

Visit Evansville

I N D I A N A

Family Reunion Planning Guide

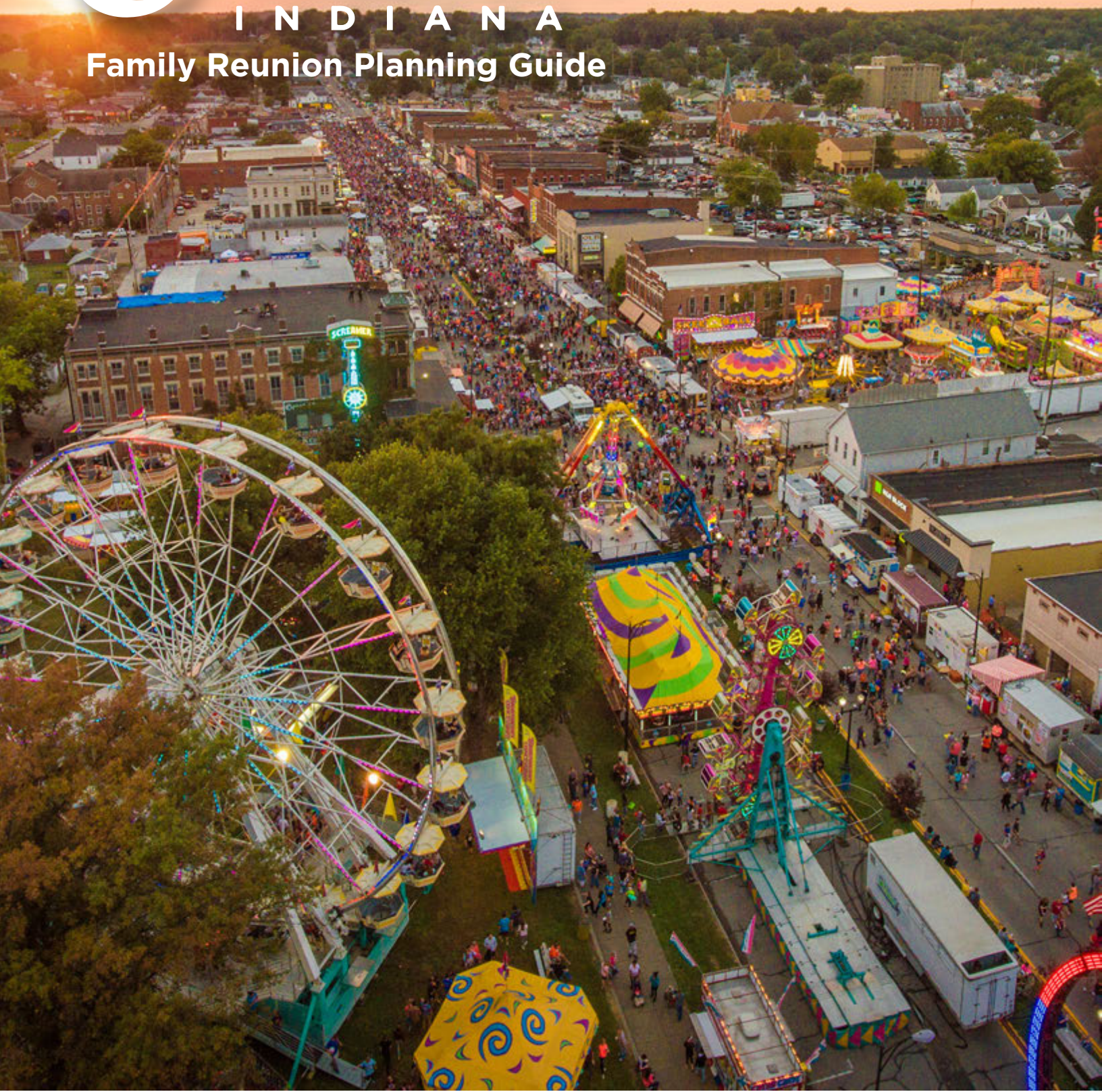


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Make your family reunion an unforgettable occasion in Southern Indiana. Evansville is the perfect place to reconnect and make everlasting memories, centrally located and a short drive to Indianapolis, Louisville, Nashville, and St. Louis. With all the amenities of a big city, Evansville offers a unique blend of Hoosier Hospitality and Southern charm.

