



The Torch

The official newsletter for State of Indiana employees

JUNE
2025

Run the State Series will continue on June 21 at Ouabache State Park



If you haven't signed up for a 5K or Hike in the Run the State Series yet, now is the time! Come out to Ouabache State Park on Saturday, June 21 for the fourth event in the 2025 Run the State Series. Not only can you get your steps in during the 5K or hike, but you can also visit the new baby bison that was born in May. There's no cost to register for these events, but there is a \$7 per vehicle entry fee that will be collected at the entrance for each state park (except White River State Park). All Run the State participants will also receive a free Run the State T-shirt, commemorative pin, and medal. T-shirts and pins will be handed out during check-in and medals will be given at the end of each 5k or hike—be sure to select your preferred t-shirt size when registering.



Bison photo from @
INDNRstateparks on X

Sign up with your family members and make the commitment to get out and get moving!

Check out the upcoming events:

- [5K at White River State Park on June 7 \(registration open\)](#)
- [5K and Hike at Ouabache State Park on June 21 \(registration open\)](#)
- 5K and Hike at Turkey Run State Park on August 16 (registration opening soon)
- 5K and Hike at Clifty Falls State Park on September 20 (registration opening soon)

**Learn more about the Run
the State series >**

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The Torch is published monthly by the Indiana State Personnel Department and is available online at on.in.gov/TheTorch.

Got a story?

Submit your story ideas to:
spdcommunications@spd.in.gov

X



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INDOT stepping up for Michigan after the storm

When a catastrophic ice storm in late March caused widespread damage in northern Michigan, INDOT workers stepped up to help our neighbor. A crew of 45 employees spent a week clearing up the debris.

"It was amazing to see how many volunteers requested to help," said INDOT Highway Maintenance Director (HMD) Justin Bednar. "We had so many that we could not take them all and had to create a backup list. People were so passionate about going; their emotions ran high because they really wanted to help."

The ice storm damaged nearly 3 million acres of Michigan forests, affecting hundreds of state and county roads. After spending two weeks dealing with the fallout, the state of Michigan exercised the Emergency Management Assistant Compact (EMAC) process, which is a formal agreement between all U.S. states. As a result, INDOT deployed the 45-member crew.

"This was INDOT's first activation as part of the EMAC," said INDOT Statewide Emergency Planning and Response Director Mike Nichols. "All deployment costs are reimbursed by the requesting state. A Tippecanoe County Emergency Management Agency taskforce also was deployed to provide the crews breakfast and dinner."

INDOT personnel left April 12 for northern Michigan and brought woodchippers, forestry mulchers, skid steers with grapples, loaders, a Gradall with a tree-limb shear, mini-excavators, backhoes, chainsaws, message boards, signs, and sign stands.

[Read the full story on Employee Central >](#)



Four teams graduate Indiana Conservation Officer K-9 School



Four Indiana Conservation Officer K-9 teams were recognized for completing the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Law Enforcement's nine-week K-9 Resource Protection Program during a graduation ceremony held on Friday, May 23 on the south lawn of the Indiana Statehouse.

Indiana's K-9 program started in 1997 with a pilot program of two teams. Because of its effectiveness, the program has grown to 10 K-9 teams throughout the state, one in each of the Indiana DNR Law Enforcement districts.

[Read the full DNR news release here >](#)

IDOC team brings home top honors at 2025 Mock Prison Riot Skills Competition

A big shoutout to the Indiana Department of Correction Emergency Control Unit team members who competed in the 2025 Mock Riot Skills Competition, held in May at the decommissioned West Virginia Penitentiary in Moundsville, West Virginia.

The Mock Prison Riot is a unique, immersive training event that brings together corrections, law enforcement, military, and public safety professionals from around the world. Hosted annually, it features hands-on tactical training, technology demonstrations, and a Skills Competition designed to test participants' endurance, communication, and teamwork under realistic conditions.

The team from IDOC dedicated months to rigorous preparation, and their hard work paid off. They secured third place in the obstacle course and third place in the overall teams skills competition, standing out among 18 elite teams from across the globe.

Meet the team:

- Jessica Borgnini, Wabash Valley Correctional Facility K-9
- Phillip Ivy, Wabash Valley Correctional Facility E-Squad
- Adam Johnson, Wabash Valley Correctional Facility K-9
- James Henrich, Westville Correctional Facility E-Squad
- Randy Jones, Westville Correctional Facility E-Squad
- Zaeha VanSchoyck, Westville Correctional Facility K-9
- Moises Lopez-Jimenez, Indiana State Prison E-Squad
- Bradley Throneberry, Miami Correctional Facility E-Squad

- Kirtis Shrout, Miami Correctional Facility E-Squad
- Lacey Bocking, Branchville Correctional Facility K-9
- Gerald Hayn, Rockville Correctional Facility E-Squad
- Steven Mackiewicz, Rockville Correctional Facility E-Squad
- Zack Barker, Rockville Correctional Facility E-Squad
- Joshua Reese, Rockville Correctional Facility E-Squad
- Levi Boluwo, Special Emergency Response Team (SERT)
- Chance Talbot, Special Emergency Response Team (SERT)

"This team's performance speaks volumes about the caliber of people we have working in our facilities," said Troy Keith, Executive Director of Field Operations. "Their success at this competition is a direct result of their commitment to training, teamwork, and public safety. We're incredibly proud of their efforts and the way they represented Indiana and IDOC."

The Mock Prison Riot isn't just about competition; it's about building trust, enhancing skills, and fostering a sense of camaraderie among participants. The event's realistic scenarios and challenging environments provide invaluable experience that translates directly to real-world situations.

Congratulations to every member of this year's team for stepping up and representing IDOC with integrity, strength, and teamwork. You brought credit not only to yourselves, but to the entire agency.

Way to go, team – you've made Indiana proud.



