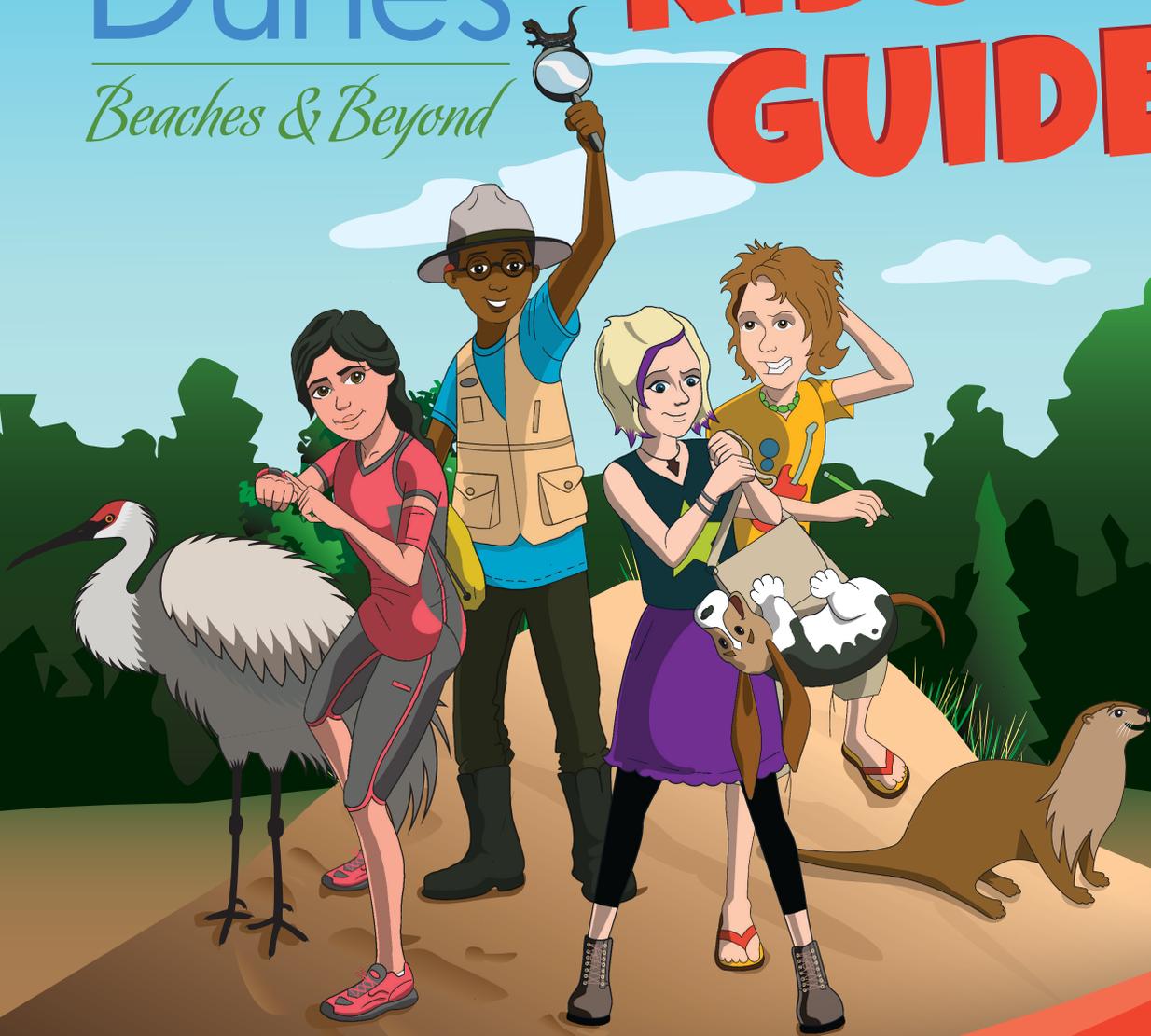


Indiana
Dunes
Beaches & Beyond

DISCOVERY KIDS GUIDE



LEARN · PLAY · EXPLORE · DISCOVER

IN INDIANA



WELCOME TO THE **INDIANA Dunes!**

We recommend starting at the Visitor Center and IndianaDunes.com

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 Paws = Pet-Friendly Activities

Watch on YouTube!



