

Chicago Southland

Tourism Marketing Information

Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau

Vol. 4 Issue 3 • April 2019

You Are Invited!

Tourism Impacts the Chicago Southland

National Tourism Day is an opportunity to celebrate the important role tourism plays in the economic growth and our quality of life.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 15th to join the Chicago Southland CVB at this annual celebration of tourism. Be ready to sample some of the eats our local restaurants have to offer, while you share what's new in your corner of the Chicago Southland with the local hospitality industry.

Showcase your restaurant and distribute samples of your delicious fare by reserving a table. You can even showcase your Chicago Southland business through a donation in our silent auction. For more information or to sign up contact Teagan

at 708-895-8200. We look forward to seeing you at our tourism celebration. Come prepared to shop our silent auction and enjoy the camaraderie! ~TMI

National Tourism Day Together

We are *One*

Chicago Southland

Join the Chicago Southland CVB
Wednesday, **May 15th** to Celebrate
National Tourism Day

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Chicago Southland CVB Offices

2304 173rd Street
Lansing, IL 60438

708-895-8200

Chicago Southland
Convention & Visitors Bureau
Just Beyond the City Limits

Silent Auction Mix & Mingle Music Hors d'Oeuvres



~ What's Been Happening ~

SportsEvents 2019 Readers' Choice Award Winner for Destinations and Venues

The Chicago Southland has received the SportsEvents 2019 Readers' Choice Award for **Sports Destination in Illinois**. SportsEvents is a leading industry publication that focuses exclusively on helping sports event planners create amazing competitions in the United States. Chicago Southland CVB nominated Tom Cole, President of National Xball League, in the Event Planner category and the NXL Paintball Chicago Open in the Sports Event category; both also won Readers' Choice Awards.

Sports in the Chicago Southland play a major role in bringing people to the area. With facilities able to accommodate upwards of 45 sports throughout our 63 communities, any sporting event in the Chicago Southland is sure to turn into a lifetime of memories. ~TMI



Looking to plan a corporate event, meeting, conference, luncheon, retreat, outing or holiday party? The Chicago Southwest Hospitality EXPO will showcase the best of what the southwest suburbs have to offer . . . you'll have the opportunity to meet with over 50 local representatives who can help you plan your next meeting or event. If you'd like to be a vendor contact Chris Craven with the Business Ledger at 708-351-0160.

DATE AND TIME
Thursday, July 11, 2019
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

LOCATION
Orland Park Civic Center
14750 South Ravinia Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60462

VISIT CHICAGO SOUTHLAND!

This app will help you discover all that Chicago Southland has to offer!

- >> Comprised of 63 south and southwest **suburbs** of Chicago
- >> View things to **see & do**, restaurants, hotels and events while in Chicago Southland
- >> Plan the **perfect** day based on your **interests**, timeframe, location and social connections
- >> Browse the feed of what's happening **now**
- >> View upcoming events near **you**
- >> Add events and places to your own customized **plan**
- >> **Share** events, places and your custom plan with friends

Plan Your Trip
See What's Nearby
Download our
APP
TODAY



Chicago Southland Hotel Partner Renovations



Alsip



The DoubleTree's three-year renovation is now complete offering improved guest rooms including new carpeting and contemporary-styled bathrooms. Suites received a complete transformation, while the lobby, pre-function area, ballrooms, guest corridors and elevators received updates. *Contact the hotel at 708-272-4200 and ask for sales.*



All rooms are being renovated, floors 4-12 have been completed. 25,000 square feet of event/meeting space is ready for your group. The Coffee Café and lobby are also complete. *Contact the hotel at 708-425-7800 and ask for Sales.*



BY CHOICE HOTELS

Tinley Park



Featuring newly renovated guest rooms, a swimming pool, updated fitness facility, and a warm, comfortable lounge area. Also offered are complimentary breakfast and high-speed wireless internet. Come see the Presidential Suites rooms. *Contact Bobby Parekh at 708-342-1425.*



Tinley Park



The Hilton Garden Inn Chicago/Tinley Park is currently undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation. All-new guest rooms allow you to kick back and relax in modern, streamlined style. Enjoy new lobby features such as a grab-and-go pantry! *Contact the hotel at 708-429-2266 and ask for Sales.*



Crestwood



The new urban contemporary style features new carpet, mattresses and window treatments. Hotel is minutes from Midway Airport & Downtown Chicago. All rooms have refrigerators & microwaves. Restaurants within walking distance. *Contact Laura Tews at 708-597-3330 with any questions.*



Lansing



Sleep Inn-Lansing is happy to announce the completion of their room renovation. Sleep Inn Designed to Dream offers warm colors, soft lighting, nature-inspired designs and modern furnishings. *Contact Calene Echevarria with any questions 708-418-3337.*



Tinley Park



Guest rooms will be completely renovated by late 2019 and will receive new luxury bedding & mattresses. Renovation of the pool & spa as well as our breakfast area are added improvements. *Contact the hotel at 708-532-9300 and ask for Sales.*

~ What's Coming Up ~

Teambuilding Activities for the Office Crew!

