



2026

Run. Hike. Play. Relax.

Your IPARKS membership makes it easy for you to provide safe places to play, relax, and enjoy. By making safety a priority, we empower you to improve upon best practices and work in collaboration with your fellow members to protect your district, assets, and those you serve.

Members are able to do this with the customized coverage, fresh and engaging training, and the valuable educational resources we offer. All of this is made possible because of our strong financial foundation.



December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Hanukkah Begins	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 First Day of Winter	22 Hanukkah Ends	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27
28	29	30	31 New Years Eve	1	2	3

Winter Recreation Activities

As winter arrives, communities offer seasonal fun like cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, sledding, and snow tubing.

To keep these activities safe and enjoyable:

- **Post clear signage** to guide visitors and communicate rules or hazards.
- **Maintain equipment and trails** regularly to prevent accidents.
- **Train staff** in cold-weather response and emergency procedures.
- **Encourage appropriate clothing** to protect against cold temperatures.
- **Monitor weather conditions** and keep visitors informed of any changes.

A little preparation goes a long way in making winter fun, safe, and memorable for all!



A Fresh Start to Wellness

The new year is a great time to reset and refocus on personal well-being. Small, consistent steps can lead to lasting change:

- **Aim for a healthy weight**
- **Stay active with regular movement**
- **Choose nourishing foods**
- **Limit alcohol and avoid tobacco**

A healthier lifestyle can boost your energy, improve your mood, and help you stay productive, both at work and at home.

Here's to a safe, strong start to the year. Happy New Year!

January 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day/ Kwanzaa Ends	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 IAPD/IPRA Conference Chicago, IL	30 IAPD/IPRA Conference Chicago, IL	31 IAPD/IPRA Conference Chicago, IL



AED Readiness Saves Lives

In a cardiac emergency, every second matters. Quick action with CPR and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can more than double a person's chance of survival.

To ensure your AED is ready when needed:

- **Check battery life and electrode pads regularly**
- **Confirm visibility and accessibility of the device**
- **Review the user manual and train staff on proper use**

Routine maintenance and preparedness can make all the difference. A well-maintained AED is a powerful tool for saving lives.

February 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Presidents' Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



Spring into Outdoor Safety

Welcome Spring!

As warmer weather draws people outdoors for sports, hiking, biking, and play, it's time to ensure your facilities are ready.

Winter conditions can take a toll on parks and recreation areas, so early spring maintenance is key. Consider inspecting and preparing:

- Athletic fields
- Parking lots
- Playgrounds
- Dog parks
- Shelters
- Trails
- Skate parks

March 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4



Stay Focused, Drive Safely

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, a timely reminder that safe driving starts with staying focused behind the wheel. Distractions, whether from mobile devices, passengers, or multitasking, can lead to serious consequences.

Consider these tips to promote safer driving:

- **Avoid phone use while driving, even hands-free**
- **Stay alert to changing road and weather conditions**
- **Ensure vehicles are properly maintained**
- **Encourage regular safety refreshers for staff who drive to work**

Whether you're behind the wheel of a van, truck, or car, staying present and prepared helps protect everyone on the road.

April 2026

Distracted Driving Awareness Month

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1 April Fools' Day	2 Passover Begins	3	4
5 Easter	6	7	8	9 Passover Ends	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 National Playground Safety Week	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2



Electrical Storm Safety

Spring weather can bring sudden electrical storms, especially in the Midwest. Staying safe during a thunderstorm means knowing what to do, whether you're indoors or outdoors.

If you're indoors:

- Stay away from windows
- Avoid using landline phones
- Unplug electronics to prevent power surge damage
- Steer clear of water and metal objects

If you're outdoors:

- Seek shelter in a sturdy building or vehicle
- Avoid open fields, tall trees, and bodies of water

Being prepared and knowing where to go can help reduce risk and keep everyone safe during storm season.

May 2026

Statewide Kite Fly & National Bike Month

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4 International Firefighters' Day	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day/ National Police Week	11	12	13	14	15 National Bike to Work Day	16 Armed Forces Day
17 National EMS Week	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30



Fireworks Safety

With the 4th of July just around the corner, many communities are gearing up for parades, barbeques, and fireworks displays. It's a great time to celebrate, but also a key moment to prioritize safety.

If your agency is hosting or supporting public events, consider:

- **Reviewing firework display procedures and permits**
- **Coordinating with local fire and emergency services**
- **Ensuring crowd control and traffic plans are in place**
- **Communicating safety guidelines to staff and attendees**

Planning helps ensure a festive, safe celebration for everyone.

June 2026

National Safety Month

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20
21 Father's Day/ First Day of Summer	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4



Beat the Heat, Stay Safe Outdoors

Summer heat can be intense, and heat-related illness is a serious risk, especially for those working or playing outdoors. Prevention is key to staying safe and healthy.

