

Top Ten Reasons to attend the Good Neighbor Games in South Bend-Mishawaka, Indiana in August, 2021.

Reason #1

Meet up with your CP family! On the first day you can enjoy a round of golf or take in a tour of the Notre Dame campus and finish the day with the Meet and Greet located at a park along the beautiful St. Joseph River.

Next day---Play ball!!! The Byers fields are used for national tournaments. The fields are well maintained with a full concession stand. All the bleachers are covered with sun screens. You can finish out that day with the Wine on Wednesday tour where you can check out the downtown area. There are also lots of restaurants to choose from close to your hotels.

Third day---Play ball!!! Shippshewana is located less than an hour away for those that want to take a quick trip to Amish country. The Banquet will be held that night with lots of music and dancing!

Reason #2 University of Notre Dame

Don't miss the opportunity to see the Golden Dome, Touchdown Jesus, Sacred Heart Basilica, the Grotto, the Old Log Cabin and the Fighting Irish Football Stadium. Notre Dame has been consistently recognized as one of the top universities in the United States.

Founded in 1842 on donated land, Fr. Edward Sorin and 8 Brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross from France and Ireland began the school as an all-male, Catholic primary and secondary school. It received its official college charter in 1844 and graduated its first group of students in 1849.

In the 1960's, Father Theodore Hesburgh commissioned architects to create a new Library. On the south panel of the building, artist Millard Sheets created a mural entitled Word of Life. The design placed Jesus at the top with arms upraised surrounded by theologians, teachers and doctors. The mural was dedicated in 1964 with a \$200,000 private donation.

Coincidentally, Ara Parseghian was hired as the new football coach in the same year. With all the hype of a new coach, the stadium was full and cameras had a great view of the mural from the south end of the campus. The nickname of Touchdown Jesus immediately became popular.

While on the tour, you will learn about the Notre Dame connection to Tom Dooley and about Father Corby and the Irish Brigade at Gettysburg.

The current campus lies on 1,250 acres and includes around 170 buildings around its two lakes. It has been voted #5 of the 100 most-beautiful campuses in America.

Reason #3 Wine on Wednesday and Downtown South Bend

\$40.00 buys you a wristband and the opportunity to visit 10-15 of downtown South Bend's finest restaurants. At each restaurant, you will receive 3 wine samples and 3 sample food pairings—usually an appetizer, entrée and dessert. Most of the stops are within a few blocks area. While not always available, in the past there have been horsedrawn carriages and buses for additional transportation. This event is offered only on the second Wednesday of every month during the summer.

East Race Waterway and Riverwalk

One of the fine dining establishments on the Wine Walk is the Emporium restaurant. It is located on what is known as the East Race Waterway. When constructed in the 1970's, this waterway was the first artificial whitewater river course in North America.

Running through the downtown South Bend area, the waterway was originally built in the 1840's when a channel of water was diverted from the St. Joseph River to provide power to a sawmill for the fledging manufacturing industry of early South Bend. After years of disuse, the waterway was filled in and sat as vacant land along the river until the 1970's and 1980's when the area was revitalized. The whitewater course has been enjoyed by competitive kayakers and rafters since that time. National kayaking competitions and trainings are held here and local citizens rent rafts to use the race for weekend whitewater trips down the waterway to the river.

In 2019, The University of Notre Dame and the City of South Bend broke ground on a 2.5 megawatt hydroelectric facility at the dam adjacent to the waterway on the St. Joseph River. This facility, which will be primarily underground is expected to provide about 7 percent of the University's electrical needs and will offset nearly 9,700 tons of carbon dioxide annually. In addition, improvements will be made to the current Riverwalk and parks adjoining the river in the downtown South Bend area.

While we will miss part of our Riverwalk during construction, we can still rent rafts on the weekends and enjoy the colorful lights on the bridges and walkways and views of the downtown areas.

Four Winds Field

Four Winds Field is home to the South Bend Cubbies, the farm team of the Chicago Cubs. While they will not be playing any games on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, they are scheduled to play on Friday night, August 14th with great fireworks after the game.

Reason #4 Studebaker National Museum

The Studebaker National Museum consists of three floors with over 50 vehicles and 114 years of history of the Studebaker Corporation. The main level displays Studebaker Corporation history, wagons and vehicles from the 1800's to 1934. The upper level displays vehicles from 1934 onward. The lower level displays military equipment and vehicles. Also on display is the family history of the Studebaker family and the Olivers, South Bend makers of the Oliver Chilled Plow and other farm equipment. One of the attractions on permanent display in the museum is the carriage that took President Lincoln to Ford Theater on that night he was shot.

Clement and Henry Studebaker Jr. became blacksmiths and foundrymen in South Bend in 1852. They first made metal parts for freight wagons and later began manufacturing complete wagons. Their business boomed during the California Gold Rush beginning in 1849. In the early 1900's, the brothers began plans to produce "horseless carriages" including electric and later gasoline-powered vehicles.

History Museum and Oliver Mansion

Adjacent to the Studebaker Museum is the History Museum and Oliver Mansion. Also known as Copsaholm, the Oliver Mansion was built for J D. Oliver, son of the founder of the Oliver Chilled Plow Works and the Oliver Tractor Company. Built in 1885, their 38-room mansion was the first home in South Bend to have electricity. It is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places.

Reason #5 Tippecanoe Restaurant

This fine dining establishment is located in the former Studebaker Mansion and listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Now known as Tippecanoe Place, it was built in 1889 by Clement Studebaker, cofounder of the Studebaker Manufacturing Co. The Studebaker family occupied this home until 1933. Since that time, it has served as a school for handicapped children, a Red Cross headquarters and now is owned by a local historic preservation group. This beautiful home has over 40 rooms and 20 fireplaces within its three stories. The mansion contains the first Otis elevator to be installed in the state of Indiana and the third Otis elevator installed in the United States.

