells us about the ending of the last ice age and the formation of the Valparaiso Moraine and the ancient beach ridges of Lake Michigan. The ride is approximately 35 miles in length.

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Kids Scavenger Hunt - Paul H. Douglas Center	Sunday 9/12/21	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education	Bring your kids for a monarch butterfly-themed scavenger hike with a park ranger at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education. Kids will enjoy the outdoor beauty of the Nature PlayZone.
Birding Hike - Fall Migration	Sunday 9/12/21	9:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Gibson Woods Parking Lot	Fall is a great time to see a variety of migrating bird species including thrushes, warblers, sparrows and vireos. Walk with a park naturalist to see who is visiting the Woods. Ages 10 and up.
Hike - Dune Ridge Trail	Sunday 9/12/21	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Kemil Beach Parking Lot	Join national park ranger Rebecca Ashby for a hike on the Dune Ridge Trail. There is perhaps no other place in the national park where you can see a wider range of habitats in just one mile. The hike features a great overlook of the Great Marsh from the top of the dune ridge.
Geocaching - Mount Baldy	Sunday 9/12/21	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Mount Baldy Parking Lot	Join geocacher and park ranger Steve Rossi in an scientific exploration around Mt. Baldy. This event will focus on one special type of geocache: an earth cache. During this 2-hour program you'll learn what a geocache is, how earth caches take you to unique places for observation, and how to follow the science to earn your geocaching smile.
Beaver Trading Hike	Sunday 9/12/21	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center	Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for a trek through the dunes and a meeting with the early French fur traders that inhabited this area nearly 200 years ago! Bring your beaver pelt or borrow one of ours!
Paddling - Lower East Branch of the Little Calumet River	Sunday 9/12/21	11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion	<p>Indiana Dunes National Park, in partnership with the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association, Shirley Heinze Land Trust and Save The Dunes, will host a paddle on the East Branch Little Calumet River. You can paddle from the Portage Lakefront beach upstream for up to 3.5 miles before returning to the beach. Bring your boat, or borrow one of ours!</p> <p>Participants bringing their own watercraft can unload at the traffic circle at the northernmost point of the road, adjacent to the beach, before proceeding back south to one of the parking lots. People borrowing a boat may park first. You may arrive and launch anytime between 11:00 am and 12:30 pm. A map and directions to check-in will be emailed the week of the event.</p> <p>Space and boats are limited, so we invite you to register as soon as you know you plan to attend. Use the REGISTER button on the page above. Please also consider joining NWIPA, or make a donation on the REGISTER page.</p> <p>Please bring your own boats and paddling equipment if you have it. Kayaks will be available to borrow. If you are going to borrow equipment, you must contact the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association in advance of the paddle to reserve equipment. Please use the following link to reserve a boat:</p>
Geocaching - International Geocaching Presentation	Sunday 9/12/21	1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Chellberg Farm Parking Lot Picnic Shelter 2	Join NWI Geocaching for a fascinating talk about geocaching. Derek and Tina Germain from Valparaiso have geocached in nine different countries including the Canary Islands, France, England, Netherlands, and the Galapagos Islands. They will discuss the triumphs and challenges of geocaching outside the United States.
Flora/Fauna Hike - Cowles Bog	Sunday 9/12/21	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Cowles Bog Trail South Parking Lot (Greenbelt)	Join national park ranger Cookie Ferguson for a nature hike through the incredible Cowles Bog. The bog is teeming with life and a great place to get into nature. Cowles Bog is one of the most special places in the national park.
Battle of the Dunes Walk	Sunday 9/12/21	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center	Although marked by historic signs and briefly mentioned in local histories, the Battle of Le Petit Fort (also known as the Battle of Trail Creek) remains a mysterious part of the Indiana Dunes story. Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center to begin an easy 1.5 mile history walk all about the Revolutionary War battle at the Dunes.
Hike - Miller Woods	Sunday 9/12/21	1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education	Join national park ranger Nadia Kacmar for a hike through the Indiana Dunes National Park's Miller Woods. The hike follows the Paul H. Douglas Trail and is spectacular in its varied habitats including globally rare black oak savanna, interdunal pannes, wetlands, and towering sand dunes that offer incredible views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.
Feed the Animals - Chellberg Farm	Sunday 9/12/21	4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Chellberg Farm Barn	Assist in feeding the farm's cows, pigs, chickens, and turkeys!