

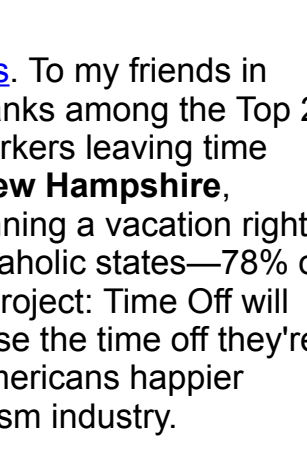
TRAVEL

Tuesday

Happy Travel Tuesday

Happy Fourth of July! Thank you for making me part of your holiday, but I hope you're spending the day with friends and family, too.

As the festivities get underway, I want to remind you that federal holidays aren't the only time you can take a break. Americans still aren't using enough vacation days, according to research by **Project: Time Off**, and [some states are bigger offenders than others](#). To my friends in **Illinois**: keep up the good work. Our state ranks among the Top 20 states in taking time off, with only 51% of workers leaving time unused. If you're reading this from **Idaho**, **New Hampshire**, **Alaska**, or **South Dakota**, though, start planning a vacation right now. In Idaho—which topped the list of workaholic states—78% of workers left vacation time unused in 2016. Project: Time Off will continue its efforts to encourage people to use the time off they're entitled to—a mission that will both make Americans happier overall and have positive effects on the tourism industry.



and the results were strong engagement across the board. In particular, a post about Floatzilla—the largest paddle sports festival on the Mississippi River—accrued more than 60 likes and 39 shares, reaching an audience of 12,000 people in a single day. If they haven't popped up on your Facebook feed already, I encourage you to get out and enjoy Rock Island and the rest of the Quad Cities.

Your friend in Illinois tourism,

Cory M. Jobe
Director
Illinois Office of Tourism



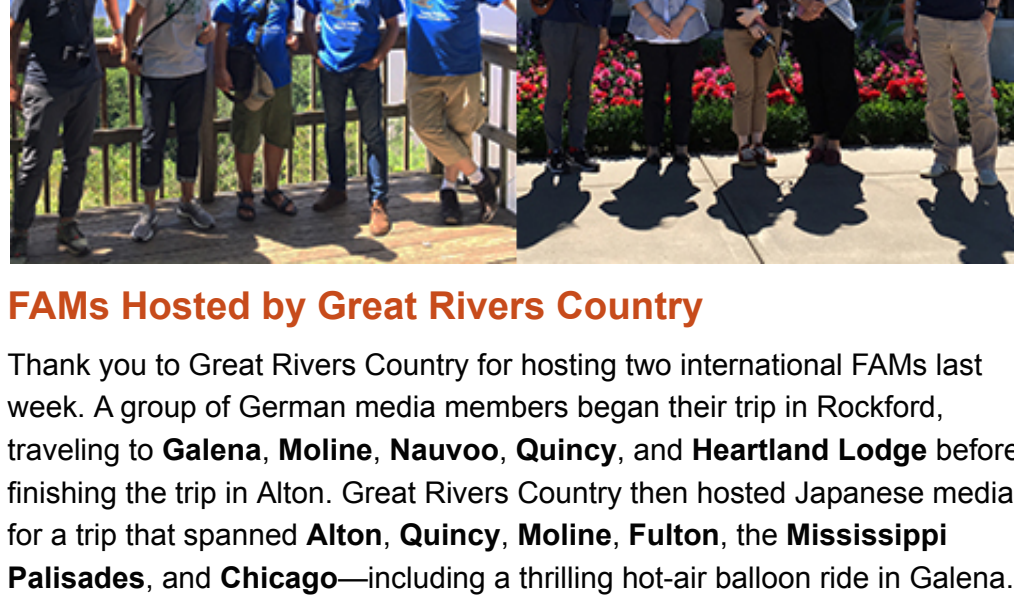
Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
OFFICE OF TOURISM
Bruce Rauner, Governor