Stay hydrated:

- Drink water regularly, aim for a sip every 20 minutes
- Avoid alcohol, caffeine, and sugary drinks

Stay cool:

- Wear lightweight, breathable clothing
- Use sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher), hats, and sunglasses
- Take breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas

Watch for signs of heat stress like dizziness, nausea, or confusion, and act quickly. A few smart choices can make all the difference on hot summer days.

July 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1



Back to School, Safety First for Kids

With the school year kicking off, it's a great time to revisit safety practices that help protect children in your community. Whether it's on the playground, at camp, or during transportation, proactive planning makes a big difference.

Consider reviewing safety measures for:

- **Playground equipment and surfaces**
- **Youth sports and injury prevention**
- **After-school programs and aquatics safety**
- **School bus operations and rider protocols**
- **Field trip and transportation procedures**
- **Emergency response plans for medical situations**

Creating safe environments for children supports learning, play, and peace of mind for families and staff alike.

August 2026

Back-to-School Safety Month

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29



Emergency Preparedness Starts Now

September marks **National Preparedness Month**, a reminder to assess how ready your agency is for unexpected events. Emergencies can take many forms, from severe weather to workplace incidents, and preparation is key to minimizing impact.

Consider reviewing and updating:

- Emergency communication plans
- Evacuation routes and shelter procedures
- Response protocols for floods, tornadoes, and winter storms
- Continuity of operations plans
- Staff roles and responsibilities during emergencies

Regular drills and clear communication can help ensure your team is ready to respond quickly and effectively when it matters most.

September 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11 Rosh Hashanah Begins	12
13 Rosh Hashanah Ends	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Yom Kippur Begins	21 Yom Kippur Ends	22	23 First Day of Autumn	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3



Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Cyber threats can impact organizations of all sizes, making cybersecurity a year-round priority. October is a great time to review your agency's digital safety practices and ensure your team is prepared to prevent and respond to cyber risks.

Consider these best practices:

- **Use strong, unique passwords and enable multi-factor authentication**
- **Keep software and systems updated**
- **Train staff to recognize phishing attempts and suspicious activity**
- **Limit access to sensitive data based on roles**
- **Have a response plan in place for potential breaches**

Staying vigilant and proactive helps protect your systems, data, and community from costly cyber incidents.

October 2026

Cybersecurity Awareness Month

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 IPARKS 2026 Calendar Photo Deadline
4 National Fire Prevention Week	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween/ Grant Submission Deadline



Smoke Alarms Safety Reminder

With Daylight Savings Time ending on **November 1st**, it's a great time to check your smoke alarms. These small devices play a big role in keeping your home and workplace safe.

Quick safety tips:

- **Replace batteries in all smoke alarms**
- **Test alarms monthly to ensure they're working properly**
- **Install alarms in every sleeping area and on every level of your building**
- **Keep alarms free of dust and debris**

Working smoke alarms save lives. A few minutes of maintenance can make a lasting impact on safety.

November 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends	2	3 Election Day	4	5 IAPD Legal Symposium Oak Brook, IL	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5



Managing Holiday Stress

The holiday season brings joy, celebration, and connection, but it can also be a source of stress. Balancing responsibilities and expectations can feel overwhelming, so it's important to take care of yourself during this busy time.

Here are a few ways to stay grounded:

- **Set realistic expectations**—focus on what truly matters
- **Plan ahead** and prioritize meaningful activities
- **Create calming spaces** with music, soft lighting, or quiet time
- **Maintain healthy habits**—stay hydrated and get enough rest
- **Limit alcohol, caffeine, and sugar** to support your energy and mood
- **Take breaks** and make time for yourself

Remember, the best gift you can give yourself is peace of mind. Wishing you a safe and joyful holiday season!

December 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	1	2	3	4 Hanukkah Begins	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Hanukkah Ends
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 First Day of Winter	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa Begins
27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve	1	2



Winter Weather Safety

Cold snaps and icy conditions are common this time of year, and it's important to know how to protect yourself and others from serious cold-related health risks.

When temperatures drop, two major concerns are **frostbite** and **hypothermia**. Here's what to keep in mind:

Frostbite can sneak up quickly, especially on exposed skin like fingers, toes, ears, and nose. If you notice **numbness, pale or waxy skin, or loss of sensation**, it's time to act:

- **Get indoors immediately**
- **Warm the area slowly** using body heat or warm (not hot) water
- **Avoid rubbing the skin or using direct heat**

Hypothermia happens when your body temperature drops below 95°F. Watch for signs like **shivering, confusion, slurred speech, or extreme fatigue**. If someone shows these symptoms:

- **Move them to a warm, dry place**
- **Focus on warming the core**—chest, neck, head, and groin
- **Wrap them in blankets**, including the head and neck

Staying warm, dry, and alert during cold weather can prevent emergencies. Make sure your team and community are prepared for whatever winter brings.

