

# Pokagon State Park

## December 2016

450 Lane 100, Lake James  
Angola, IN 46703  
Phone: 260-833-2012



### NATURE CENTER HOURS

Wednesday - Friday 12 to 4 p.m., Weekends 10 to 5 p.m.  
Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

### HOLIDAY HOURS

Open Daily 10 – 5p.m. (12/21 - 1/4)  
Closing at 4 p.m. on 12/24 & 12/31, Closed 12/25  
All of our programs are on Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

### PARK & INN STAFF

Property Manager – Ted Bohman  
Assistant Property Manager – Lisa Johnloz  
Inn Manager – Emily Sattison  
Inn Activities Director – Jennie Hiatt

### NATURE CENTER STAFF

Marie Laudeman, Nicky Ball,  
Colten Michael, and Kelsey Pierce

The DNR Calendar is  
Available at  
[www.calendar.in.gov](http://www.calendar.in.gov)

## Potawatomi Inn Activities

There are numerous activities that take place at the Potawatomi Inn. Looking for the perfect homemade holiday gift? Too cold to go outside?... Check out our Inn craft room! There are many items that you can create or paint. Crafts and kits range from a simple bracelet to a holiday decoration. Stop by the Activities Room or check our schedule at the front desk.  
*Whether it's business or pleasure, the Potawatomi Inn has what you need...*



### Saturday (December 3rd)

10:30 a.m. A PLACE IN THE PINES - This is the perfect time to celebrate our humble pines! Meet the Naturalist at the Inn's Main Entrance for an hour-long walk past some of Pokagon's evergreens. Nature, winter, and history are all subjects that we will discuss along our jaunt.



2:00 p.m. POKAGON JEOPARDY - All ages are welcome to join in this fun competition in the Nature Center Auditorium where you test your knowledge about all things Pokagon State Park. Prizes will be awarded!

### Sunday (December 4th)

2:00 p.m. WHAT DID THE FOX SAY? - Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center for a short program to learn more about the red fox and tips for seeing one at Pokagon.



### Saturday (December 10th)

2 – 3:30 p.m. A SACRED CIRCLE POETRY READING - All ages are welcome to join both present and past Indiana Poet Laureates for this special afternoon poetry event in the Trine State Recreation Area Welcome Center. The event will be celebrating indigenous attitudes toward the earth. Refreshments, a book signing, and an open mic will be provided for anyone wishing to read an original nature poem or one written by a Native American Poet.

7:30 p.m. ANIMALS IN WINTER BEDTIME STORIES - Before snuggling into your warm bed, come to the Inn's Lonidaw Lounge where the naturalist will read some classic stories and have some show-N-tell items to share as well. All will be treated to some story-themed snacks provided by the Potawatomi Inn.



### Sunday (December 11th)

8:30 a.m. SUNDAY MORNING BIRD SEARCH - Come along for a Sunday morning walk with the naturalist searching for birds and other late fall wildlife. Meet the naturalist on the Inn Sun Deck. Binoculars provided.



### Saturday (December 17th)

9:30 a.m. TREKKING THE TOBOGGAN TRACK - Curious about how Pokagon's toboggan track works? Join Pokagon's Property Manager, Ted Bohman, as he shows you the inner workings of our famous track. Meet him at the end of the Toboggan Track near the Potawatomi Inn. Space will be limited for this program.



2:00 p.m. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A POKAGON CCC BOY - Join the naturalist on an easy stroll back in time to the days when the Civilian Conservation Corps helped build the Pokagon we know today. On this 1 mile walk visitors will explore the grounds where Pokagon's Civilian Conservation Corp Co. 556 lived in the park and also some of the structures they built. Meet the naturalist in the Nature Center.



**Sunday (December 18th)** - The Nature Center is open from 10 -5 p.m. today.



**Wednesday (December 21st)**

**2:00 p.m. CRITTER FEEDING TIME** - Stop by the Nature Center to watch our critters eat their food!

**Thursday (December 22nd)**

**2:00 p.m. THE FROZEN MARSH** - Gather at the Inn's Main Entrance for a walk down to the wetlands along the county road in the park. On this mile walk we will talk about wetlands and search out winter wildlife.