Reunion Fast Facts

- The traditional reunion has evolved from the backyard event to hotels and resorts.
- Reunion organizers are attending family reunion workshops to maximize knowledge of reunions
- Most reunion organizers are planning ahead of time by one to two years
- Reunions are becoming three to five-day events typically running Thursday-Sunday/Monday or Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
- Organizers are having each age group plan their activities and attractions
- Reunions are being catered instead of the traditional potluck or backyard barbecues

Getting Started

Step 1: Pick the date

Step 2: Once the date is chosen, Let Visit Evansville help you with the planning!

Visit Evansville is here to make your next family reunion a huge success by offering complementary services from our reunion planners.

How we can help with reunion planning:

- Assistance locating & booking group stay accommodations
- Customized Itineraries
- Complimentary welcome bags including a visitors guide, area maps, restaurant guides etc.
- Information on local attractions and events
- Coordination with local suppliers
- Welcome from Visit Evansville
- Name tags for family members



Plan A Timeline...

One Year Prior

- Attend the Visit Evansville Family Reunion Workshop over Zoom for tips & tricks
- Set a date
- Create a list of family members
- Form a reunion committee & assign responsibilities
- Develop a budget
- Tour and research locations & facilities to hold your reunion
- Create a mailing list on [Postable.com/address-book](https://postable.com/address-book)
- Create a reunion Facebook Page
- Hire vendors such as caterers, photographers, entertainment
- Send out save the dates

6-9 Months Prior

- Send a mailer/e-mail with registration info & costs
- Choose a theme for the event

5 Months Prior

- Choose menus with your caterer
- Design banners, signs and decorations
- Confirm all contract with vendors
- Create a memory “reunion” gift

6 Weeks Prior

- Create a checklist for reunion tasks and assign
- Finalize and order reunion gift
- Create reunion shirts

2 Weeks Prior

- Reconfirm times of meeting locations, dining, & entertainment with vendors
- Confirm plans and all arrangements made
- Review final checklist

2 Weeks Prior

- Review final details with committee members
- Set-up decorations and themed banners
- Confirm any special requests made to vendors

Day Of

- Set up registration table with name tags
- Complete any last minute details
- Follow reunion day schedule and ENJOY!

10 Reasons to Bring Your Family to Evansville, Indiana

1. Evansville is a central location and a short drive to/from Indianapolis, Louisville, Nashville and St. Louis.

2. With all the amenities of a big city, Evansville offers a unique blend of Hoosier Hospitality and Southern charm.

3. Quality, affordable hotels.

4. Educational and interesting attractions.

5. Simplify your travel planning with help from the Visit Evansville team.

6. Our restaurants, delis, diners, and pubs include locally-owned eateries and national chains. Enjoy authentic foods from many cultures.

7. Five areas of our city developed their offerings to become a distinctive district. In each, you will find attractions, museums, restaurants, shops, cozy coffee spots, an urban area to take a walk, or a great place to hear live music while you visit Evansville.

8. Seasonal events, sporting events, and festivals are perfect reasons to get together with your family here in Evansville, Indiana.

9. Walk, run or bike through the woods on a three-mile paved trail. Primitive trails wind through the 170-acre park. Enjoy fishing, BMX and tennis. Book your trip at one of the rustic chalets, cabins, RV, or tent camping. Burdette Park Pavilion and O'Day Discovery Lodge host groups from 20 to 1,000 people. The Burdette Park Aquatic Center is open from Memorial Day through the second week of August.

10. The largest zoo in Southern Indiana, Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden, with a "kid-friendly" fountain area, also offers a gift shop and restaurant where you can dine inside or outside. Tour the zoo and botanic garden on foot or by tram. The fantastic exhibit Amazonia is a spectacular experience of a walk through the South American rainforest.



Popular Evansville Attractions

Bosse Field - Currently home to the Evansville Otters, Bosse Field opened in 1915 and was the first municipally-owned sports facility in the United States. Only Boston's Fenway Park (1912) and Chicago's Wrigley Field (1914) are old than Evansville's Bosse Field. The box office hit "A League of Their Own" was filmed at Bosse Field in 1992.



Evansville Museum of Arts, History, and Science - Permanent art collections valued at \$10 million dates from the first century BC to the present. Paintings, sculptures, artifacts, and room displays on two floors.



Wesselman Woods Nature Center- One of Indiana's few remaining old-growth bottomland hardwood forests, providing habitat for a vast diversity of woodland species, including white-tailed deer, raccoon, rare salamanders, and both resident and migratory birds. A nature preserve is located onsite and includes indoor and outdoor exhibits, wildlife observation areas, multipurpose rooms, and a gift shop.

Burdette Park and Aquatic Center - Burdette Park is a 140-acre facility offering a wide variety of activities for patrons of all ages to enjoy year-round. Features include the summer Aquatic Center with a swimming and diving pool, mega water slides, and more.