Team building is a way to blend talent, skills and the creativity of a group. With collaboration at its heart, team building improves cooperation, as well as time and resource management for everyone's benefit of an organization or team.

Check out these two fun opportunities for teambuilding below.

Chicago Southland Dragon Boat Festival June 1, Blue Island

Dragon Boat racing is a great sport for men and women of all ages and abilities. Anyone can do it and have fun too! Teamwork is everything. Synchronization is more important than strength. To form a team register at ChicagoDragonBoats.com/register.



40th Annual World Wiffle Ball Championship July 20-21, Midlothian

This one-division tournament, as always, is open to any and all participants, regardless of experience, age (10+) or gender. To make a team you need a group of 5 or more. Gather up multiple teams and add to the fun! WorldWiffleball.org



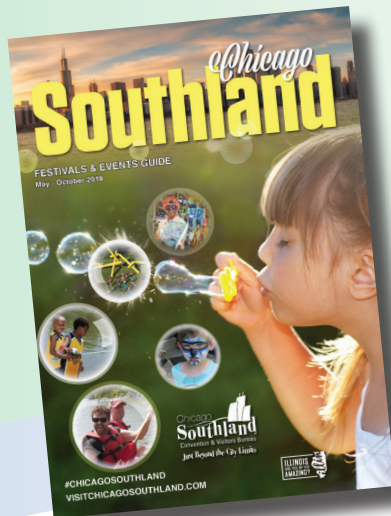
Lights, Camera, Action

The Illinois Film Office (IFO) is excited to announce that two new TV series will soon begin filming in Illinois. Amazon Studios is producing the drama *Utopia* and 20th Century Fox will produce a limited series, *Mixtape* for Netflix. These productions join the growing list of television series including *Empire*, *Proven Innocent* (Fox); *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago PD*, *Chicago Med* (NBC); *The Chi* (Showtime) and *Red Line* (CBS) that call Illinois their production home.

The IFO maintains a Locations Database, which contains a listing of thousands of public and private "film friendly" properties, as well as open film location business development opportunities. Upon request from Producers and Location Managers, the IFO Locations Department will provide a Locations Package.

If your business is interested in creating a "film friendly" listing in their Locations Database for a property you represent, please submit the request through their website: www.film.illinois.gov
<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/whyillinois/Film/Locations/Pages/SubmitALocation.aspx>

~ Your Spring/Summer Festivals & Events Guide is Here! ~



Our Spring/Summer Festival & Events Guide is here with over 587 listings from all over the Chicago Southland. The guide features everything from Gaelic Park Irish Fest to Frankfort Fall Fest, Farmers' Markets to concert series and everything in-between. To order a guide call Bernice at 708-895-8200.

For the latest up-to-date listings of our festivals and events go to VisitChicagoSouthland.com/events.

To list your event go to:

www.VisitChicagoSouthland.com/SubmitEvent

Toyota Park is now SeatGeek Stadium!



“Bridgeview is set up to bring more concerts and other live events to the home of both the Chicago Fire Soccer Club and the Chicago Red Stars professional women’s soccer club,” Bridgeview Mayor Steven Landek said at a formal unveiling Thursday, March 7th.

Bridgeview is trying to broaden the spectrum for the venue. The naming rights agreement with New York-based online ticket broker SeatGeek was announced almost a year ago, and Bridgeview officials took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with officials from SeatGeek, Chicago Fire and Red Stars to cement what Landek described as a “business partnership.”

Bridgeview, SeatGeek and Spectra Venue Management, which has taken over operation of the stadium, said they will work in tandem to bring other events, including music and sports, to the 28,000-seat facility.



Front Line Training

The CSCVB has been productive with two trainings for Front Line Ambassadors this quarter! Our most recent training took place March 28 at DoubleTree by Hilton Chicago – Alsip with 20 ambassador graduates. Earlier this year on January 15 we held another training at Hilton Garden Inn – Tinley Park with 40 ambassador graduates. These individuals gained information about servicing our visitors and how to use CSCVB resources. To date this tourist/visitor-centric training has transformed 201 employees into Front Line Ambassadors! Watch for our next training coming this fall.



2019 National Women’s & Junior Wheelchair Basketball Tournaments

The CSCVB and Lincolnway Special Recreation Association (LWSRA) welcomed teams March 29-31 for the junior and women’s division of the Toyota National Championship Series presented by ABC Medical.

This tournament hosted the three postseason competitions for the Junior Division: National Junior Wheelchair Basketball Tournament (NJWBT), National Junior Invitational Tournament (NJIT) and National Prep Wheelchair Basketball Tournament (NPWBT).