Oral Health division's work creates smiles with LHD dental health kit distributions

When it comes to the great work the Indiana Department of Health's [Oral Health Division](#) is doing, the cat is out of the bag.

Or, perhaps a better idiom is the toothpaste is out of the tube as some of their recent work providing dental kits to local health departments recently made the news and helped spread the word about the impact the division is making throughout the State.

One of the latest examples took place in Henry County. [The New Castle Courier Times](#) reported the Henry County Health Department (HCHD) kicked off its Dental Health Program April 7 by handing out 3,000 dental health kits to elementary school students. Each child received a kit that contained a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, and a timer (so they can be sure to brush for the recommended two minutes). The initiative was made possible by IDOH and the American Dental Association (ADA).

"We're incredibly proud of the remarkable work being done in Henry County, and across many communities statewide, to promote oral health," Oral Health Division Director Nelly Chawla, BDS, MPH, CPH, said. "Local health departments and schools are stepping up in impactful ways by distributing dental kits, engaging students in oral health education,



Photo by the Henry County Health Department

and using our online videos and curriculum to teach lasting habits. These efforts are providing children not only with the tools they need but also with the knowledge to take ownership of their oral health from an early age."

She called HCHD's work "a powerful benchmark."

Dr. Chawla said that, in addition to 51,000 dental kits ordered through ADA, IDOH has distributed more than 3,500 additional kits as well as 13,100 toothbrushes to local programs.

"By combining statewide resources with the dedicated efforts of local health departments and schools, we're driving meaningful change in oral health education and prevention," she said. "Together, we're laying the groundwork for healthier, more confident generations of children across Indiana — one smile at a time."

Article by the Indiana Department of Health

Share your opinion on The Torch newsletter

We want to hear from you!

The Indiana State Personnel Department (INSPD) is conducting a survey to gather feedback and insights to optimize effectiveness of The Torch, the monthly newsletter for State of Indiana employees.

Please take a few minutes to provide your honest feedback -- even if you do not usually read The Torch. The results of the survey will help us to provide a relevant and useful newsletter for State of Indiana employees.

Your participation is greatly appreciated!

Complete the Survey >



Four employees honored at INDOT's Commissioner's Excellence in Public Service Awards

The Commissioner's Excellence in Public Service Awards were created to identify team members whose contributions exceed established program service levels. Employees are recognized in three categories: Exemplary Achievement and Performance, Outstanding Creativity in Process or System Improvement, and Distinguished Customer Service and Personal Interactions.

Twenty-eight employees were nominated for the awards and four winners were honored.

Jon Cooper, the former Fleet director and current Logistics Director in INDOT's Greenfield District, was the honoree for Exemplary Achievement and Performance.



INDOT Commissioner, Lyndsay Quist (left) and Jon Cooper (right)

Cooper implemented annual heavy mechanic preventative maintenance trainings, turning a preventative maintenance on-time ratio for assets from just 60% in 2019 when he joined INDOT to consistently at least 95%. He also helped lower the ratio of unusable plow trucks from 31% to 5%.

Cooper has taken the same strategy and direction in facilities and materials in his new role as logistics director.

Brian Bauermeister, a Construction area engineer in INDOT's Fort Wayne District, and Matt Yarian, a Consultant Services manager in INDOT's Fort Wayne District, were the two winners in the Distinguished Customer Service and Personal Interactions category.



Lyndsay Quist (left) and Brian Bauermeister (right)

Both INDOT employees were honored for their integrity, calmness, and fairness with internal and external stakeholders, including contractors, coworkers, and concerned citizens.



Lyndsay Quist (left) and Matt Yarian (right)

Bauermeister was lauded as a servant-teacher, and Yarian was feted for creating a program for young transportation professionals in the district.

Karie Riley, a Digital Analysis Division project management office director in INDOT's Central Office, was the

honoree for Outstanding Creativity in Process or System Improvement.

Riley helped create the Business Systems Analysis team and implement a tool to automate the collection and documentation of IT system requirements. She drove system and process design, engaging stakeholders and the teams responsible for IT project development. She and her staff helped implement an automated IT request system and formed engagement standards with agency partners.



Lyndsay Quist (left) and Karie Riley (right)

INDOT Commissioner Lyndsay Quist concluded the program by thanking the nominators and award winners.

"Your passion, caring, and purpose just shined through all those speeches," said Quist. "It's inspiring to hear from all of you and see all the support...It really is momentous and an honor to represent INDOT and all of you as we keep pushing forward in public service."

Article by the Indiana Department of Transportation

McCormick, Johnson recognized nationally for immunization work

Two of the Indiana Department of Health's [Immunization Division](#) leaders recently received national recognition from pharmaceutical and immunization organizations.

Division Director Dave McCormick was honored with the American Pharmacists Association's (APhA) "[Friend of Pharmacy](#)" award, which is one of only nine honors given out as part of APhA's 2025 Immunization Champion Awards.

McCormick was named this year's national winner in February, about a month prior to the official announcement during the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Nashville.

The IDOH immunization stalwart leads a team that works with approximately 925 healthcare providers to deliver more than \$80 million of publicly funded vaccine.

McCormick may well be running out of shelf space to keep these accolades as the Friend of Pharmacy award follows two awards from the Association of Immunization Managers (one for him and another for his division) last December.

Immunization Assessment and Promotion Director Tami Johnson is also no stranger to accolades about her work, though she took the news that she's set to receive an American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA) Impact award with her typical modesty.



"We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to you for your outstanding achievement," said Gabriella Wagoner, AIRA communications specialist, in an email notifying Johnson of the award.

McCormick congratulated Johnson for the award and explained its origins.

"The team was intentional in nominating you for your outstanding work and dedication to improving the health of Hoosiers through data and use of new technology," he said. "Thank you for your vision and amazing work. You are an asset to the division, commission, and agency."