The Koch Family Children's Museum of Evansville (cMoe)- A place where families and caregivers with young children are encouraged to create, explore, and discover together through play. The museum features three vibrant floors of exhibits and activities that provide sensory experiences and engaging educational content focusing on literacy, science, math, visual and performing arts, culture, and health.



Downtown Evansville - Antiques, gift shops, and much more provide ample shopping opportunities in Downtown Evansville. You can see local artwork and exhibits at the Arts Council Bower-Surheinrich Gallery. Enjoy numerous restaurants featuring Italian, Mediterranean, Korean, Spanish, Chinese, and local cuisine. Nightlife can be found at several bars, restaurants, and nightclubs. Live theater, music performances, and sports events are at the Ford Center, the Old National Events Plaza, and the Victory Theatre.

Mickey's Kingdom- Built from the ground up by a dedicated community full of generous volunteers. This 21,000 sq.ft. playground was built for children of ALL abilities ensuring playtime for everyone! The park structures are made from recycled milk jugs and have a rubber surface; You will also find the world's tallest solar CommuniTree.





Annual Events In Evansville

Spring:

Franklin Street Mardi Gras Parade/Pub Crawl/Gumbo Cookoff- February on Franklin, a month-long celebration: All the fun on Evansville's West Side. Restaurants on the street will offer unique Cajun and Creole foods. Bud's Rockin' Country Bar and Grill brings Dueling Pianos; Lamasco's entire menu will switch to bayou favorites. Costumes are encouraged!

Funk in the City Arts Festival- (May) Annual Art Festivals at Haynie's Corner! Featuring artists from around the region and multiple states, this is a great opportunity to support artists and the art community. In addition to the amazing artist and artisans, there will also be fabulous food vendors to satisfy your hunger!

Summer:

Evansville Food Truck Festival- The festival held in June includes 20+ food trucks and food purveyors from the Greater Evansville area and Midwest Region, a selection of local and regional craft beer and spirits, live music, and an awards ceremony. Trucks are lined up inside Bosse Field.

Fireworks on the Ohio- The annual event held on the 4th of July, the riverfront firework show is Downtown Evansville's largest event of the year bringing in 30,000-45,000 guests.

Fall:

West Side Nut Club Fall Festival - The second largest street festival in the country, and it's still growing! Over 150,000 people attend this week-long event, which features free entertainment, carnival attractions, window displays, amateur talent competitions, a huge parade, and over 120 booths offering tasty treats from the traditional to the unique.

Holiday:

Reitz Home Museum Victorian Christmas - The Reitz Home Museum is the brightest gem in Evansville's Victorian architecture crown. During the holiday season, local decorators adopt a room in the home to spin their vision of what Christmas looks like at the turn of the 20th century. The result is Victorian style and elegance mixed with holiday whimsy and magic.



Cultural Districts

Downtown Evansville: Locally owned restaurants, bars, antique stores, galleries, and unique shops line Main Street – some are long-time establishments like Angelo’s Italian Restaurant, and some are in long-time establishments like BRU Burger in our restored vintage Greyhound bus station. Our most beautiful asset, the Ohio River, serves as our Front Door to downtown and is bordered by a lovely 6.5-mile greenway for walking and biking walk. The \$75 million Tropicana Casino Evansville is now open, offering a new land-based casino and entertainment center to downtown Evansville.

Haynie’s Corner Arts District: Shops and galleries are open for business and display their offerings during several evening and weekend events throughout the year. Haynie’s Corner Arts District is alive with events such as front porch concerts that encourage people to walk the tree-lined streets and enjoy this neighborhood district’s architecture and camaraderie. Whether you are looking for an upbeat atmosphere on Saturday night or smooth jazz on a Sunday afternoon, HCAD is the place to be.

North Main Street/Jacobsville: The up-and-coming 'Uptown' of Evansville, North Main Street, is transforming into a vibrant neighborhood where businesses flourish. This district is the transportation model for all future developments in the city. With its ivy-covered walls, Iconic Bosse Field sits at the north end of North Main in the urban haven that is Garvin Park. This neighborhood park has a lake for fishing or feeding the geese, recreational areas for play and picnics, and winding roads for a lovely drive or walk.

University of Evansville and Neighborhoods: Students from around the world seek degrees in all fields of science and the arts. Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve is one of the most extensive urban old-growth forests in the country. Over 190-acres of virgin bottomland hardwoods and a 50-acre younger forest are within this treasure. Fields, ponds, and nature trails wind through the woods. Inside the brand-new nature is a spectacular observation area for bird watching.