During this tournament 57 teams with 500+ athletes competed for 4 national titles here in the Chicago Southland! These athletes spark a desire to overcome any obstacle that life puts in their path and we were honored to have them. ~TMI

~ Looking Ahead ~

Recent & Upcoming Industry Trade Shows



Christian Meetings &
Conventions Association
April 15 – 17
Greenville, SC



Sports Illinois Huddle
April 16 – 18
Champaign, IL



African American
Travel Conference
April 16 – 18
French Lick, IN



National Association
of Sports Commissions
May 6 – 9
Knoxville, TN



HelmsBriscoe
May 29 – 31
Houston, TX



Esports Conference
June 25 – 27
Atlantic City, NJ



Smart Meetings
June 27
Washington, DC



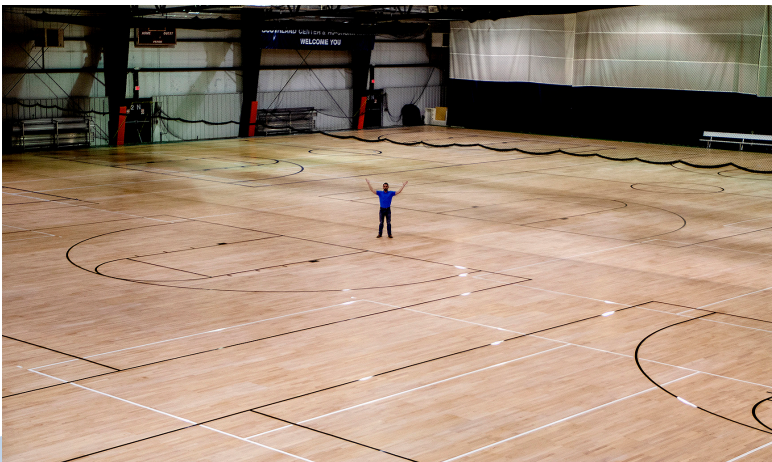
Cvent
July 8 – 11
Las Vegas, NV



Student Youth
Travel Association
August 9 – 13
Birmingham, AL

A Larger Venue for Sporting Events in the Chicago Southland

The Southland Athletic and Event Center (A Ho-Chunk Nation Enterprise) is a Chicago Southland sports venue located in Lynwood, IL that has recently installed 41,000+ square feet of portable wood court flooring for events of all kinds. The newly installed floor is the largest continuous portable wood court floor in the Western Hemisphere and the 2nd largest in the world! This portable wood flooring has space that will accommodate ten basketball or fourteen volleyball courts under one roof, from April through October. Courts of this size allow the Chicago Southland to attract larger regional and national events, that prefer to host their entire event in one location. Due to the functionality of the space, the Southland Center facility is now more attractive to event organizers for gymnastics, cheer and other activities, such as hobby and niche style gatherings. The facility has also been converted to LED lighting throughout! ~TMI



CSCVB Grant Awards & Upcoming Grant Workshop



**United States Hockey League
USHL Development
Series Combines**
Village of Orland Park – \$5,000
*Pictured here: Kim Kislowki,
Stephanie Morgan, Sally Schlesinger*

**Chicago Gaelic Park
Irish Fest Promotion,**
City of Oak Forest – \$5,000
*Pictured here: Kim Kislowki,
Marian Ryan, Sally Schlesinger*

Save the Date Thursday, May 2 Grant Writing Workshop

If you would like to learn more about the local grant program, please call and sign up for this upcoming workshop.
708-895-8200

CSCVB Welcomes New Member



Illiana Brew Bus

219-359-0387 • 3330 LaPorte, Highland, IN 46322 • illianabrewbus.com

Illiana Brew Bus is the area's ORIGINAL Craft Brewery Tour Bus! The brewery scene is vibrant and thriving with great beer being brewed all across the Region, South Suburbs, Chicago and Southwest Michigan! Illiana Brew Bus has been working with the owners and operators of the local breweries to create the best experience possible for guests! If your new to craft beer or are already a craft beer lover, you will find Illiana Brew Bus is a fun and safe way to visit multiple craft breweries. Hop on board, relax, and learn about the great breweries throughout the area.



BRIDGEVIEW - CHICAGO

Hampton Inn & Suites to open next month.

Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton is located on the premises of SeatGeek Stadium, an international sports and entertainment venue in addition to the home of the Chicago Fire Soccer Club and Chicago Red Stars. This new hotel to our region is located at Harlem Avenue and 71st Street in Bridgeview. Featuring 109 guest rooms, this select-service hotel will offer an indoor pool, fitness center and meeting room as well as an open two-story breakfast atrium. Construction is expected to be completed in May 2019. Hampton Inn & Suites is conveniently located near I-294 and I-55, and is within miles of Chicago Midway International Airport, as well as a number of restaurants and retail options. It also offers close proximity to downtown Chicago.



2304 173rd Street
Lansing, IL 60438
VisitChicagoSouthland.com

PRESORT STANDARD
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PERMIT NO. 170

Be sure to check us out on Social Media for Updated Information

The Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau wants to hear from you! Be sure to like, comment and share our posts and remember to use the hashtag #ChicagoSouthland when posting content of your own.



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[ChicagoSouthlandCVB](https://www.youtube.com/ChicagoSouthlandCVB)



[Chicago-Southland-CVB](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Chicago-Southland-CVB)

Host. **IT.** Here.

**Do you belong to an organization
that holds meeting or events?**

**Provide contact information and
we'll work hard to "Host It Here!"**

It could result in new \$\$\$ for our region.



Convention & Visitors Bureau

Just Beyond the City Limits

708-895-8200

sales@visitchicagosouthland.com