

POKAGON CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE

TO COMPLETE THE CHALLENGE:

- 📍 Visit 7 of the 9 stops.
- 📷 Take a photograph at each location.

You may drive or hike to each location. The first 2 stops are at Trine State Recreation Area (SRA), about 2 miles outside of Pokagon State Park. Driving to Trine is recommended (145 W. Feather Valley Road, Fremont, IN 46737).

The challenge can be completed in one or more visits. Show your photographs at the Nature Center to earn a commemorative sticker. If the Nature Center is closed upon your completion, email your photographs and mailing address to SPContests@dnr.IN.gov, and your sticker will be mailed to you.



1 @ TRINE SRA Swenson Lodge

What is now Trine SRA was originally opened in 1948 as the Wing Haven Resort by Helen and Ben Swenson, former Potawatomi Inn managers. Helen was a talented artist, and in 1937 she drew a beautiful map of Pokagon to guide guests out on the trails. Swenson Lodge, a day-use building available for rent for small conferences or gatherings within Trine SRA (a unit of the state park), is named after Helen. Trine SRA was dedicated in May 2014 through a gift from Ralph and Sherri Trine, local business owners and philanthropists, and by other nature and conservation groups, lands trusts, and individuals. In addition to Swenson Lodge, Trine SRA features a new welcome center and 12 refurbished cabins.



2 @ TRINE SRA Gentian Lake

Go on the accessible fishing pier and take in the sight of this natural kettle lake. The term “kettle” describes lakes gouged by enormous blocks of ice that melted and left pools in their path, remnants of the ice age. Gentian is the first of the Seven Sisters Lakes chain, a pristine example of a lake system rimmed by wetlands and featuring unique fen ecosystems.

Pokagon State Park
450 Lane 100 Lake James
Angola, IN 46703
260-833-2012
on.IN.gov/pokagonsp

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CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE

Pokagon State Park

Check out other Centennial Challenges at these parks across the state:

- McCormick’s Creek SP
- Indiana Dunes SP
- Turkey Run SP
- Clifty Falls SP

◀ *Continue your journey inside*



Stop by the original park gatehouse built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1937. The gatehouse was converted into a CCC pocket museum in 2016 and it hosts information on the CCC legacy as well as historic artifacts. The museum is open when the main gate is staffed.

4 Potawatomi Inn



The original section of Potawatomi Inn was constructed in 1926-1927 with 40 rooms. Now the Inn boasts 126 guest rooms and 12 cabins, along with a banquet and conference center. Be sure to stroll through the veranda between the fish tanks and the Lakeview Restaurant to admire the scenic view of Lake James, then stop in the Lonidaw Lounge, part of the original inn, and sit by the stone fireplace.

5 Saddle Barn



The saddle barn was completed by the CCC in 1937 and offers guided trail rides April–October. Notice the placement of the stones in the foundation at the front of the barn. Looking closely, you might catch a glimpse of the “snake” that the CCC men hid in their stonework.

6 Toboggan Track



Originally built by the CCC for their own winter enjoyment in 1935, the toboggan opened to the public in 1938. Through several iterations and renovations, there are now two refrigerated tracks and an expanded warming center. In the winter months, rent one of our toboggans and enjoy a ¼-mile ride at up to 42 mph down the 90-foot vertical drop.

7 CCC Shelter



The CCC Shelter was completed in 1936 and was known as the Combination Shelter and Main Beach Shelter until 1992, when it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Imagine the amount of work it took to cut and place all the stones in the walls and fireplace. Among them you will find a stone shaped like a heart. If the shelter is occupied, please photograph the dedication plaque or interpretive sign in front of the building.

8 Spring Shelter



The Spring Shelter was completed in 1938 by the CCC. Fresh spring water flows continuously, and many enjoy the clean, crisp taste. In preparation for the park’s centennial, the roof was replaced, the logs were sealed and rehabilitated following historic preservation guidelines, and the fireplace was rebuilt.



For many years, Pokagon hosted a CCC Reunion each July. In 2020, a special ceremony honored the now past CCC Veteran legacies. Three white oak trees were planted in honor of the veterans because much of the park’s CCC construction used white oaks. Each tree represents a different aspect of the CCC: conservation, teamwork, and lasting legacy.

Pokagon now hosts a CCC Open House at the end of July to showcase and honor the heritage of the CCC.

While at the Nature Center, stroll through the remnants of the CCC Co. 556 camp. Though none of the structures remain, the trails are laid out to show where each one was located. Interpretive signs will guide your walk.