Parent Tip:

Watch our Dunes 101 Video Series to explore everything you need to know about the Indiana Dunes and its surrounding area. These videos have all the tips you'll need to plan your visit.



Hi, I'm Ranger Matt!

Welcome to the Indiana Dunes! I'm here to make sure you get the most out of your adventure. On the next page you'll meet the Discovery Kids, who will show you things to do in and around the Indiana Dunes.

Look out for my "Ranger Matt's Parent Tips" in blue throughout the guide.

Let's Get Started

MEET THE DISCOVERY KIDS

In your Kids Guide, you'll discover places hand-picked by the **Indiana Dunes Discovery Kids**. They're your expert guides for the Indiana Dunes area. Do you like exploring the great outdoors or making unique artwork? Do you like hearing stories or learning about animals and wildlife? No matter what you enjoy, they'll help you plan your personal adventure. On the following pages, each kid has their own special challenge. Can you conquer them all?

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

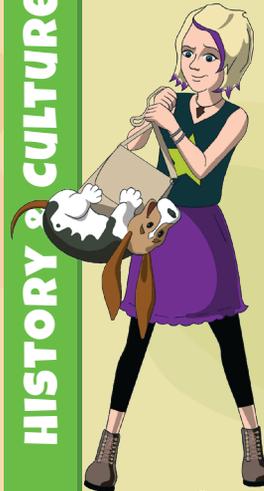


Hey, I'm Ayla the Adventurer

If you want to explore nature and get a great workout at the same time, come along with me. Also, this is **Chandler the Sandhill Crane**.

You can borrow a free Backpack for Naturalists, full of tools, to help you spot some of Chandler's friends!

HISTORY & CULTURE



Hello, I'm Zoe the Storyteller

I love learning about people and places from the past with my buddy, **Bueller the Basset Hound**. One of the best things about the Dunes is that there are a lot of places for Bueller to tag along while I eat and play. If you see his paw prints, it means the activity is a pet-friendly one. 

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



What's up, I'm Jake the Artist

I love to take pictures, draw, make music, do scavenger hunts, and act in plays! This area is full of ways to get creative. If you're looking for some really special places, my pal, **Rivet the River Otter**, is the best at finding hidden gems and cool things off the beaten path. 

SCIENCE & NATURE



Greetings, I'm Phil the Scientist

I love science and nature so I became a Junior Ranger, and I can show you how to become one too! Let me introduce you to my pal, **Sandy the Salamander**! You can help take care of her home by volunteering to pick up trash around the Indiana Dunes National Park—you'll even get a free water bottle for helping.

Share your adventure on social media! Use **#indianadunes** to see your adventure featured on our story!

DISCOVERY KIDS AT THE VISITOR CENTER

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

1215 N. State Road 49
Porter, IN 46304
219-926-2255
indianadunes.com
info@indianadunes.com

Dunes Kankakee Bike Trail



Dunes Kankakee Bike Trail

This two-mile trail starts at the Visitor Center parking lot and goes straight to the Indiana Dunes State Park. You can also get to Dune Park Station, where some South Shore Line cars will let you take your bike on the train and ride all the way to Chicago! **Hidden Gem:** Keep an eye out for educational signs along the art walk to learn all kinds of interesting facts about the dunes!



Parent Tip:
Ask one of our friendly faces at the front desk about the National Park film that plays in the theater.



Films in the Theater

There's so much waiting to be discovered at the Indiana Dunes! Get started in the Visitor Center theater, where you'll learn all kinds of interesting facts about the history of the Indiana Dunes area. **Landmark:** The Indiana Dunes Visitor Center is the home base of Indiana's very first National Park!



2

**PEDAL
POWER
Rentals**



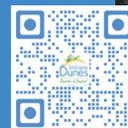
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Main Entrance



Parent Tip:
Pedal Power Rentals is located at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and offers bikes for the whole family. Scan the code or visit IndianaDunes.com to learn more.