TRAVEL ILLINOIS

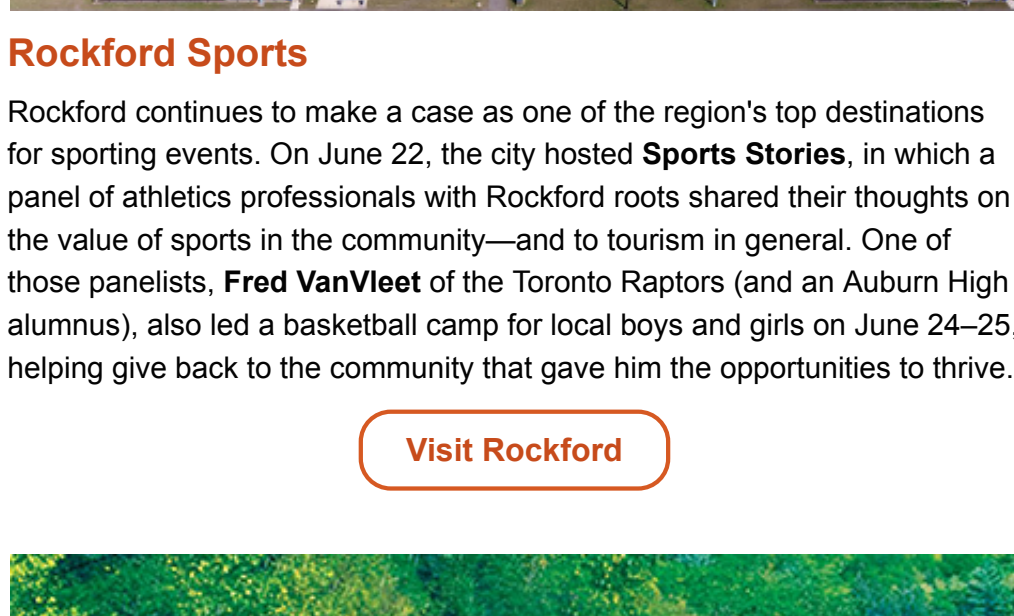
ILLINOIS SPOTLIGHT

**Black Hawk State Historic Site 90th Anniversary**

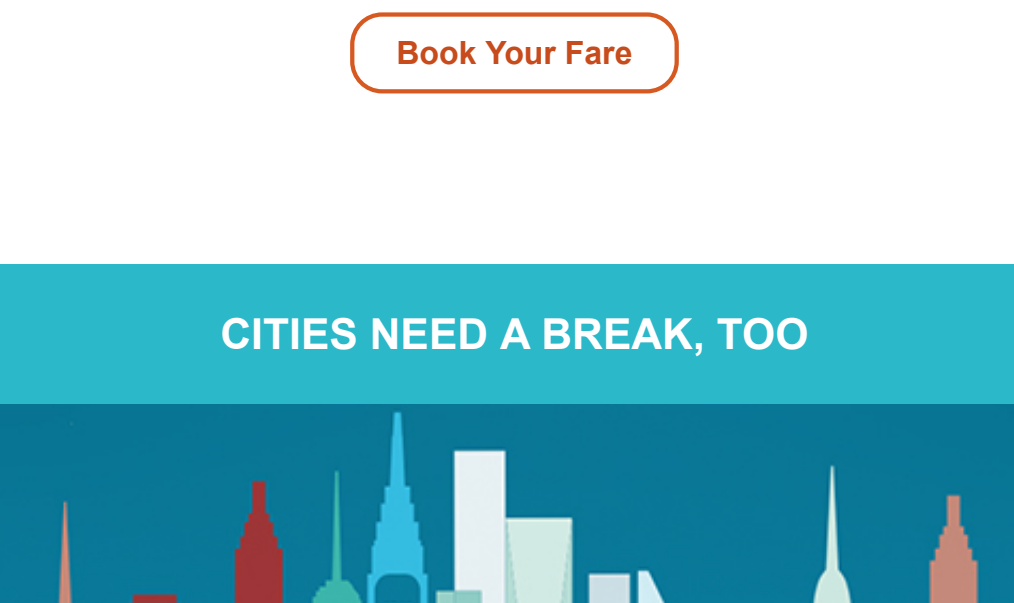
The [Black Hawk State Historic Site](#)—a 208-acre patch of land that was occupied by Native Americans for thousands of years—celebrates its 90th anniversary on Sunday, July 9. As part of their ongoing mission to honor the Sauk and Meskwaki peoples' legacy, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Citizens to Preserve Black Hawk Park Foundation host a day of free, family-friendly activities, including arts-and-crafts projects, live music, and free tours.

[Learn More](#)**FAMs Hosted by Great Rivers Country**

Thank you to Great Rivers Country for hosting two international FAMs last week. A group of German media members began their trip in Rockford, traveling to **Galena**, **Moline**, **Nauvoo**, **Quincy**, and **Heartland Lodge** before finishing the trip in Alton. Great Rivers Country then hosted Japanese media for a trip that spanned **Alton**, **Quincy**, **Moline**, **Fulton**, the **Mississippi Palisades**, and **Chicago**—including a thrilling hot-air balloon ride in Galena.

[Visit Great Rivers Country](#)**Rockford Sports**

Rockford continues to make a case as one of the region's top destinations for sporting events. On June 22, the city hosted **Sports Stories**, in which a panel of athletics professionals with Rockford roots shared their thoughts on the value of sports in the community—and to tourism in general. One of those panelists, **Fred VanVleet** of the Toronto Raptors (and an Auburn High alumnus), also led a basketball camp for local boys and girls on June 24–25, helping give back to the community that gave him the opportunities to thrive.

[Visit Rockford](#)**Discounted Amtrak Trips to the Solar Eclipse**

Less than two months await before the total solar eclipse passes over Southern Illinois on August 21. In anticipation, Amtrak is offering a 30% discount on trips aboard its *Illini* and *Saluki* lines from August 16–22. Adult fares from Chicago to Carbondale start at as little as \$24 each way—making it a cheap and convenient way to experience the momentous eclipse in one of the country's prime viewing spots.

[Book Your Fare](#)

CITIES NEED A BREAK, TOO

**Washington, D.C. tops the list of unused time off**

Idaho may be the state most in need of vacations, but many of America's cities are working too hard, as well. Washington, D.C. is home to the largest percentage of workers with unused time off, though that may be because the nation's capital has a larger percentage of government workers than other cities. Government workers aren't the biggest culprits of leaving time off on the table, though; that honor belongs to the education sector at 65%.

