

INDIANA DUNES BIOBLITZ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What is the address of the INDU BioBlitz? How do I get to the BioBlitz? The National Lakeshore's West Beach will serve as "base camp" for the event. It is located just north of the intersection of US Highway 12 and County Line Road in Portage. Click here for directions <http://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/index.htm>

What is the cost per person? The event is free and open to the public. Advance registration is required to ensure participation on an inventory team. No registration is required to attend the Celebrate Biodiversity Festival and/or to participate in "base camp" activities.

What is your recommended mode of transportation? We highly recommend taking the South Shore train for Chicago residents and those living along the South Shore route. Shuttle buses will be available from the Ogden Dunes station to West Beach and base camp. If you plan to drive, please carpool whenever possible. Click here for train schedules: <http://www.nictd.com/>

Will there be food available? Third Coast Spice Café will be selling food on site from 10 am to 2 pm each day. The menu will be limited, so if you have special needs you should bring your own and limit waste whenever possible. Water will be available at base camp.

Where can I stay? How can I reserve camping spots? There are camping options in the national and state park as well as other nearby camping sites. There are also many hotel and B&B option. Click here for more information:
<http://www.indianadunes.com/listings/index.cfm?action=listlistings&catid=252¬ify=1>

How do I register my group such as scouts, youth or fraternity? If you wish to have your group participate on an inventory team, then one person can register up to six people at a time, including themselves, when space is available. That said, some teams will be very limited in size, so it will be hard to accommodate groups on many teams. To stay together, it might work best to just focus on base camp activities. See the next question.

If I don't register for a species inventory team, can I still attend? Yes, there will be ongoing activities at base camp, including nature walks, talks, entertainment, booths and more. No registration is required for base camp activities or the Celebrate Biodiversity festival from 1-4 PM on Saturday.

How old do you have to be to participate in the BioBlitz? We recommend that inventory team participants be at least 8 years old and accompanied by an adult. And we recommend that logistics volunteers be at least 16 (those under 18 should be accompanied by an adult). That said, all ages are welcome at base camp and there will be activities suited for all ages.

If I have a mobility issue such as using a wheelchair, can I still participate? Yes, although many of the inventory teams will be on trails that may make participation

challenging. That said, base camp will be fully accessible and provide a rich experience. A few beach wheelchairs are available at West Beach and the State Park for those wishing to access the beach and can be checked out.

How can I help in preparing for the BioBlitz? Can I volunteer before the event?

Yes, logistic volunteers are crucial to the success of BioBlitz before, during and after the event. Click here to register: www.NGSednet.org/logistics.

Will the State Park be a part of the BioBlitz, and if so, will there be an entrance fee? Yes, there will be inventory teams on state park lands. If you are registered for the BioBlitz you will not be charged an entrance fee. BioBlitz participants will be given a color-coded wrist band, allowing them entry into the state park during the event.

Won't we scare all the animals away if we have a bunch of people all working on the same day? We have been coordinating our activities very carefully to tread lightly. We will spread teams far and wide; teams will be limited in size and in some sensitive locations will only be inventoried by scientists trained to work without disrupting the environment.

What should I wear? You will be outside and in the field, so you should dress accordingly. Layering is highly recommended to make you most comfortable. You should also wear a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen to protect you from sun exposure.

What if it rains or is bad weather? Will you have a rain date? Nature happens despite the weather. The event will take place rain or shine.

How do I volunteer as a scientist? Scientist registration has already closed and we are pleased to announce that we have more than 150 scientists that will help lead the BioBlitz. They will need helping hands, so feel free to sign up as a logistics volunteer working specifically to support scientists and/or join them in the field as an inventory team participant. Check the main bioblitz page at www.nationalgeographic.com/bioblitz to register. Public registration will open in mid-April.

How do I volunteer as a teacher? Teacher registration has already closed, but logistic volunteers are needed in the education area. Go here to register as a logistics volunteer and specify your desire to work with school groups: www.NGSednet.org/logistics.

How do I volunteer to help run the BioBlitz? We will need logistic volunteers to help with a variety of activities at the event, from check in/registration and parking, to helping scientists and providing general information. Click here to sign up to be a logistics volunteer: www.NGSednet.org/logistics.

Do I have to work the full 24 hrs? No! Logistic volunteer and inventory team slots are organized in four-hour increments or shifts over the 24 hours. Choose one, two or more shifts that work for you.

What is the INDU BioBlitz web site? www.nationalgeographic.com/bioblitz. For specific park information go to www.nps.gov/indu.

When is the last date that I can register to participate in a survey team (to help count species)? Online registration for inventory teams closes on May 7 at midnight.

You may be able to find space on an inventory team by registering on the day of the event, but as that is highly unlikely, we recommend that you register soon in advance.

When is the last date that I can register as a Logistics Volunteer (to help run the BioBlitz event on the ground)? Online logistic volunteer registration closes May 4 at midnight.

Is there a real person I can call to ask questions? Yes, you can call the BioBlitz line at 1-800-638-6400 x 6186 or Indiana Dunes at 219-395-8914.