Parent Tip:

The Visitor Center is the best place to start your dunes adventure, get directions, maps, and guides, and to learn about fun seasonal programs and activities.



Garden Walk 

The Visitor Center is a cool place to see all kinds of plants in bloom and to stop to smell the flowers! At the end of summer, you might see monarch butterflies that rest here before their long migration south. **Closer Look:** Check out the milkweed plants around the Visitor Center in the Spring—it's a great area for monarch butterflies!



Art Walk 

Check out the Indiana Dunes wildlife murals on the ARCY Artwalk, painted by artist Ryan "ARC Y" Christenson. He also painted the life-size bison statue and a bench on the grounds. **Selfie Station:** Snap a picture in front of your favorite work of art, and share it with us on social media with #indianadunes.

Stop at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and ask at the front desk for a special Scavenger Hunt map to find the hidden Mickey ears on five of our murals.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



3 Dune Challenge 🐾 Hiking up the three highest sand dunes at the Indiana Dunes State Park isn't easy, but the views at the top of each dune are worth it. Don't worry—you can do the challenge at your own pace! Make it over all three to become a Dune Conqueror, and make sure you head back to the Visitor Center for your free 3 Dune Challenge sticker.

Indiana Dunes State Park
1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton
indianadunes.com/3dc

AYLA'S CHALLENGE

Selfie Station: The signs at the top of each dune are great places to smile for the camera. Share your pic with us using #indianadunes and #3dunehallenge

Creekside Trails 🐾 There's a lot to do at this park, but my favorite is definitely riding up and down the slopes on my bike. I like to stick to the green trails because they're great for beginners, and you don't have to stay on your bike—you can also hike, run, or even walk your dog! Remember to put on your helmet before you tackle those hills.

2355 Clifford Rd., Valparaiso
valpoparks.org



Bass Pro Shops This giant store has everything you'll need for an outdoor adventure! Besides all the cool outdoor gear, Bass Pro also has a giant fish tank, arcade shooting range, and lots of natural wildlife displays.

6425 Daniel Burnham Dr., Portage
219-787-6800
basspro.com

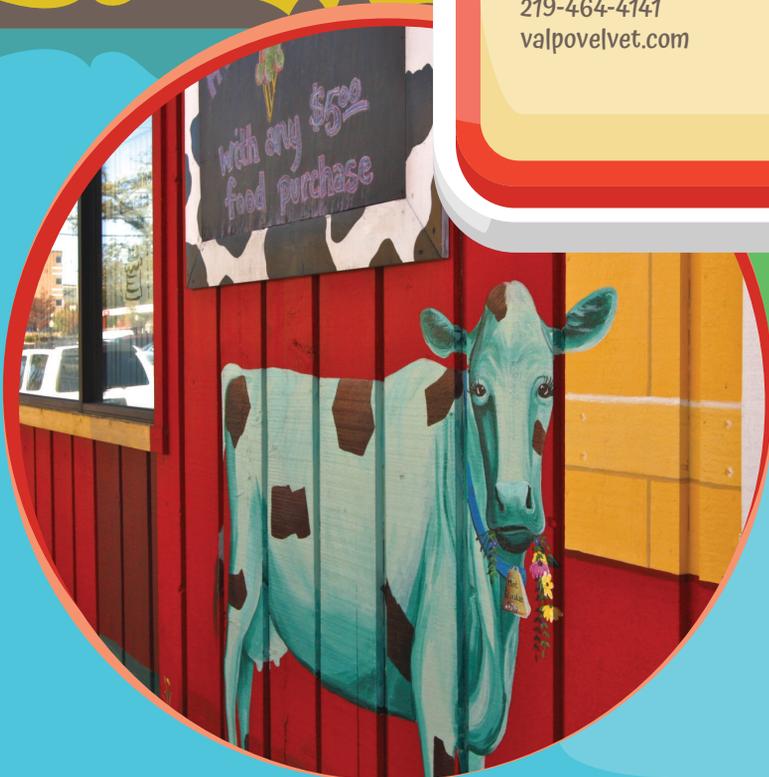
Valpo Velvet Ice Cream Shoppe 

Eating ice cream is my favorite way to cool off after spending the day outdoors! People travel from all over for Valpo Velvet's homemade ice cream treats made by the Brown Family since 1947. That's some track record!