Article by the Indiana Department of Health

Leadership at All Levels Silver course grads honored

More than 60 State of Indiana team members representing six different agencies took a moment to celebrate their completion of a leadership program that taught emotional intelligence, empowerment, and team development.

The Leadership at All Levels Silver course grads gathered for the customary graduation ceremony on earlier this year to receive their certificates, hear words of encouragement from State Health Commissioner Lindsay Weaver, M.D., FACEP, and others, and celebrate this important accomplishment.



The majority of graduates are IDOH team members, but the Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Child Services, Indiana Department of Revenue, Indiana Department of Workforce Development, and Indiana Gaming Commission were also represented by program participants.

Article by the Indiana Department of Health

INDOT employee finds the bright side of car troubles

Indiana Department of Transportation employee Faith Wheat was driving home from work when she heard a loud pop from her car. She assumed it was a flat tire and pulled over to the side of the road, but to her surprise, all of her tires looked fine. She reached out to the INDOT Hoosier Helpers right away, a group that helps drivers stranded on the side of the road in specific zones of Indiana highways, and a friend came to wait with her.

Not long after, she spotted an RV with “Miracles of Action” written across it. A man approached Faith with a high visibility vest and introduced himself — Alan Kight drives across the U.S. helping stranded drivers like Wheat out of a desire to help others. He quickly deduced that her engine was falling out of her car, and it looked like the vehicle would have to be towed. The Hoosier Helpers arrived and offered to get it arranged, but Kight asked to try his hand at securing the engine.

It would be a time-consuming process, but he gathered the tools from his mobile repair shop and sent the Hoosier Helpers on their way to help other motorists.

“He spent four hours with me fixing my car, topped off my fluids, and didn’t even ask for a cent. He asked me to sign his RV though and to draw a butterfly,” Wheat said.

“When I first pulled over, all I could do was think about how unlucky I was to be stuck on the side of the highway. Alan saw me and helped. He reminded me that no matter what I go through, it’ll be okay and there will be good people there to help me. I felt quite lucky at the end, and very thankful that I met him and he chose to stop and help.”

Between good Samaritans like Kight, who has traveled thousands of miles helping others in his RV, and the Hoosier Helpers, who have helped more than 400,000



motorists, Indiana’s drivers are in good hands. **If you’re stranded on one of Indiana’s interstates with car troubles, you can call 855-463-6848 to get in touch with the Hoosier Helpers.**

Article submitted by Faith Wheat (Indiana Department of Transportation)

Learn more about the Hoosier Helpers program >

Indiana Commission for Women’s Torchbearer Award nominations now open

The Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) is seeking nominations for the 2025 Torchbearer Awards. In 2004, the Torchbearer Awards were initiated to honor the accomplishments of Indiana women in their communities, state, and nation. A Torchbearer epitomizes a trailblazer who emerges as a guiding light through her courage, resilience, and compassion. Leading by example, she sparks inspiration, igniting a flame that illuminates pathways for others to follow.

If you know a Hoosier woman deserving of this award, please review the [Torchbearer award criteria](#) and submit a nomination. To view partnership packages please contact info@icw.in.gov.



Nominations must be submitted no later than midnight on Tuesday, July 1.

Article by the Indiana Commission for Women

All-Star Cure seeks breast tissue donors the weekend before AT&T WNBA All-Star Game 2025

Up to 500 women can donate healthy breast tissue to IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center's Komen Tissue Bank on July 12 and 13

While basketball players take on their opponents this summer during the AT&T WNBA All-Star Game 2025, another group of women will have an opportunity take on an even fiercer opponent: breast cancer.

Women under age 40 and women of color are especially encouraged to donate, but all women who meet the eligibility criteria below can donate healthy breast tissue to the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center's [Susan G. Komen Tissue Bank](#) during the All-Star Cure to be held Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13. The tissue bank is a resource within the [Vera Bradley Foundation Center for Breast Cancer Research](#) at the cancer center.



Read the full news release for more details and to register >

Plan your next amusement park visit with these discounts



Holiday World and Splashin' Safari

State of Indiana employees will save on their Holiday World & Splashin' Safari ticket purchases when they visit the [Holiday World Fun Club website](#) and enter the (case sensitive) username and password:

Username: Holiday123

Password: World123

Visit the [Holiday World website](#) for a complete calendar.



Indiana Beach

State of Indiana employees receive a discount on Indiana Beach tickets for the 2025 season. Indiana Beach now utilizes dynamic pricing which means the ticket prices for a specific date will change in price based upon demand.

Enter the [Indiana Beach promo code](#) at the [Indiana Beach ticket sales website](#) to receive the discount. If you are not on the State network, contact spdcommunications@spd.in.gov to obtain the discount code. Be sure to email with your State employee email address.



Kentucky Kingdom & Hurricane Bay

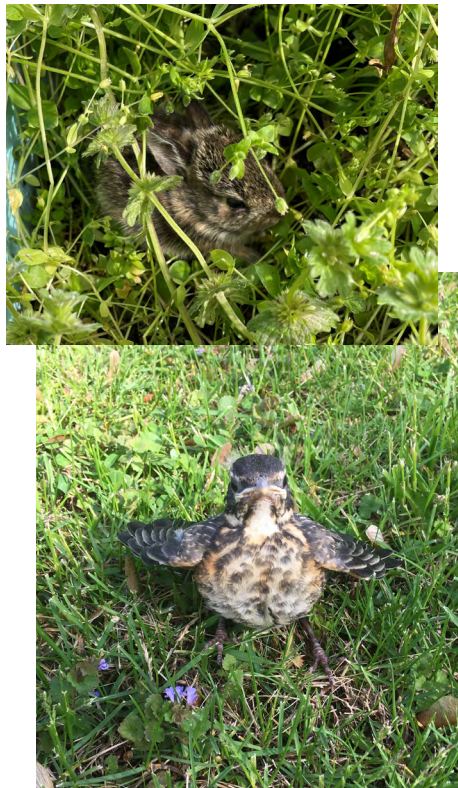
State of Indiana employees can enjoy a discount on regular admission to Kentucky Kingdom! View the [Kentucky Kingdom 2025 discount flyer](#) for more information on how to purchase. You must be on the State network to access this link. Please email spdcommunications@spd.in.gov if you have issues accessing the flyer or link. Be sure to email with your State employee email address.

View the [Kentucky Kingdom & Hurricane Bay website](#).

Living with wildlife: Baby, orphaned, and injured wildlife

From the end of February through the beginning of June, new wildlife is being born. It is common to run into these new arrivals while outdoors when you're taking a stroll, doing yard work, or participating in other outdoor activities. We know you care about wildlife, so consider these tips to give these new babies the best chance of survival:

- Wildlife's BEST chance of survival is to be with their mothers. Give moms credit for their hard work; they need to keep their energy up to care for their babies! It is very rare that she'd abandon her young. It is normal for babies to be left alone for long periods of time while mom finds food. Babies know that they need to stay still and quiet while they wait for her to come back.
- It is not recommended to give wildlife human food or liquids like cow's milk. Wild animals have different and specific diets and sometimes good intentions can end up harming wildlife.
- Observe babies from a distance. Take photos to capture the memory but ultimately give wildlife space to do their own thing.
- Investigate IF a wild animal actually needs help before inserting yourself. Signs where help is needed include seeing the mother die, obvious wounds, difficulty breathing, and/or diarrhea. If babies truly need to be rescued, they MUST be turned over to a permitted wildlife rehabilitator within 24 hours. Reach out to rehabilitators BEFORE helping animals. As difficult as it may



be, if a rehabilitator cannot aid, consider letting the circle of life take its course. Many wild animals survive even if it is not immediately apparent.

- Human scent does NOT deter a mother from coming back. If you see a baby that has fallen out of a nest or den, you can put it back and leave the area. Don't let yourself or pets linger! Hovering can dissuade a mom from coming back and/or your scent can attract predators.
- Before doing yard work, take a quick walk around the property to make sure you are avoiding any nests or dens.

Find information on biologists, species information, and rehabilitators at on.IN.gov/keepwildlifewild.

Article by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Countdown to the Indiana State Fair begins!



The countdown to the State Fair is on! The team is deep into planning for the 2025 Indiana State Fair, and this year's theme, "Soundtrack of Summer," presented by Get Prepared Indiana, promises to strike a chord with fairgoers of all ages. From live music and themed exhibits to classic fair fun, the fair is curating an experience that celebrates the sounds of summer in every way. Stay tuned for exciting announcements and get ready to make some noise this August!

Fall Creek Fence Line Nears Completion!

The Fall Creek fence line project is nearing completion! This long-anticipated improvement enhances both the efficiency, security and aesthetics of the Fairgrounds, creating a more welcoming and polished perimeter for our guests. Thank you for your patience as the final touches are wrapped up, just in time for a busy Indiana State Fair!

June is Men's Health Month

Men's Health month brings awareness to the health challenges men face and the opportunities they have to achieve better health outcomes. Did you know the life expectancy for men in the U.S. is over five years shorter than it is for women? Men are at an increased risk of heart disease, cancer, mental health struggles, and more, but there are things you can do to decrease your risk. These are a few ways you can get started:

Go to your preventive care appointments

Cancer screenings can help find disease in its early stages and improve treatment outcomes. Plus, members of the State Employee Health Plan receive [\\$50 in Wellness Rewards](#) for completing each eligible cancer screening. You can also receive \$25 for each eligible vaccine you receive, \$50 for successfully completing a dental cleaning, \$200 for completing an annual physical and submitting the [Annual Physical Results Form](#), and more. You can find more details on these and other rewards in the [ActiveHealth portal](#). Get started today to earn up to \$500 in gift card rewards in 2025 (eligible spouses can also earn up to \$500 in gift card rewards).

Prioritize sleep

Aim for seven or more hours of sleep per night, which can help you improve your mood, perform better at work and in your personal life, maintain a healthy weight, avoid injuries and accidents, and more. To improve the quality of your sleep, try removing distractions from your sleep area and limiting the use of electronics leading up to bedtime. You may also find that exercising in the mornings and maintaining a consistent bedtime routine helps you sleep better.

Protect yourself from the sun

Wear sunscreen every day—not just when you're out in the sun. When you do spend prolonged periods in the sun, reapply your sunscreen every two hours to help protect your skin from damage. UV rays tend to be strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the U.S., so be especially vigilant during those hours. You can also protect yourself with wide brimmed hats and clothing that covers your arms and legs.



Make healthy diet choices

Eating a diet with plenty of lean protein, fruits and vegetables, and high-fiber foods while limiting processed sugar, alcohol, and saturated fats can help you to maintain a healthy weight. Your brain also needs carbohydrates as fuel—try options like sweet potatoes, oats, fresh fruit, beans and more to add to your diet. If it feels overwhelming to change your whole diet at once, start small by adding an extra serving of vegetables to dinner or making a goal to switch soda for water at your next meal. You can build your way up from there and visit the [MyPlate Kitchen website](#) for recipe ideas. Eligible employees and spouses can also meet with an ActiveHealth coach for one-on-one or group guidance. Log in to the [ActiveHealth portal](#) and navigate to the Coaching tab to get started.

Visit the [Invest In Your Health](#) site for more resources >

Physical Activity & Fitness Resources

Regular physical activity is an important factor in maintaining overall health. Health benefits of physical activity include regulation of blood pressure, management of anxiety and depression, and preventing weight gain and obesity.

