

Discover Northwest Indiana

Find the fun in Northwest Indiana! Try these activities to discover Northwest Indiana's rich history, culture, natural resources, sports, and entertainment.



Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors: Try at least **one activity** in each of the following sections.

Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors: Try at least **two activities** in each of the following sections.

Sections:

1. Get to Know Northwest Indiana
2. Healthy Adventures
3. Arts
4. STEAM

Once you're done with the activities, you can purchase the patches on our shop site: <https://shop.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/>.



Get to Know Northwest Indiana

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

- **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, Lake County Historical Museum, and Griffith Historical Park and Railroad Museum. Choose one of these communities and learn the history of how it was originally established.
- **Eat your way through a local festival.** Here are a few to whet your appetite: Popcorn Festival in Valparaiso, Kouts Pork Fest in Kouts, Pierogi Fest located in Whiting, or Lake and Porter County fairs. Be a sleuth – why was the festival started? Once you know the answer, go eat some yummy food!
- **Find out about major industries in Northwest Indiana.** These industries include agriculture (corn, soybeans, wheat), manufacturing, mining (coal, limestone), and steelmaking. How is one of these an important part of Northwest Indiana?
- **Give back to others in Northwest Indiana.** Find a way to give back to a community in Northwest Indiana – pick up litter, choose an organization you're passionate about, or reach out to one of these places to see how you can volunteer with them:
 - Humane Society of Northwest Indiana, 6100 Melton Rd, Gary
 - Porter County Animal Shelter, 3355 Bertholet Blvd, Valparaiso
 - Gabriel's Horn Homeless Shelter for Women and Kids, 792 McCool Rd, Valparaiso
 - St. Jude House, 12490 Marshall St., Crown Point



Healthy Adventures

There are many ways to discover how to be healthy in Northwest Indiana, including spending time outdoors, learning about accomplished athletes, and trying yummy foods.

- **Learn about famous Northwest Indiana foods.** Steelworkers' sandwiches, Orville Redenbacher popcorn, and perogies 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 (ask an adult for help) to learn their history and find a recipe, then try making it yourself!
- **Participate in a physical activity.** Check out hiking at the Indiana Dunes or visit a county park. 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.
 - Lake County Parks: <https://lakecountyparks.com>
 - Porter County Parks: <https://www.portercountyparks.org>
 - Newton County Parks: <https://www.newtoncountyindiana.com/parks-recreation>
 - Town of DeMotte Parks: <https://www.townofdemotte.com/parksrec>
- **Research accomplished female athletes from the area.** Find out if there have been any women Olympians, World Record holders, or professional athletes from Northwest Indiana. Learn more about how these people realized their goals.



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.

- **Attend a performance.** Attend a play or musical; here are some options of theaters in the area:
 - West Side Theatre Guild, 900 Gary St., Gary
 - Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Rd, Munster
 - Chicago Street Theatre, 154 W Chicago St., Valparaiso
 - Art Theatre, 230 Main St., Hobart
 - Indiana Ballet Theatre, 8888 Louisiana St., Merrillville
 - Beatnik's on Conkey, 418 Conkey St., Hammond
 - Rensselaer Art Walk, 198-100 N Front St., Rensselaer
- **Visit an Art Museum**
 - Lubeznik Center for Arts, Michigan City
 - SouthShore Arts, Munster
 - Lake Street Art, Gary
 - Miller Beach Arts and Creative District
 - Indiana Welcome Center, Hammond
 - Or choose a gallery or art studio of your choice!
- **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, make a painting/drawing, or create a photo collage.



STEAM

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. Learn more about the Hoosier state by discovering STEAM in the area.

- ❑ **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?
- ❑ **Get growing at the Indiana University Northwest Community Garden.** Work in their community gardens to see the fruits of your labor. You could stop in one time or develop your own plot! (IU Northwest Community Garden, located on the corner of 35th and Washington, across from the Anderson Library; <https://libguides.iun.edu/communitygarden>)
- ❑ **Learn more about nature.** Spend time exploring the great outdoors at Indiana Dunes National Park featuring beaches, prairies, dunes, and woodlands of the region.

Share your Story!

Take pictures on your way for a chance to be featured on our social media or blog! Submit online: <https://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/share-your-story>.