55-57 W. Monroe St., Valparaiso
219-464-4141
valpovelvet.com



Closer Look: The 3 Dune Challenge is a great team-building adventure for runners, or even for a class field trip.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Scavenger Hunt at the Visitor Center

Stop at the front desk to get your special map. Then, stroll the grounds to see five murals, each one created in a matter of hours by the muralist Ryan "ARCY" Christenson, as well as our life-sized Bison-ennial bison and sturgeon bench—both painted by ARCY. The seven pieces of art all depict wildlife that is native to the Indiana Dunes area.

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
1215 N. State Rd. 49, Porter,
219-926-2255
indianadunes.com

JAKE'S QUEST



Zao Island Amusement Center This is one of my favorite places because it's full of imagination! I like to pretend I'm on an epic quest as I make my way through mini-golf, laser tag, and the arcade. When you're done exploring, Zao Island has some of the best pizza in town.

1050 Horseprairie Ave., Valparaiso
219-462-1194
zaoisland.net



Selfie Station: You can't miss the great green dragon at Zao Island. Share your pic with us on social media with [#indianadunes](https://twitter.com/indianadunes).



Memorial Opera House This is where art and history come together! The Memorial Opera House hosts plays, musicals, and community events throughout the year. Most people don't know that legends like the Marx Brothers—funny actors from the early 1900s—have performed here. See if you can catch a show during your visit by visiting indianadunes.com.

104 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso
219-548-9137
memorialoperahouse.com



Emagine Portage I love going to the movies, and this is one of the best theaters around! The big comfy seats lay back just like the ones at home. If you like watching superheroes in 3D, this is the place to be. Don't worry about a tall person sitting in front of you—the screen is so big that you'll feel like you're a part of the movie!

6550 American Way, Portage
219-706-3400
emagine-entertainment.com



HISTORY & CULTURE



Diana of the Dunes Dare 🐾 Take the dare at the Indiana Dunes National Park! Climb up and over the dune named after local legend Alice Mabel Gray, also known as Diana of the Dunes! Alice moved from Chicago to the Indiana Dunes so she could live in the wilderness.

West Beach
376 North County Line Road, Gary
219-926-2255
indianadunes.com/ddd

ZOE'S DARE

Parent Tip:
The Indiana Dunes is known for being pet-friendly, but be sure your furry friend is on a six-foot leash, and remember to clean up after them on the trails.

Selfie Station: The signs along the trail are great places to smile for the camera. Share your pic with us using #indianadunes and #dianadunesdare

49er Drive-In Theatre 🐾 People have been watching movies here since they were my great-grandparents' age! My family likes to bring a big blanket to lay out on the lawn and something to play with our dog before the movie starts at sunset.

675 N. Calumet Ave., Valparaiso
219-462-6122
49erdrivein.com

Parent Tip:
Double features are shown nightly in the summer and on weekends in the fall. Don't forget to get some popcorn at the concession stand!



The Port Drive-In There's nothing quite like an old-school drive-in restaurant, and this is the only one in the county. Chow down on a burger, fries, and a classic milkshake in the car or in the dining room. But don't forget to request a tall frosty mug of homemade root beer!

419 N. Calumet Rd., Chesterton
219-926-3500
theportdrivein.net



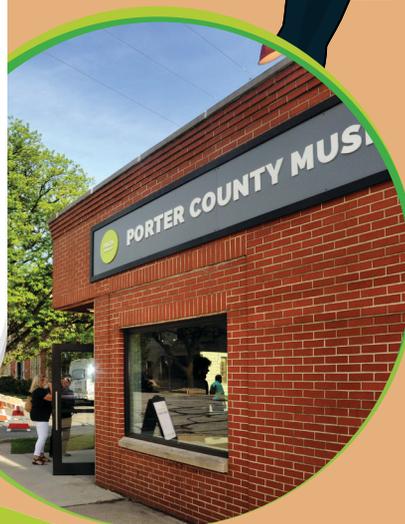
Parent Tip:

The Port Drive-In is open seasonally, March–October. Their homemade root beer is the talk of the town!