West Franklin Street: From Mardi Gras in February to Dickens Christmas in December, you will find events and live music most weekends on this lively street, including the Franklin Street Bazaar in summer. Locally owned restaurants, bars, and retail stores get in the spirit of celebration, whether it be an afternoon children’s fair or an evening pub crawl. The week-long Westside Nut Club Fall Festival has food, music, games, and camaraderie awaiting you on West Franklin Street.

Parks & Recreation

Special Facilities

- Angel Mounds Public Boat Launch
- CK Newsome Community Center: Room Rentals, Park Administration Offices
- Dogtown Public Boat Launch
- Howell Wetlands
- Mesker Park Zoo & Botanical Gardens
- Swonder Ice Arena
- Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

Regional Parks

- Burdette Park: Aquatics Center**
- Howell Park: Pool, Golf Course, Wetland boardwalks, basketball
- Kleymeyer Park: Driving Range, softball & football field
- Mesker Park: Playground, Disc Golf, Helfrich Golf, Mesker Park Zoo*
- Roberts Park
- Wesselman Park: Playground, Golf Course, Softball, Nature Preserve

Community Parks

- Garvin Park: Shelters, walking trails, pool, tennis & basketball courts**
- Golfmoor Park: Tennis/basketball courts, handball
- Igleheart Park: Lloyd Pool, North Woods Trails, playground, tennis/basketball courts
- Price Park: soccer fields, playgrounds*
- State Hospital Park: Walking trail, Disc Golf, soccer fields, youth baseball fields

Pools

- Burdette Park Aquatic Center
- Lloyd Pool
- Hartke Pool
- Garvin Pool
- Norman "Red" Mosby Pool
- Rochelle-Landers Pool
- Helfrich Pool
- Lorraine Pool

*Shelters Available

**Picnic Area Available

Neighborhood Parks

- Akin Park: Basketball Goal, playground, gazebo**
- Anthony Oates Park: basketball courts, playground**
- Bayard Park: Playground, walking paths**
- Bellemeade Park: Playground, baseball field, Rochelle/Landers Pool
- Caldwell Park: Playground basketball court **
- Diamond Valley Park: lake, fishing overlook, walking trails, playground, basketball court
- Eleventh Avenue Park: Playground, basketball court **
- Fulton Park: Basketball court, playground***
- Helfrich Park: pool, playground **
- Lamasco Park: softball field, skate park, Greenway Trailhead, playground
- Lorraine Park: Lorraine Pool, Playground ***
- Moutoux Park
- Sheridan Park: Open Green space, swing playground
- Stockwell Park: tennis courts, soccer fields, playground **
- Sunrise Park: Kids Kingdom Playground, Gazebo, landscaped gardens
- Sunset East Park: Playground**
- Tepe Park: Playground *
- Vann Park: Playground***
- Vann-Pollack Park: baseball fields, basketball court ***
- Westside Library Park: walking paths, benches
- Willard Library Park: Formal gardens, walking path with benches **

Golf Courses

- Burdette Park Miniature Golf
- Fendrich Golf Course
- Helfrich Golf Course
- Howell Par 3 Course
- McDonald Golf Course
- Wesselman Par 3 Course

Activities During Your Reunion

Family reunions are a great time to slow down from our everyday busy routines. Create a list of family activities to get people talking, sharing stories & family history.

1. ICEBREAKER- Family trivia. Create a game whether it's a form or questionnaire of family questions

2. Family Branch T-shirts- Create t-shirts to identify each branch of your family with a different colored t-shirt

3. Family Cookbook- Create recipe cards for family members to write down their favorite family recipe, which could include details of where the recipe originated from, any details, and even photos.

4. Family Tree Wall- create a large family tree chart to display and allow family members to converse to build the tree

Additional ideas: Family talent show, Family outdoor games, baby photo contest, scavenger hunt, bake-off/cook-off, bonfire etc



We are considering holding a family reunion, and we would like to give you the opportunity for input.

Would you and your family attend a family reunion? Yes No Don't Know

How long should the reunion be? One Afternoon Weekend Long Weekend

Location Ideas: _____

Best Time of Year: Spring Summer Fall Winter

What kind of meals would you like to see?

What activities would you like to participate in?

Baby Photo Contest T-Shirt Design Family Fishing Fireworks
 Competitive Sports Family Quilt Gathering

Other: _____

Other: _____

Would you be willing to help with or serve on a reunion committee? Yes No

Do you have names and contacts of families we might be missing?

RECORD KEEPING

Please help us keep our records up to date.

Name: _____

Address: _____

New Address: Yes No

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Family Members Names & Birthdays:
