

Discover Northwest Indiana

Northwest Indiana is a community located in our council. Try this badge to discover the area's rich history, culture, natural resources, sports, entertainment and educational opportunities!

Steps:

1. Healthy Living
2. Arts
3. Outdoor Education
4. History and Culture
5. STEM

Purpose: When I've earned this badge, I'll know more about Northwest Indiana and what it has to offer.



“Round my Indiana homesteads
wave the cornfields,
In the distance loom the
woodlands clear and cool.”

*From the Indiana state
song, “On the Banks of
the Wabash, Far Away,”
by Paul Dresser*

for
Juniors

STEP 1 Healthy Living



Healthy living is a good combination of physical activity and eating nutritious foods. There are many ways to be healthy in Northwest Indiana. Let's explore!

Choices - Do One:

- ☐ **Learn about famous Northwest Indiana foods.** Persimmon pudding, pork tenderloin sandwiches and Hoosier Pie are a few of the foods that the region calls its own. Do some research by asking relatives and friends if they have family recipes for any of these or conduct an Internet search (with the help of an adult) to learn their history and find a recipe. Then try making it yourself!

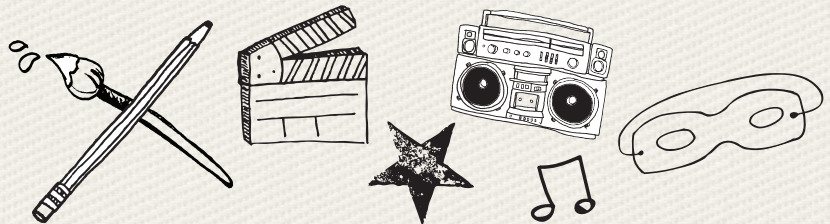
OR

- ☐ **Research accomplished athletes from the area.** Find out if there have been any Olympians, World Record holders or professional athletes from Northwest Indiana. Learn more about how these people realized their goals.

OR

- ☐ **Participate in a physical activity at Jak's Warehouse in Schererville.** Check out the Sky Trail (or Mini Sky Trail) – both an adrenaline rush and a team building activity. Climb ropes to have a bird's-eye view of the warehouse.

STEP 2 Arts



The arts are alive in Indiana! Whether you enjoy performing arts, visual arts or making an art project, there are many opportunities to be creative in this community.

Choices - Do One:

- ☐ **Attend a performance.** See a ballet performed by the Indiana Ballet Theatre (IBT). Before you go, do some research on IBT. How long has it been a company? Does it have any new developments? Why is it an important institution to Northwest Indiana?

OR

- ☐ **Peruse the Brauer Museum at Valparaiso University.** Call ahead and request a special behind-the-scenes tour of the museum's collections – a one-of-a-kind look at what happens outside of the museum walls.

OR

- ☐ **Make art!** Visit your favorite landmark in Northwest Indiana, then create a work of art about this place to share with your friends – write a poem, paint something, draw something, or create a photo collage.

STEP 3 Outdoor Education



Northwest Indiana is famous for the Lake Michigan shoreline and the Indiana Dunes. Forests, farmlands, marshes, prairies and rolling plains define the geography of the area.

Choices - Do One:

☐

Go on a hike or walk. Northwest Indiana has many different terrains, but is most well-known for its moraines and plains. Learn more about why Indiana's geography is so flat before you explore a forest preserve or natural area to observe animals, plants and the terrain.

OR

☐

Visit the Indiana Dunes. You'll find the dunes along the shore of Lake Michigan. There is plenty of fun to be had here – grab your sleeping bag and tents to camp amongst the trees.

OR

☐

Learn more about nature. Attend an outdoor educational program at Dunes Learning Center, located in the spectacularly biodiverse Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Spend time exploring the great outdoors at a special event or summer camp. Their 63-acre classroom features beaches, prairies, dunes and woodlands of the region.

STEP 4 History & Culture



Every state has a culture all its own, including historical sites, festivals and traditions. Discover Northwest Indiana's rich history and culture.

Choices - Do One:

☐

Travel back in time. Visit a local history museum; you can find them in many different communities, including the Porter County Museum of History, Westchester Township History Museum and Lake County Historical Museum. Choose one of these communities (or another of your choice) and find the history about how it was originally established.

OR

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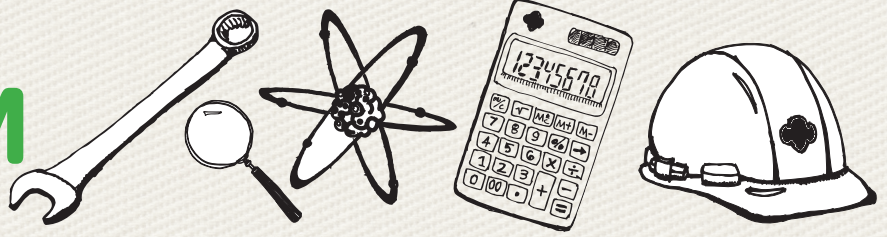
Discover town and county symbols. Choose a town or county in Indiana within our council, and then make a guidebook by drawing pictures and writing the names of the various symbols that represent that area.

OR

☐

Eat your way through a local festival. Here a few to whet your appetite: Popcorn Festival in Valparaiso, Kouts Pork Fest in Kouts, Pierogi Fest located in Whiting or an Indiana county fair. Be a sleuth – why was the festival started? Once you know the answer, go eat some yummy food!

STEP 5 STEM



STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Learn more about the Hoosier state by discovering STEM in the area.

Choices - Do One:

☐

Get hands-on at the Challenger Learning Center in Hammond. Check out the South Shore Skies presentation in the planetarium, which focuses on stars, constellations and other objects visible from Northwest Indiana. While there, don't forget to ask about Colonel Jerry Ross, a retired astronaut from Northwest Indiana!
(*BONUS:* Earn your Detective badge at the center.)

OR

☐

Learn about Northwest Indiana's weather. What effect does Lake Michigan have on the weather of the region? Does the weather here differ from the other (more inland) areas of Indiana?

OR

☐

Find out about major industries in Northwest Indiana. These industries include agriculture (corn, soybeans, wheat), manufacturing, mining (coal, limestone) and steel-making. How is one of these an important part of Northwest Indiana?

What did I learn?

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Bastille Days

Classical Arts Centre-Crown Point
July 12th 2014 • 12-7pm

Nutcracker 2014

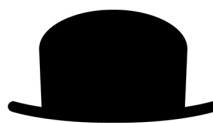
Star Plaza Theatre-Merrillville
December 3rd & 4th 2014 • 7pm

Firebird 2015

Star Plaza Theatre-Merrillville
April 23rd 2015 • 7pm

Kaleidoscope 2015

Memorial Opera House- Valpo
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