Landmark: When visiting the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, be sure to ask about the Indigenous Cultural Trail.

Porter County Museum During the Ice Age, the Indiana Dunes were completely frozen over by glaciers. Back then, huge animals like woolly mammoths lived here. To see the best of everything, check out one of their scheduled tours. You can explore over 10,000 years of Indiana Dunes history.

20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso
219-510-1836
pocomuse.org



Landmark: The Indiana Dunes was made by glaciers! Check out the Indiana Dunes Discovery Trail online to learn many more fun facts.

Science & NATURE

Parent Tip:

You can download a Junior Ranger Activity Guide online or pick one up at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.



Junior Ranger  You can be a ranger too! Check out the Indiana Dunes Junior Ranger Program, and open your eyes to the Indiana Dunes as they have never been before. Complete ranger activities to receive your own Junior Ranger badge, sticker, or patch.

1215 N. State Rd. 49, Porter
219-926-2255
nps.gov/indu

PHIL'S TEST



Broken Wagon Bison Farm If you've never seen a bison up close, you should take a wagon ride at Broken Wagon Bison Farm—it's so cool! See who can spot the biggest bison in the herd, and learn all about these cool animals from the farmers. Call for tour times in the summer, and make sure you check out the gift shop before you leave!

563 W. 450 North, Hobart
219-759-3523
brokenwagonbison.com





Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest

"Arboretum" is another word for a garden. At Gabis, explore gardens, woodlands, wetlands, and prairies where you can see tons of beautiful plants and 80 different types of birds. One of my favorite things is the railway garden, where model trains run through tiny towns, along rivers, and even up into the mountains! Plan to stay for the afternoon so that you don't miss a thing.

450 W. 100 North, Valparaiso
219-462-0025
pnw.edu/gabis-arboretum



Flower Quest and the Monarch Story

The Indiana Dunes National Park is the fifth most biodiverse national park in the entire country. Throughout the spring and summer, spectacular wildflowers burst into view across the Dunes region. How many can you discover before they disappear for another year? While you're out, be on the lookout for monarch butterflies. Their story is one of incredible transformation and epic travel.

Various locations throughout the Indiana Dunes. Start by scanning the code.



Indiana Dunes Discovery Trail:

The Flower Quest and Monarch Story are just the beginning. Scan the QR code to the right to explore the entire Indiana Dunes Discovery Trail.



Closer Look: The Indiana Dunes has more varieties of plant and animal species in its 15,000 acres than Yellowstone does in its two million. See how many different things you can spot on your trip through the Dunes.

WORD PUZZLE

See what's
hidden in the
Indiana Dunes!

Circle the hidden words, and you'll be ready
to find all of the tiny plants and insects in the Indiana Dunes.

D	U	N	E	S	I	S	T	G	L
H	R	O	U	P	E	Q	R	F	A
K	S	D	B	A	C	P	A	R	K
N	A	T	U	R	E	L	N	Y	E
Z	N	J	R	W	I	E	G	T	S
O	D	I	S	C	O	V	E	R	H
T	R	A	I	L	S	M	R	G	U
M	B	E	A	C	H	B	S	N	E
A	T	S	P	R	O	T	E	C	T

1. Dunes
2. Sand
3. Ranger
4. Park
5. Lake
6. Beach
7. Discover
8. Trails
9. Nature
10. Protect



FIND RIVET MAZE

Find Rivet's Den

Rivet has snuck off again, and the whole crew is hitting the hiking trails to help Jake find his furry friend. Help the Indiana Dunes Discovery Kids find Rivet's home!

