



Illinois USBC Youth Association

2016 Illinois USBC Youth State Championships Hotel Partners

Rockford, IL – April 16-17, April 23-24, April 30-May 1

SINGLES and DOUBLES HOTEL

Baymont Inn & Suites

662 N. Lyford Rd. (2.3 miles or 4 minutes from The Cherry Bowl)

Rockford, IL 61107

Rate: \$89.95 + TAX

Call direct to book: 815-229-8200, mention "ISYL Bowling"



TEAM HOTEL

Cliffbreakers Riverside Hotel & Conference Center

700 W. Riverside Blvd. (3.1 miles or 7 minutes from Forest Hills Lanes)

Rockford, IL 61103

Rate: \$89.00 + TAX

Call direct to book: 815-282-3033, mention "USBC Youth Team Bowling"



For more information on the Rockford Region, including restaurants, sites, attractions and maps, see the following pages or visit www.gorockford.com.



Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

In Good Company
**Rockford
Illinois**



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ROCKFORD
ILLINOIS, USA

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

General Information

Location

Rockford, Illinois is conveniently located in north-central Illinois at the intersection of **Interstate highways 90 and 39 and US Highway 20**. Downtown Chicago is about 90 minutes east of Rockford, and Chicago's O'Hare International Airport is just an easy 60-minute drive. Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin are each about an hour to the north and northeast respectively.

Population

Rockford's population is 152,000, making it **Illinois' third-largest city**. Winnebago County's population is approximately 292,000 and includes the towns of Machesney Park, Loves Park, Rockton, Roscoe, South Beloit, Pecatonica, Cherry Valley and Winnebago. The metro area population is more than 350,000.

Climate

The climate is moderate, with average summers temperatures of 71.8° F and winters of 24.2° F. Average annual precipitation is 35 inches.

Education

Rockford has **several institutions of higher learning**, including Rock Valley Community College, Rockford University, Northern Illinois University at Rockford, University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Judson University, St. Anthony College of Nursing, Upper Iowa University and Rockford Career College.

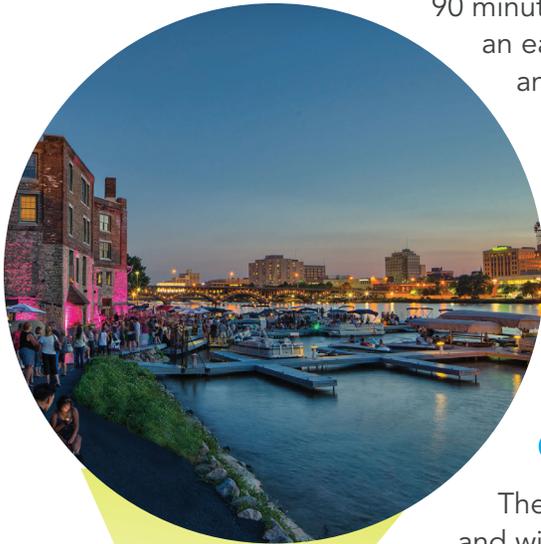
Rockford, Illinois, has been named the nation's third Ford NGL Model Community by Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company. Launched in 2012, Rockford has successfully implemented career academies at all RPS205 high schools, featuring career pathways such as Engineering, Information Technology, Law and Public Safety and Medical and Health Sciences.

Transportation

Three airlines serve the **Chicago Rockford International Airport**, with flights from Cancun, Denver, Fort Myers, Las Vegas, Orlando, Phoenix, Puerto Vallarta, Punta Cana and Tampa Bay. On the ground, **Coach USA** offers: 17 daily shuttles to and from Chicago's O'Hare Airport, and nine daily shuttles to Chicago's Union Train Station and Chicago's Midway Airport. Rockford is an auto-oriented city; taxi and city bus service are available, and car rental is available at the airport and several hotels.

Accommodations

With 30 brand-name hotels, three bed-and-breakfasts and 3,000 rooms, the Rockford Region offers many affordable lodging options.



Where to..

Where to Toast

Winnebago County has three breweries per capita, which is well above the state average. **Prairie Street Brewhouse** is a skillfully and lovingly restored mixed use building that houses two bars/restaurants. **Pig Minds Brewing Co.** is famous for their craft beer and for dishing out some of the tastiest vegan food you'll find anywhere. Rockford's first brewpub, **Carlyle Brewing Co.**, opened its doors in 2003 and is located downtown. When you need a jolt, Rockford also offers plenty of high quality coffee purveyors such as **Rockford Roasting Company** and **Meg's Daily Grind**.



Where to Dine



Rockford's restaurant scene is slathered with uniquely local flavor. Hamburgers to hot dogs. Fusion food to tangy Thai. Fast food to slow and elegant cuisine. With the emerging culinary scene enhancing Rockford, take the time to experience what is being created by our foodie artisans. Dine on old-world Italian cuisine at **Lino's**, grab a satisfying sweet treat at **GreenFire**, or stop by **15th and Chris** when you need a juicy burger. Whether your tastes are simple, sophisticated or somewhere in between, the Rockford Region's restaurants will satisfy your appetite with truly tasty options and original flare.