View physical activity & fitness resources >

Have you scheduled your annual physical?

During your annual physical, a healthcare provider will check key health indicators by collecting measurements such as blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar levels, and family history. These measurements provide valuable information about your current health and can help identify potential health risks. And not only are annual physicals covered 100%* for eligible employees and spouses on the State Employee Health Plan, but you can also earn \$200 in Wellness Rewards for completing the appointment and submitting the Annual Physical Results form.



See the full steps below

1. Schedule an appointment with your Primary Care Provider for your Annual Physical with lab work. If you don't have a Primary Care Provider, you can find one by logging in to [anthem.com](https://www.anthem.com) or through the [Sydney Health mobile app](#) and selecting Find Care.
2. Print the [Annual Physical Results form](#) and fill in Section 1. Bring the form to your appointment and have your doctor complete Section 2.
3. You are responsible for submitting your completed form. Follow instructions on the form to upload it or submit it via fax. It can take up to 4 weeks for the forms to be processed and you will receive a confirmation email that your form has been submitted. Your form is considered processed when the ActiveHealth portal Rewards Center shows the activity as complete.
4. Results must be visible in the [ActiveHealth portal](#) by December 31, 2025, to earn the gift card.

*If non-preventive care is provided at the same time as the annual physical, there could be out-of-pocket costs.

MyHealthfinder Tool

Use the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [MyHealthfinder tool](#) to learn what screening tests and vaccines you need to stay healthy.



View Anthem's [Preventive Health Guidelines](#) to find out what care is recommended for you and your family.

Find new ways to stay active as you age

Aging healthfully and gracefully

Being active is important at any age. But it's even more important as you get older, even if you are living with a condition. Join us to talk about how you can exercise safely and effectively as you age.

Tuesday, June 17

10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. ET



Staying physically active is a healthy habit as you age. For older adults, regular exercise can help you improve your function and stay independent. Ask your provider if you're healthy enough to work out. If so, find activities you enjoy so you keep it up.

Mix up your activities. On most days, do cardio like going for a walk or swim. It's healthy for your heart and helps manage weight and stress. Get strength exercises twice a week for healthy muscles and bones. Add balance moves like tai chi to help prevent falls.

Here are more tips:

- Make workouts social. Join friends for golf, bowling, or pickleball.
- Take an exercise class for older adults. Try water aerobics, dance, or yoga.
- Exercise earlier in the day when you're more alert and less tired.
- Enjoy the outdoors? Work in your garden. Walk on local nature trails.

Sign up for the aging healthfully and gracefully webinar >

Request a Know the Facts Outreach Kit

Substance Use Disorder, commonly referred to as addiction, is a disease impacting many Hoosiers. Often times, individuals experiencing this disorder feel stigmatized and discouraged to reach out for help.

**Know
the
facts.**

**DEFEAT THE STIGMA
OF ADDICTION**

See the person, not the disease.

Indiana's Division of Mental Health & Addiction (DMHA)

would like to remind citizens that treatment is available, and recovery is possible. Please consider partnering with DMHA in spreading awareness on their anti-stigma campaign, Know the Facts, and the resources they have to offer individuals and families in need.

Know the Facts Campaign has a free Outreach Kit that is delivered directly to the ordering site's office at no charge. Likewise, their micro-site has a KTF Outreach Materials page that hosts free print-on-demand links for their materials.

**Request a Know the Facts
Outreach Kit >**

Be safe on, in, and around the water this summer

June is National Get Outdoors Month and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), encourages you to enjoy the Hoosier outdoors safely.

Water will no doubt be involved in a lot of those activities, and strong swimmers, weak swimmers, nonswimmers, experienced boaters, boating newcomers, and anyone else who recreates around Indiana's beautiful bodies of waters needs to remember basic safety tips so they can keep returning to the fun:

- **Wear your life jacket**
- **Tell someone where you are going and when you will return**
- **Go with a buddy**
- **Never venture around flooded or fast-moving waterways**
- **Avoid alcohol**

In addition to basic water safety, Indiana Conservation Officers also stress the importance of boating safety and remind boaters to know the rules of the water.

Reducing the boat's speed in unfamiliar areas and being aware of unusual water conditions respective to the size and type of boat are important environmental considerations. Regardless of boat type, an initial assessment of the water levels before your voyage



and watching your speed while underway are essential.

Designating a sober boat operator should always be a priority. Wave action, sun exposure, and wind, separately or in combination, can magnify impairment from alcohol. It's illegal to operate a motorboat or personal motorized watercraft in Indiana while intoxicated due to alcohol or drugs. Indiana law defines intoxication as having a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or greater.


Wearing life jackets is another priority. Life jackets should be United States Coast Guard approved, in good working condition, and size appropriate to the wearer. Modern life jackets are designed to be lighter, less obtrusive, and more

comfortable than what you might be used to. Inflatable life jackets allow mobility and flexibility for activities like boating, fishing, or paddling, and are much cooler to wear in warmer weather.

"We can't emphasize enough the importance of wearing your life jacket," said Maj. Brian Bailey, Indiana's Boating Law Administrator. "Wearing a life jacket and practicing safe boating habits are crucial for ensuring the safety of everyone on the water."

Article by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Learn more about boating education and safety >




WHAT'S IN

DEEP DIVE INTO FUN IN INDIANA

Looking for inspiration and adventure? Let your Official Indiana Travel Guide the way! Time to discover something new—IN Indiana.

[YOUR OFFICIAL TRAVEL GUIDE IN INDIANA](#)



IN INDIANA

BEACHES
ATTRACTIONS
FESTIVALS
FOOD &
DRINK
ADVENTURES
GREAT OUTDOOR
ADVENTURES
KIDS FUN &
SAFETY TIPS
B MUCH MORE!