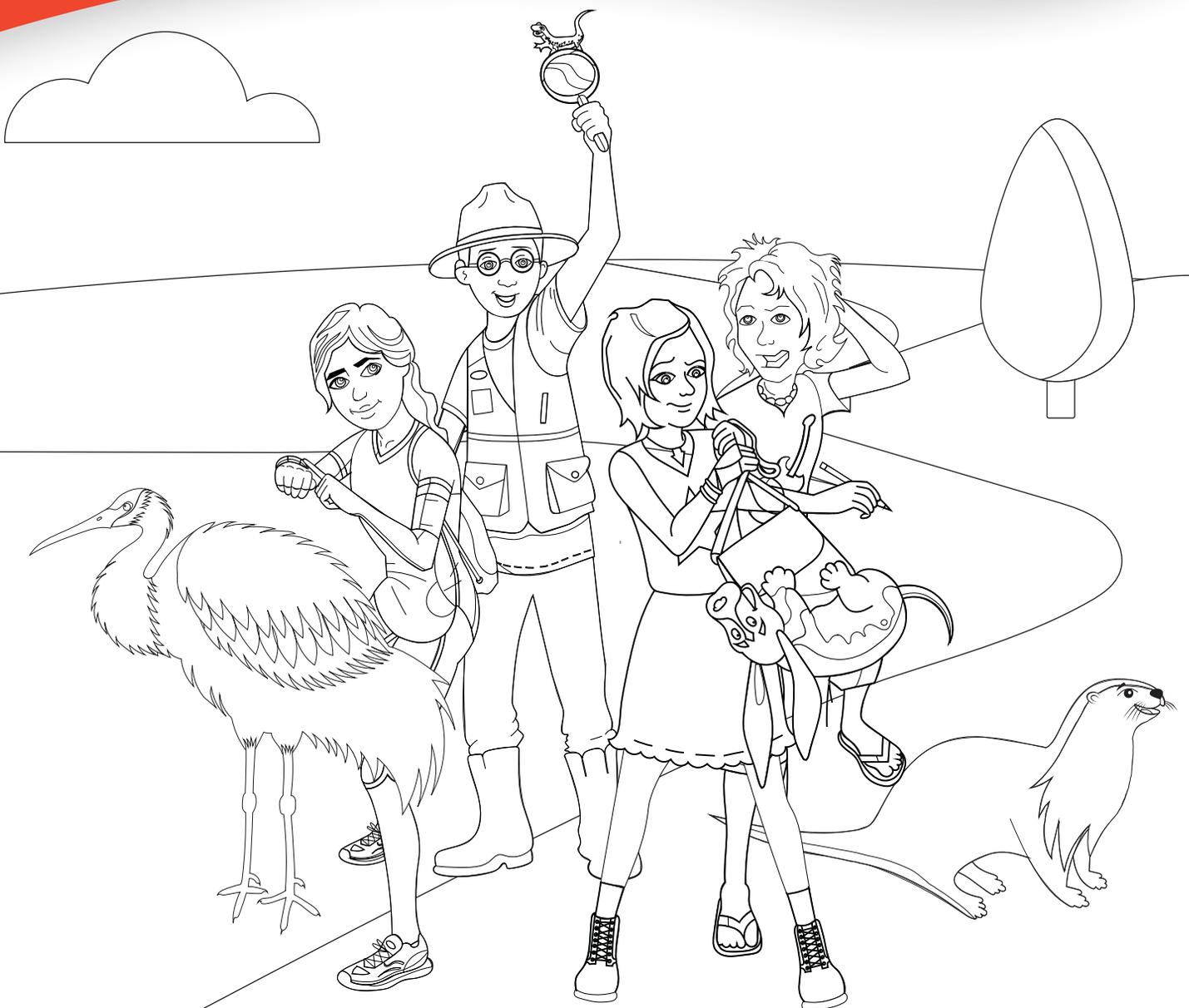
Show us your completed maze at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center for a free postcard.





IndianaDunes.com

Indiana Dunes Tourism
1215 N. State Road 49
Porter, IN 46304
800-283-8687



Now You're an Indiana Dunes Discovery Kid Too!

Share your coloring pages on social media by using **#indianadunes**.