Where to Thrill

Rockford offers a multitude of thrilling attractions for everyone to enjoy in any season. **Magic Waters**, one of the Midwest's largest waterparks, just keeps getting bigger and better. **Rockford Speedway** hosts NASCAR races, while **Blackhawk Farms Raceway** has motorcycle, go-cart and sports car races. Rockford is called "Illinois' Holiest City" because of its many excellent, affordable **golf courses**. **West Rock Wake Park** is a great place for beginner and expert boarders to experience the thrill of no-boat wakeboarding on Levings Lake powered by cable technology. **Rock Cut State Park** is one of Illinois' largest state parks, with camping, fishing, swimming, hiking and more.



Where to Explore

Burpee Museum of Natural History is home to “Jane”, the most complete and best-preserved juvenile Tyrannosaurus Rex in the world. Forbes magazine says the two-story **Discovery Center Museum** is one of the top four children’s museums in America. **Midway Village Museum** shows what life was like in 1900, with a 24-building outdoor village. Built by a wealthy industrialist, **Tinker Swiss Cottage** is a rare example of “Victorian Exotic” architecture. The **Historic Auto Attractions Museum** showcases cars of the rich, famous and infamous. The **Erlander Home Museum** preserves the city’s Swedish heritage, the **Laurent House** is Frank Lloyd Wright’s only structure designed and built for an individual with a disability and the **Ethnic Heritage Museum** honors seven of the area’s ethnic groups.



With more than 20,000 acres of parks and forest preserves, the Rockford Region is a great place to play. **Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden’s** 150 acres shelter rare and unusual trees and shrubs from around the world; the only comparable site is in France! Canoeing and kayaking on the **Rock River**, **Kishwaukee River** and throughout Winnebago County has grown in popularity the past few years. Whether a novice or expert the waters in the Rockford region are sure to delight.

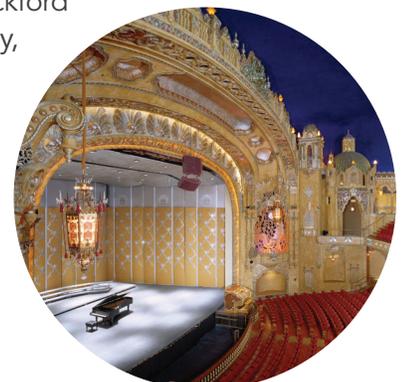


Where to Paddle, Hike & Bike

Where to Be Inspired



In 2004, the Roth Journal of Japanese Gardening chose Rockford’s 12-acre **Anderson Japanese Gardens** as the best in North America. The ornate 1927 **Coronado Theatre** hosts big-name entertainment and Broadway road shows. **Rockford Art Museum** is the largest in Illinois, outside of Chicago. **Starlight Theatre** has a lively summer season under a star-shaped retractable roof. Rockford also has a symphony, ballet and many galleries and arts festivals.



Shop 'til your heart's content at the popular **Cherryvale Mall** or browse the unique boutiques at **Edgebrook**. Rockford also has lots of discount chains, off-price outlets and "big box" stores. Interesting specialty and locally owned shops are scattered throughout the region. **Rockford Art Deli** is a creative screenprinting and t-shirt shop downtown specializing in Rockford-themed prints. **Kegel Motorcycle Company** is the world's oldest Harley-Davidson dealership. And, when it comes to vintage finds, the area has nearly 50 "pick your style" shops and three antique malls.



Where to Events

IL Snow Sculpting Competition
January

Midsommar Festival
June

Winnebago County Fair
August

Sock Monkey Madness Festival
March

Rockford AirFest
June

Screw City Beer Fest
September

Rockford Meltfest
March

Old Settlers Days
June

World War II Days
September

ArtScene
April and October



Fourth of July Celebration
July

Stroll on State
November

Pec Thing
May and September

Festa Italiana
July



Young at Heart Festival
Memorial Day Weekend

Bookerfest
July

Junteenth
June

Midtown Ethnic Parade & Festival
August

Voted **best Midwest City for Sports Venues** by Sports Illustrated Magazine, Rockford hosts amateur sports tournaments throughout the year, primarily soccer, softball, baseball, tennis, golf, wrestling, volleyball, rugby, bowling, chess, waterskiing and rowing. Two outdoor sports complexes, **Sportscore One** and **Sportscore Two**, feature 205 acres of playing fields. **Sportscore Downtown** (opening in the summer of 2016) will have 105,000 square feet of space for indoor sports such as basketball and volleyball. Rockford is also home to minor league baseball and ice hockey.



Rockford's **BMO Harris Bank Center** seats 7,500 arena-style. The **Indoor Sports Center** and the **Hononegah Dome** each offer 60,000 square feet of pillar-free space. Three hotels have conference centers: **Cliffbreakers Riverside Resort** (25,000 square feet); **Holiday Inn of Rockford** (meeting space for 600); the **Radisson** (10,000 square feet). Located in the heart of Rockford's hotel campus, **Giovanni's Restaurant & Convention Center** has 15,600 square feet, and partners with hotels for lodging.