For both those industries, in which the deadlines are always near, the fear of returning to a mountain of work may be a motivating factor in not taking time off. Project: Time Off encourages people to see time off as a fundamental part of a healthy professional life. Vacation days should be a reward for hard work, not a hindrance to your work-life balance.

[Read More of the Report](#)

THE LATEST TRAVEL TRENDS

NEWS YOU CAN USE

**United Now Serving Deep Dish**

Starting July 1, customers on United Airlines [can now experience](#) a Chicago institution during their flight. The airline is adding deep-dish pizza from Pizzeria Uno to their menu, rounding out the rest of their in-flight options with a personal-size portion of Chicago's iconic food.

[Learn More](#)**10th Anniversary of iPhone**

The original iPhone [debuted](#) on June 29, 2007—making this the 10th anniversary of the device that seems to be in everyone's hands. Though we hardly think about it now, the iPhone (and the generations of smartphones it helped pioneer) changed e-commerce, and especially travel, as we know it. Continental Airlines began testing mobile boarding passes in late 2007. Now, in 2017, your phone can be used to check into flights, find information at your destination, and post photos from your trip on social media—all with the same device.

[Learn More](#)

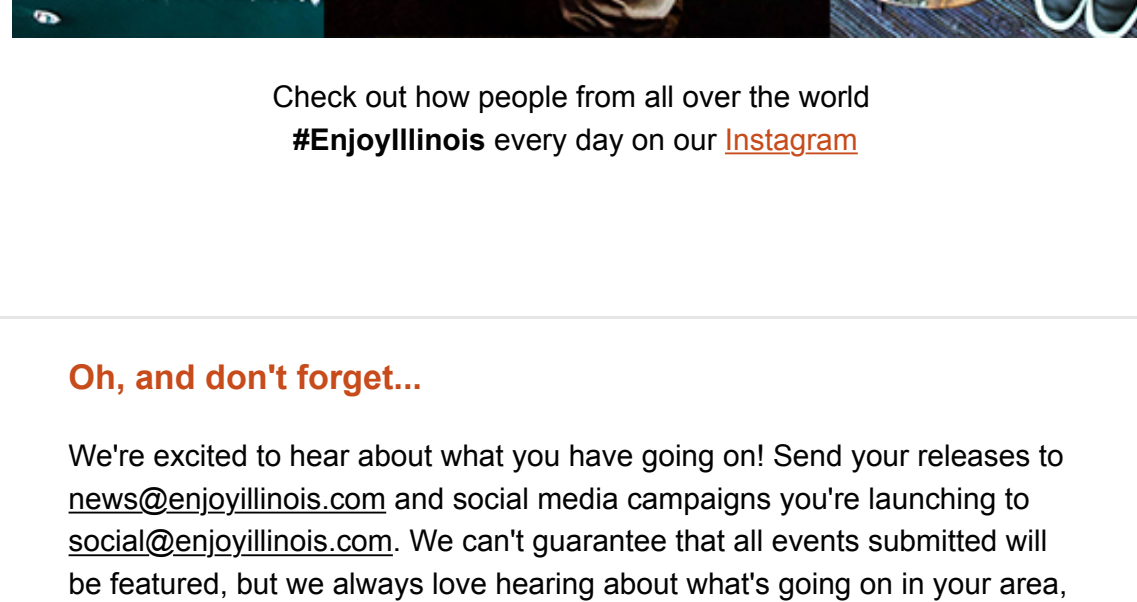
FOURTH OF JULY IN ILLINOIS



It's not too late to celebrate the Fourth of July in Illinois. If you're in Chicago, join us at Navy Pier's Independence Day Celebration with fireworks sparkling over Lake Michigan. We've also compiled a roundup of celebrations happening throughout the state—including one of the Midwest's largest celebrations in Arthur, Illinois.

[Read the Roundup](#)

#ENJOYILLINOIS

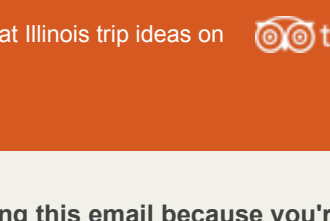
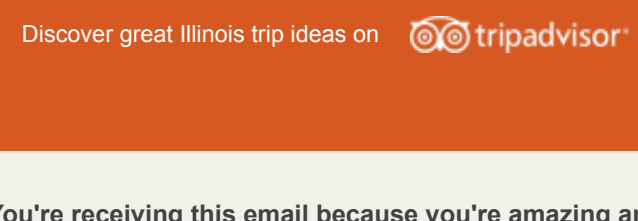


Check out how people from all over the world
[#EnjoyIllinois](#) every day on our [Instagram](#)

Oh, and don't forget...

We're excited to hear about what you have going on! Send your releases to news@enjoyillinois.com and social media campaigns you're launching to social@enjoyillinois.com. We can't guarantee that all events submitted will be featured, but we always love hearing about what's going on in your area, so keep sending your information!

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