Keeping employees safe with noise protection

Did you know noise-induced hearing loss is the most common occupational hazard for American workers? About 30 million workers are exposed to hazardous noise on the job. Hearing loss from noise is often slow and painless—you can have a disability before you notice it—but it's entirely preventable.

OSHA requires employers to monitor noise levels so they can identify employees who may be over-exposed to noise. You can see a full overview of [noise limits and protection on the OSHA website](#), but did you know the limit for consistent noise is about the same as the noise level of a busy restaurant? A good rule of thumb is if you have to raise your voice to be heard three feet away, your exposure to noise may be over the action limit. Changes like modifying equipment and rotating tasks can reduce noise exposure, but proper hearing protection is essential.

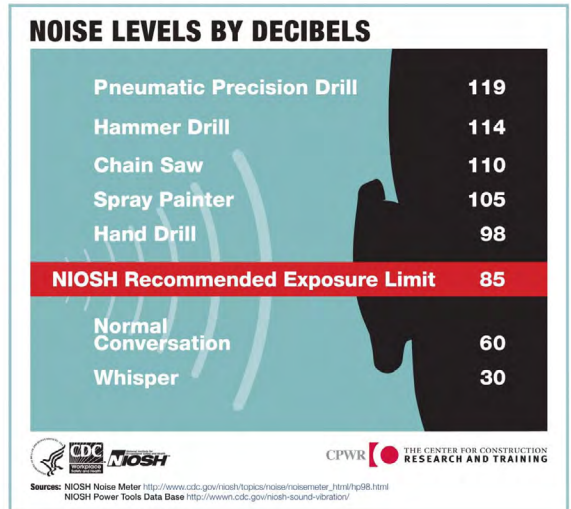
Common forms of protection include:

- Earplugs: Made of foam or soft plastic and inserted into the ear canal.
- Earmuffs: Worn outside the ear, these can be a headband or neckband form. You can also find earmuffs that are attached to hard hats.
- Protective Communication Headsets: Electronic hearing protectors that allow you to easily communicate while blocking out loud noises.

Employers need to make sure employees have proper fittings for hearing protection devices and that they're used correctly. It's also important for employers to cover the cost of replacing the hearing protection devices as needed and keep them clean and stored properly.

Does your workplace need support with noise protection? INSafe, Indiana's no-cost onsite workplace safety and health consultation division, provides free safety and health consultations (including noise and air sampling) to Hoosier businesses and all state agencies. If you have any questions about hearing conservation or any other workplace safety or health issue, reach out to by phone at (317) 232-2688 or visit the [INSafe website](#).

Article by the Indiana Department of Labor



Ohio Street traffic restrictions continue

Utility construction continues to require phased traffic restrictions along Ohio Street between West Street and Senate Avenue. The work is expected to last approximately four months and will affect both traffic flow and parking in the area.

Traffic Impact Timeline

- **May 5 – June 9:** Ohio Street will be limited to eastbound traffic only (from West Street).
- **June 9 – July 7:** Full closure of Ohio Street in both directions.
- **July 7 – September 8:** Ohio Street will be limited to westbound traffic only (from Senate Avenue).

Please note that access to the IGC loading dock will remain available throughout all phases of construction.

Parking Impact

In addition, Senate Avenue south of Ohio Street, located in front of the State Library, will be closed to all parking from May 5 through September 8.

Employees and visitors are encouraged to plan alternate routes and allow extra time for travel during this period. Thank you for your patience as this critical infrastructure work is completed.



Plan your future with confidence by staying engaged in Hoosier START even after retirement

As you step into retirement, your Hoosier START retirement plan continues to be a valuable asset for your financial security. By staying with the plan through retirement, you continue to benefit from personalized support, flexible payout options and the ability to keep your savings in a familiar environment.



Personalized support: Hoosier START offers individualized consultations and plans tailored to help you navigate your unique retirement journey, helping to ensure that you have the guidance you need to make informed decisions.

Personal Retirement Consultant services are free and available at your convenience.



Flexible payout options: Hoosier START provides flexible payout options that can be customized to fit your needs and goals.



Potential growth and stability: By keeping your money in the Hoosier START plan, you can take advantage of tools and resources to help grow your savings while avoiding potential penalties and restrictions associated with rolling over into an IRA. This helps ensure your financial stability and security throughout retirement.



Discover My Income & Retirement PlannerSM

My Income & Retirement PlannerSM (MIRP) is an all-in-one digital retirement and financial planner. It's designed with your planning needs in mind and makes it simple to get started while offering the flexibility to customize and adapt to your evolving financial needs.

MIRP can help you make informed decisions about your future, such as:

- ✓ Projecting and visualizing your future financial situation to gauge how you're doing and explore ways to help ensure that you reach your goals
- ✓ Estimating your health care costs and other retirement expenses
- ✓ Exploring common "what-if" scenarios to see how they impact your retirement
- ✓ Discovering what happens if you increase your contributions by just 1% per paycheck

[Log in to your Hoosier START account to access My Income & Retirement Planner >](#)



Artwork by Karter, submitted by April Sims
(Indiana Department of Environmental
Management)

Complete the Interim Review Self-Assessment by June 15

The Interim Review is an opportunity for managers and employees at participating agencies to review and discuss progress toward successful goal outcomes and the demonstration of assigned competency behaviors. These discussions are designed to limit surprises during the formal Performance Appraisal process and to course correct if necessary.



Accessing the Interim Review

The Interim Review process is available in the SuccessFactors "To-do" tile. Employees should first complete the Self-assessment Step. This is an opportunity to highlight progress, achievements, and challenges for the manager's review. Managers can begin drafting the Manager Assessment Step by accessing the Team Overview tab from the Performance Inbox.

To view the Interim Review process timeline, recommended actions, training opportunities, and support resources, use the [Interim Review Process Overview & Process Checklist document](#). Contact performancemanagement@spd.in.gov if you need an accommodation to participate in the Interim Review Self- or Manager Assessment steps.