Reason #6

Four Winds Casino The Four Winds Casino in South Bend opened in 2018 and offers gaming, bars and restaurants, including a steakhouse and buffet. A hotel is currently under construction. Come and try your luck at the slots or poker tables. The casino is owned by the Pokagon band of the Potawatomie tribe.

The Potawatomi, known as Keepers of the Fire, migrated to the southern Michigannorthern Indiana area from north of Lakes Huron and Superior. After the Indian Removal Act was passed in the 1830's, many Native tribes were forced to move west of the Mississippi River. A small group of Natives who were led by Chief Leopold Pokagon were living close to the border of Michigan and Indiana. Because of their

strong attachment to Catholicism, they were allowed to remain in the area. The descendants of this group constitutes the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians who operate the Four Winds Casino.

Every year on the Labor Day weekend, the Pokagon tribe invites the public to its KeeBoon-Mein-Kaa Pow Wow. This annual celebration involves traditional singing, dancing and informative talks on the Potawatomi culture. The pow wow draws dancers and drummers from all over the Great Lakes area to celebrate the end of the huckleberry harvest, a traditional time of celebration for the Pokagons.

Reason #7 South Bend Chocolate Factory and Cafe

The South Bend Chocolate Factory offers daily tours. As their ad states “Children of any age will find a visit to the Chocolate Factory one sweet trip.” The 58,000 square foot factory offers daily tours. The short 15 minute tour is free but for \$5.00 you can take a longer tour detailing the process of making chocolate and checking out the 1,300 year old Mayan chocolate pot in their museum. This factory is located a couple miles west of downtown.

South Bend Whiskey Company

Located just a few blocks from the Chocolate Factory, the Indiana Whiskey Company offers samples of their product. While I know people who have been happy with their visit, the reviews online lately have been mixed. Best to call to see if tastings are available. 574 520-1915.

South Bend Chocolate Café

If you are more interested in just eating the chocolate versus seeing the process of making it, visit the South Bend Chocolate Café in downtown South Bend. It is a large café featuring a couple rooms of seating, an ice cream bar and daily food specials. There is an outside seating area with a fire pit and music on most nights. Loads of candy gifts are available for purchase. Don't miss the BEST chocolate ever!

Reason #8 University Park Mall and the Wakarusa Dime Store

Shopping, shopping, shopping!!! This indoor climate-controlled mall features over 140 shops, including Macy's, Penneys and Barnes & Nobles. There is also a large food court. While in the area, you can visit the Wakarusa Dime Store which is right around the corner at 340 Cleveland Road, Granger. Located in a historic Victorian mansion, this establishment is famous for their Jumbo Jelly Beans.

Reason #9 RV Hall of Fame and Museum

Located approximately 20 miles east of South Bend-Mishawaka, the town of Elkhart is known as “The Trailer Capital of the World.” Your trailer in Citrus Park may have been manufactured here in Elkhart!

The RV Museum is a great place to see a piece of America history. It features some incredibly rare RVs and tells the story of their development in the United States over the past 100 years.

The Founders Hall is set up as a campground with fake trees and a highway painted on the floor leading you in a path around over 50 vintage trailers and campers. The progression into modern motorhomes is displayed in this Museum of over 100,000 ft. One of the ads says that you can have a free night of parking with your RV in their parking lot with the price of admission to the Museum (currently \$10-\$12.) I would call to confirm that before expecting a free night of camping.

Reason #10 Shpshewana Flea Market-Shpshewana, IN

This market is billed as “The Largest Flea Market in the Midwest.” There are around 700 open-air booths covering 40 acres. In addition, there is an antique auction on Tuesday.

Shpshewana and LaGrange County are home to the third-largest Amish community in the nation. This quaint community is known for its family-owned shops filled with handcrafted wares.

Horse-drawn buggies driven by men sporting suspenders and broad-brimmed straw hats and women in homemade dresses with modest bonnets are some of the sights you will see on the local streets.

The Amish

The Amish and Mennonite groups emerged from the Anabaptist movement during the 16th century Protestant Reformation in Central and Western Europe. To escape persecution, many of the group fled to Switzerland. By the end of the 17th century, a group led by Jacob Amman split from the Swiss Mennonite group naming itself Amish after its leader.

The Amish came to the United States in the early 1700s, attracted by the promise of religious freedom. They first arrived in Pennsylvania and made their way into the Midwest. They have lived in LaGrange County since the early 1800s.

The Amish live without electricity, telephones and automobiles. Men wear black trousers with suspenders attached with pins or buttons—no zippers. The women all wear bonnets—most adult women wear plain black dresses but younger women can wear pastel colored dresses.

Education ends with the eighth grade. The boys go to work in the trailer factories or local wood-working factories while the girls help in the home. Courtship begins at age 16 and most couples marry quite young.

The Amish pay federal, state and local taxes but rarely accept Social Security. They strictly forbid being photographed.

Just a few more reasons to visit our area:

Within 2 to 2 1/2 hours from South Bend:

Chicago, IL—Navy Pier, Wrigley Field, Sears Tower, Millenium Park

Porter, IN—Dunes National Park

Auburn, IN—Cord Dusenberg Auto Museum

Indianapolis, IN—Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Kalamazoo, MI—Gilmore Car Museum

Southwest MI—Lake Michigan beaches and unique shops