January 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1 New Years Day/ Kwanzaa Ends	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Thank you, IPARKS Members, for your continued support!

53 Trails Estate Park District
Albion Park District
Allin Township Park District
Armington Community Park District
Arthur Community Park District
Aviston Park District
Bailey Park District
Barrington Hills Park District
Beardstown Community Park District
Benton Community Park District
Berkeley Park District
Big Rock Park District
Black Hawk Park District
Blue Island Park District
Blue Mound Park District
Boone County Conservation District
Braidwood Park District
Bridgeview Park District
Broadview Park District
Brookeridge Park District
Burlington Township Park District
Canton Park District
Caps Park District
Carbondale Park District
Carlinville Park District
Carrier Mills Park District
Central Stickney Park District
Charleston Township Park District
Chestnut-Beason Park District
Chicago Heights Park District

Chillicothe Park District
Clyde Park District
Coloma Township Park District
Cordova Township Park District
Creston-Dement Park District
Delavan Township Park District
Dieterich Park District
Dixon Park District
Dolton Park District
Douglad Park District
Dunleith Park District
East Oakland Township Park District
Effingham Park District
Elba-Salem Park District
Eldorado Raleigh Pleasure Driveway
& Park District
Fairfield Park District
Farmington Township Park District
Flanagan Community Park District
Fon Du Lac Park District
Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
Forest View Park District
Forman Park District
Foss Park District
Frankfort Community Park District
Franklin Township Park District
Freeburg Park District
Freeport Park District
Gateway Special Recreation Association
Germantown Park District
Glen Ellyn Countryside Park District

Godley Park District
Golfview Hills Park District
Grand Tower Park District
Grandwood Park Park District
Granite City Park District
Grant Memorial Park District
Greater Brownstown Park District
Griggsville Community Park District
Hamilton Park District
Hanna City Park District
Hanover Township Park District
Harrisburg Township Park District
Harvey Park District
Havana Park District
Hennepin Park District
Herrin Park District
Hollis Park District
Horner Park District
Hutsonville Park District
Illinois River Valley Special Recreation Association
Inverness Park District
Joliet Park District
Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve District
Kewanee Park District
Kingsbury Park District
Kingston Township Park District
La Harpe Park District
Lafayette Park District
Lake Barrington Countryside Park District
LaMotte Township Park District

Lena Community Park District
LeRoy Community Park District
Lewistown Park District
Lighthouse Park District
Limestone Park District
Lincoln Park District
Litchfield Park District
Long Grove Park District
Macomb Park District
Macon County Conservation District
Marion Park District
Markham Park District
Mason City Park District
Mason Township Park District
Mattoon Township Park District
Maywood Park District
Memorial Park District
Metamora Park District
Metro East Park & Recreation District
Milford Township Park District
Milledgeville Unit Park District
Momence Park District
Morton Park District
Mount Hope Funks Grove Park District
Mount Pulaski Township Park District
Mount Sterling Park District
Murphysboro Park District
Neoga Township Park District
New Athens Park District
New Lenox Community Park District
Niantic Park District
Niles Park District

Nokomis Community Memorial Park District
North Fork Conservancy District
Octavia Park District
Odell Park District
Oregon Park District
Oswegoland Park District
Paxton Park District
Pearl City Park District
Pekin Park District
Peotone Park District
Phoenix Park District
Pitman Township Park District
Posen Park District
Princeton Park District
Putman Township Park District
Putnam County Conservation District
Quincy Park District
Rantoul Park District
Rend Lake Conservancy District
Ridgeville Park District
Riverdale Park District
Roanoke Park District
Robbins Park District
Rock Island County Forest Preserve District
Rosemont Park District
Roxana Community Park District
Saint Elmo Community Park District
Saint Jacob Park District
Saline Valley Conservancy District
Salt Creek Rural Park District
San Jose Park District
Sandwich Park District

Savanna Park District
Seward Park District
South Barrington Park District
Special Recreation of Joliet & Channahon Park District
Springfield Park District
Stonington Park District
Summit Park District
Sumpter Township Park District
Taylorville Community Pleasure Driveway & Park District
Teutopolis Park District
Tolono Park District
Toluca Park District
Tremont Area Park District
Tri-State Park District
Tri-Township Park District
Urbana Park District
Vandalia Park District
Venice Park District
Vermillion County Conservation District
Veterans Park District
Walnut Park District
Wards Creek Park District
Warsaw Park District
Washington Park District
Waterloo Park District
Watseka Park District
Westchester Park District
Westmont Park District
Winnebago Park District
Winslow Township Park District
York Center Park District



📍 South Barrington Park District



📍 Freeport Park District



📍 Harrisburg Township Park District



📍 Oswegoland Park District 📷 Amy Weiland



📍 Chillicothe Park District



📍 Barrington Hills Park District



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