New Bachelor of Science in Community and Organizational Leadership Studies offered through O'Neill School at IU Indianapolis



O'NEILL

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
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Prepare to influence positive change and achieve community or organizational visions and goals with a Bachelor of Science in Community and Organizational Leadership Studies (BSCOLS). The flexible COLS curriculum permits students to build upon previous learning experiences, accepting the maximum transfer credit hours, awarding credit for college-comparable professional development or certifications, and offering hybrid/online/evening classes to meet the needs of students who work full-time. This degree equips you with the skills for driving success in any organizational setting.

Unique COLS Opportunities

- Maximize use of previous college credits – students can transfer up to 64 credit hours from Ivy Tech Community College or other Indiana colleges or universities.
- Earn college credit for leadership learning experiences (military transfer credit, professional certifications, and more).
- Learn career-ready skills in project management, human resource management, non-profit leadership, quality management, and many other SPEA courses.
- Get early access to our top-ranked graduate programs with an accelerated graduate certificate or master's program (new certificates and MS degree options are planned for 2026).
- Ivy Tech transfer students can apply for many scholarship options, including our new Ivy Tech Transfer Student Success Scholarship.

Learn more about the Bachelor of Science in Community and Organizational Leadership Studies at oneill.indianapolis.iu.edu/academics/undergrad-degrees/cols.html or schedule an appointment with [Liz Wager](#) today!

State Park Centennial Challenges honor park history



Visit five 100-year-old Indiana State Parks to enjoy their new challenges to help celebrate the history of Indiana State Parks.

Parks with centennial challenges include [McCormick's Creek State Park](#) (est. 1916), [Turkey Run State Park](#) (est. 1916), [Clifty Falls State Park](#) (est. 1920), [Pokagon State Park](#) (est. 1925), and [Indiana Dunes State Park](#) (est. 1925).

The challenges kick off the celebration of this year's 100th anniversaries of Indiana Dunes State Park and Pokagon State Park. For a hundred years, these parks have provided northern Indiana with natural playgrounds and conservation of unique natural resources.

"We have challenges at many parks that provide opportunities for physical activity through hiking, kayaking, or canoeing," said Ginger Murphy, deputy director for stewardship for Indiana State Parks. "We are happy to add these opportunities for Hoosiers to open a window into some of the people and places who helped to shape our state's history."

Each challenge explores the history of the respective park's natural resources, pre-park establishment, and important historical structures and stories. Guests who complete a challenge earn a unique sticker for that park. The instructions for each challenge can be found at dnr.IN.gov/healthy.

The Indiana State Parks system was established in 1916 as a centennial gift to Hoosiers. Explore the history of Indiana State Parks as it relates to the history of our state at on.IN.gov/INStateParkHistory.

Guests who enjoy history may also want to check out the CCC Challenge that explores the Civilian Conservation Corps at [Ouabache State Park](#), also found at dnr.IN.gov/healthy.

Earn your Data Proficiency Program badges through SuccessFactors



The Indiana Management Performance Hub (MPH) recently moved the Data Proficiency Program courses to SuccessFactors (SF). Employees can now earn program badges by completing the Green, Blue and Gold Badge Series modules in the State of Indiana Learning Management System.

If you have already earned a badge since the training launched, you will not need to retake the courses. MPH is collaborating with INSPD to ensure that all completed training is reflected in learners' SF learning history. Although there isn't a timeline for completing this process, MPH aims to prevent employees from retaking unnecessary training.

View instructions for accessing the Data Proficiency trainings and FAQs >

Article by the Indiana Management Performance Hub

Indiana Statehouse
Tour Office &
Education Center

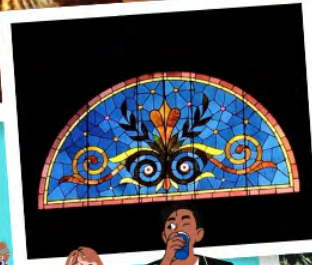
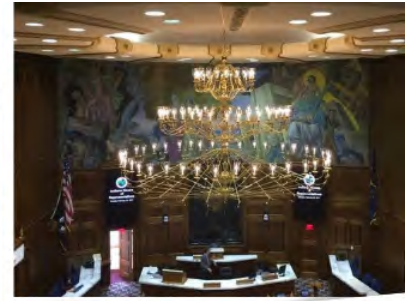
Visit the INDIANA STATEHOUSE

45-minute tours for State Employees every Tuesday this summer! Step inside and discover the beauty of our historic working building.

June 3- August 26

11:00

To sign up: touroffice@idoa.IN.gov



‘Unlock the Power of Using DNA to Enhance Your Genealogy’ scheduled for June 14

As part of its Summer Lecture Series, on Saturday, June 14, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., the Indiana State Library will present "Unlock the Power of Using DNA to Enhance Your Genealogy." In three sessions, attendees will learn how to leverage DNA to uncover their family history, fill in the gaps of their family tree and gain valuable tips and tricks on how to apply these methods to their own research.

"DNA Ethnicities and Thrulines" will explore DNA ethnicity estimates and Thrulines. They will also learn how to interpret ethnicity results and use Thrulines to discover potential connections within a family tree.

In "Shared Matches," attendees will learn what a shared match list shows and how it can be used to

identify relatives and confirm connections.

In the final session, "Case Studies," practical techniques to analyze shared match data and help researchers build out a family tree with confidence will be featured.

This event is hybrid, free and open to the public. Registration is required. Read more and register for the in-person or online sessions on the [Indiana State Library Summer Lecture Series event page](#). Indiana library staff will receive LEUs for attending.

Indiana State Library

20



25

Summer Lecture Series

**View more information
and register >**

June 7, 2025

Rock Fest | Brown County State Park

Join the Brown County Rock and Mineral Club at the Nature Center to take a look at some amazing rock displays and learn more about rocks!