History & Economy

History

In 1834, New Englanders settled on both banks of a shallow, rocky stretch of the Rock River, where there was a natural ford. They named their settlement "Midway," because it was halfway between Chicago and Galena (then a mining boomtown). By 1837, the village had grown and was renamed "Rockford".

Economy

Rockford has a diversified economic base. The Rockford region is contiguous to the Chicago Metropolitan Area. Its location allows for easy access to regional, national and international markets. It has many **manufacturing facilities** that make everything from aerospace and automotive components and systems to precision machine tools, chewing gum, and potato chips. The city is a **regional leader in health care**, with three major health systems and the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford. Urban and rural, some of the USA's most **fertile farmland surrounds the city**, producing corn, soybeans, cattle, hogs, chickens, eggs and dairy products.



In Good Company – Famous Rockfordians



Rock 'n' Roll superstars **Cheap Trick** started as a garage band in Rockford and original band members Rick Nielsen and Bun E. Carlos still live here.

Olympic athletes include: skaters Janet Lynn, Kathy Malmberg, Sandy Lenz and Gordy

McKellen; divers Ron Merriott and Rob Bollinger; boxer Kenny Gould; luger Deb Genovese.

The **Rockford Peaches**, a top-flight women's baseball team formed in 1943 by Chicago Cubs owner Phil Wrigley, started a run that lasted for 12 years. (The team was featured in the movie "A League of Their Own" starring Tom Hanks, Madonna, Geena Davis and Rosie O'Donnell.)

Jane Addams, Nobel Laureate and founder of Chicago's Hull House, was in Rockford College's (now Rockford University) first graduating class.

Michelle Williams, singer and actress once part of the group Destiny's Child, graduated from Auburn High School.

Admiral George Dufek, an Antarctic explorer, founded a base on the icy continent in 1958 and named it "Little Rockford."

Jodi Benson, singer best known for being the voice of Disney's Ariel, the Little Mermaid.

NASCAR racer **Danica Patrick** is from Rockton and graduated from Hononegah High School.



Demographics

Diversity in Rockford

Rockford has one of the **highest per-capita concentrations of Swedish-Americans** in the USA. Between 1852 and the early 1900s, thousands of Swedish immigrants settled in Rockford. The Swedes' woodworking skills made Rockford a leading furniture center with more than 90 furniture factories in existence prior to 1950, when they began the transition to high-tech precision metal working. **Italians** came to the area by the thousands between 1878 and 1912, establishing businesses that still bear their names and social clubs that reflect Italy's various regions. **Germans, Irish, Poles** and other Eastern Europeans also immigrated to Rockford in significant numbers. WWI and the construction of Camp Grant (a large army base) saw the first significant migration of **African-Americans** from the South.

Today, Rockford is a vital, multicultural community of people with roots around the globe.



Demographics (Population: 344,623)

Ethnicity/Race	White	Black	Hispanic/Latino	Asian	Endemic/Local	Other/Mixed
# of people	247,169	36,254	45,117	7,625	255	8,203
% population	72%	11%	13%	2%	0%	2%

Age	< 25	25 – 34	35 – 44	45 – 54	55 – 64	65+
# of people	116,581	40,527	42,983	48,753	44,417	51,362
% population	34%	12%	12%	14%	13%	15%

Household Income	less than \$25K	\$25K – \$49.9K	\$50K – \$74.9K	\$75K – \$99.9K	\$100K – \$149.9K	\$150K and above
% households	25%	27%	20%	12%	10%	6%

Education	No/some HS	HS graduate	Some college	Bachelor's degree	Graduate degree
% adults	13%	33%	33%	14%	7%

Source: adapted from 2013 U.S. Census Bureau estimates

Helpful Hints

Car Rental

Generally, car rental rates are lower in Rockford. After Chicago (where you don't need a car) if you plan to drive around the Midwest, take the O'Hare or Union Station shuttle to Rockford and rent a car at Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, National or a small local car rental company.

International Phone Cards

May be purchased at most discount stores (such as Target, K-Mart, Wal-Mart) and convenience stores (gasoline stations).

Tips & Gratuities

American tipping customs are different from those in other countries, and are very subjective. Use these guidelines. Restaurant waiters/waitresses: 15% for good service, 20% for outstanding service. Hotel porters: \$2 per bag. Hotel maids: \$2 per night, more for extra requests. Hotel room service: most hotels automatically include a gratuity and delivery fee; if not, 15%. Taxi drivers: 15%, or for very short rides, round it up to the next dollar or so.

Credit Cards

The most commonly accepted credit cards in the American Midwest are MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express.

To Exchange Currency

1. Exchange currency at your arrival airport, such as Chicago O'Hare or Minneapolis/St. Paul.
2. Use your bankcard, cash card or automated teller card (ATM) to withdraw US dollars from machines in America. You may be charged a fee of approximately US \$1.50-\$2.50 for each transaction, but your bank will automatically give you the most current exchange rate.
3. Use your credit card to pay for rooms, meals and other purchases. Your credit card company will automatically give you the most current exchange rate.
4. Outside major airports, places with "Currency Exchange" signs seldom exchange international currency. (They cash checks, issue money orders, collect utility bills, etc.)