**Friday (December 23rd)**

**10:30 a.m. BIRD BUFFET** - Sunflowers, safflowers, and peanuts, oh my! Come help the naturalist fill all the feeders this morning and learn the scoop on how you can attract birds to your backyard.

**Saturday (December 24th)**

**9:00 a.m. CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING WALK** - Meet the naturalists on the Potawatomi Inn Sun Deck for a 1 ½ - hour stroll through the park's interior to relax and enjoy the spirit of the season. The Spring Shelter will welcome all with its warm fire and holiday treats before beginning the return trek to the Inn.

**Sunday (December 25th)** - HAPPY HOLIDAYS! THE NATURE CENTER IS CLOSED TODAY.

**Monday (December 26th)** - The Nature Center is open from 10 -5 p.m. today.



**Tuesday (December 27th)**

**2:00 p.m. SNAKES ALIVE!** - Slither over to the Nature Center to see both small and large native snakes up-close and learn more about these often misunderstood creatures.



**Wednesday (December 28th)**

**2 - 3 p.m. WINTER BIRD WINDOW BINGO** - Stop by the Nature Center's Woodland Window any time during the hour and see how quickly you can ID your way to a Bingo! Binoculars, guides, and the naturalist will all be on hand to assist your identifying efforts. Prizes are awarded.



**Thursday (December 29th)**

**10:30 – 4:30 STEUBEN COUNTY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT ACTIVITIES** - Each year volunteers participate in an effort to count birds for this long-running wildlife census to help assess the health of bird populations and guide conservation actions. Stop by the Nature Center any time during the day to learn this history of Christmas Bird Counts and help us count the birds at our woodland window. The naturalists will be leading the following hikes that anyone at any level of birding is welcome to join. Binoculars provided.

**10:30 – 2.5 mile bird hike** leaving from the Inn's Main Entrance.

**2:00 – 2.5 mile bird hike** leaving from the Camper's Store.

If you are interested in being a part of the all-day count in our county, please give the Nature Center a call by December 26<sup>th</sup> (260-833-3506).



**Friday (December 30th)**

**10:30 a.m. WINTER TREE ID SPREE** - No leaves? No problem. Come to the Nature Center Auditorium for an elemen'tree' lesson about using the 3 B's: buds, bark, and branching, for your tree identification needs. A short walk will follow to test your new tree I.D. skills.



**Saturday (December 31st)**

**10:30 a.m. SMAMMALS!** - Learn more about Pokagon's smallest mammals in this fun program where we look for winter signs of them and try to survive as one. Meet at the Nature Center.

**2:00 p.m. SNOWFLAKE FUN!** - We're rooting for snow 2017! On the last day of the year join the naturalist at the Nature Center to learn more about that fluffy white stuff. All will create a paper snowflake to take home.



**Sunday (January 1st)**

**10:30 a.m. BIRDING FIRST DAY HIKE** - Get into the New Year's spirit with this healthy First Day Hike as we search for birds and other wildlife to start off your 2017 checklist of species. Join the naturalists on the Potawatomi Inn's Sun Deck. Binoculars will be provided while supplies last. The hike will be a total of 1 ½ miles circling through a variety of habitats down to Lake James and then around the Saddle barn ending at the toboggan run fire ring for our first campfire of the year. Visitors will be invited to roast marshmallows and enjoy the fire from **12pm - 1pm**. All ages, birders, non-birders, and everyone are welcome!



**Monday (January 2nd)**

**Noon – 4 p.m. WINTER DIGITAL CAMERA SCAVENGER HUNT** - Do you have a keen eye for winter's beauty? Bring your camera to the Nature Center to collect our scavenger hunt list. Prizes will be awarded.

**Tuesday (January 3rd)**

**10:30 a.m. PINE CONE FEEDERS** - Feed the birds from your tent, camper, or home using this easy-to-make natural pine cone feeder. Bundle up and come join us on the Nature Center Front Lawn. It could be messy.



**Wednesday (January 4th)**

**2:00 p.m. TURTLE TIME** - Trot on over to the Nature Center to learn about turtles and meet them up-close.