[More Information >](#)

Jammin' on the Wabash | Harmonie State Park

Get ready for a day of music at Harmonie State Park! Enjoy the Shadetree Players and friends, as they give free ukulele lessons, host a jam session, host open mic time, and a fun concert that will have you tapping your toes.

[More Information >](#)

June 8, 2025

2025 Nature Journaling Summer Series | Prophetstown State Park

This series is for beginners and taught by beginners. In each class, there is a lesson on a natural topic or artistic skill, followed by time to journal.

[More Information >](#)

June 14, 2025

Poker Paddle | Chain O'Lakes State Park

This is a fun, friendly, and free way to play poker while enjoying the beautiful outdoors at the same time. There will be five stations placed around Sand Lake or in the channels. Pick a card at each station and see if you have a winning hand!

[More Information >](#)

June 21, 2025

June Night Ride | Redbird Off-Road State Recreation Area

Pack your tools and spare parts and get ready for a night of fun and riding! Powerline hill will have lighting for you to ride late into the night.

[More Information >](#)

Bicycle Poker Run | Patoka Lake

Cruise along the paved Patoka Lake bike trail and attempt to select the best hand. Pick a card at each of the five stations along the bike trail to see if you have the winning hand.

[More Information >](#)

Hotrods at Harmonie Car Show | Harmonie State Park

Back again this summer are cool cars on a hot day! Be a part of this family-friendly fun day of wheels, good food, and music.

[More Information >](#)

Raptor Day | Charlestown State Park

Live Birds of Prey shows at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Bird themed crafts and activities will be held throughout the day.

[More Information >](#)

Smokey Safety Day | Brown County State Park

Join for Smokey the Bear's Safety Day! Fun activities are planned for the entire day for all ages. Activities include a coloring contest, Smokey and Friends parade, wildland fire fighting tool demonstration, and Smokey's Birthday Bash and Bingo.

[More Information >](#)

Floating Campfire | Chain O'Lakes State Park

Meet at the beach and be prepared to wade out to the fire in the water to roast your s'mores. S'mores fixings and roasting sticks will be provided while supplies last, but feel free to bring your own goodies to cook!

[More Information >](#)

Summer Solstice Celebration | Mounds State Park

Celebrate the first day of summer at Mounds State Park's Circle Mound.

[More Information >](#)

June 28, 2025

2025 Mammoth March | Versailles State Park

Master the challenge and spend a beautiful day hiking 20 miles a stretch through the rolling hills of southeastern Indiana. Getting your finishing medal, you will be exhausted but proud and happy!

[More Information >](#)

Vintage Camper Rally | Clifty Falls State Park

Check out vintage campers in the campground and see how they differ from today's modern campers and RVs.

[More Information >](#)

**View all DNR special
events >**

This Month WITH



June 7, 2025

GSP Scavenger Hunt | Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site
Embark on a site-wide scavenger hunt across Gene's beloved Wildflower Woods. Grab your list of clues and take photos as you find each item.

[More Information >](#)

Historic Newport Walking Tour | Levi & Catharine Coffin State Historic Site

The historic community of Newport (now Fountain City) was a well-known place of safety for freedom-seekers. On this walking tour, visit sites throughout the town and learn how Newport worked together as part of the Underground Railroad.

[More Information >](#)

June 13, 2025

Live History: Constitution Convention and the Elm | Corydon Capitol State Historic Site

Travel back to the summer of 1816 in the little town of Corydon where the constitution for our soon-to-be State of Indiana is being created. Explore the topics that the framers of Indiana's constitution addressed and visit the Constitution Elm.

[More Information >](#)

June 14, 2025

Painting Selma's Garden | T.C. Steele State Historic Site
Indian's top artists are heading to T.C. Steele State Historic Site! Watch the artists at work as they paint Selma's garden.

[More Information >](#)

Ice Cream Social | Culbertson Mansion State Historic Site

Join on the grounds of the Culbertson Mansion for an ice cream social. Enjoy your ice cream while you play lawn games, listen to some tunes, and take a self-guided tour of the mansion.

[More Information >](#)

June 15, 2025

Celebrate Juneteenth: African American Cemetery Tour | Levi & Catharine Coffin State Historic Site
Willow Grove Cemetery is incredibly significant in Fountain City's history - it was the first integrated cemetery in town. Join Levi Coffin House Association volunteer Shari Petersime to dig deeper to explore the stories of many African Americans who called this town home.

[More Information >](#)

June 21, 2025

Summer Solstice Alignment | Angel Mounds State Historic Site
Start before dawn to get in position to watch the breathtaking view of sunrise in perfect alignment with the mounds - a phenomenon that only occurs on the solstices.

[More Information >](#)

Juneteenth Celebration: History, Health, & the Arts | Indiana State Museum

Celebrate Juneteenth with free admission and special activities and performances around the museum!

[More Information >](#)

June 21 & 27, 2025

Firefly Flash Walk | New Harmony State Historic Site

Shed some light on Indiana's state insect during a magical "glow" walk around the site. Learn about fireflies' role in the ecosystem and what we can do to keep them thriving for years to come.

[More Information >](#)

June 27, 2025

DIY Terrarium | Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site

Learn about the ecology of forests and what we can do to preserve the environment as you create your own mini terrarium mimicking the forest floor of Wildflower Woods.

[More Information >](#)

June 27 & 28, 2025

Murder Mystery | Culbertson Mansion State Historic Site

As people pay their last respects at Mr. Culbertson's wake, there is a great speculation about who will receive an inheritance from one of the richest men in Indiana. Little did anyone know that lawsuits would be filed after the reading of his last will and testament! As tempers flare, greed may lead to murder!

[More Information >](#)

View all Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites events >