

Reunite in the Chicago Southland!

Chicago  
**Southland**<sup>SM</sup>  
Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Just Beyond the City Limits



[ReuniteInTheChicagoSouthland.com](http://ReuniteInTheChicagoSouthland.com)



ILLINOIS  
MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE<sup>®</sup>

# Reunite in the Chicago Southland

On behalf of the [Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau](#), we invite you to hold your family reunion here in the Chicago Southland.

The Chicago Southland includes the 62 south and southwest suburbs of Chicago, encompassing nearly 400 square miles of urban and open areas. More than 60,000 acres of forest preserves with walking, biking and equestrian trails; recreational sites; nature centers and picnic sites are available if you want to enjoy the great outdoors, only 30 minutes from downtown Chicago.

With a variety of shopping and cultural opportunities, one of the world's largest outdoor amphitheatres and restaurants offering an array of diverse cuisine, the Chicago Southland has everything you need to make your next reunion a success. 65 lodging facilities with a variety of brands you can trust with your reunion offer over 5,000 sleeping rooms.



Major interstates transverse our region, including Interstates 55, 57, 80, 94, 294 and 355, making our area easily accessible.

The [Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau](#) offers reunion planners help in finding the perfect location to host the reunion, as well as services needed to ensure the event's success! We hope you find this planning summary helpful, as you plan your family reunion!

## Attractions/Events



- Balmoral Park Race Track
- Chicago Fire Soccer Club/ Toyota Park
- Children's Museums
- Dave & Busters
- Frankfort Fall Festival
- Gaelic Park Irish Fest
- Historic Downtown Frankfort
- Historic Pullman District
- Homewood Railroad

### Platform & Park

- Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center
- Lake Katherine Nature Center & Botanic Gardens
- Lincoln Highway Murals
- Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park
- Nature Centers
- Odyssey Fun World
- Orland Square Mall
- Park Forest Railfan Park
- Performing Arts Centers
- The Pickwick Society Tea Room, Gifts & Antiques
- Windy City ThunderBolts

## Chicago Attractions

- Adler Planetarium
- American Girl Place
- Art Institute
- Blue Man Group
- Buckingham Fountain
- Chicago White Sox
- Field Museum
- Frank Lloyd Wright's Home & Studio
- Hancock Observatory
- Millennium Park
- Museum of Science & Industry
- Navy Pier's Gardens, Rides, Children's Museum and shops
- Shedd Aquarium & Oceanarium
- Sightseeing / Architectural Cruises and Tours
- Skydeck Ledge at Willis Tower



## Attractions Beyond the Chicago Southland

- Argonne National Laboratory
- Brookfield Zoo
- Fair Oaks Farms
- Horseshoe Casino
- Little Red Schoolhouse
- Sagawau Environmental Learning Center
- Shrine of Christ's Passion

## Picnic Locations

The Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau will be happy to provide a list of Chicago Southland park districts to assist you in securing the perfect picnic location for your reunion.

# Getting Started

## Planning Process

Set up a Committee or Committees to make Important Decisions

- Time of Year and Length of the Reunion
- State and City Selection
- Budget and Fundraising Ideas
- Registration Fee
- Theme and Reunion Activities

Finding a Site (Contact Kristy Stevens at the Chicago Southland CVB for assistance)

- Hotel for Sleeping Rooms and Banquet Facilities
- Park for Picnic



### Forms

- 3-5 Months Out: mail/email – All Relevant Reunion Information
- 4-5 Weeks Out: mail/email – Reminder Notice with Final Housekeeping Notes

### Fundraising

- Research Corporations that Discount their Items for Fundraising
  - Krispy Kreme Donuts
  - Dominos Pizza and Pizza Hut
  - M&Ms, Fannie May and Hershey's Chocolates
- Other Ideas to Consider
  - Bake and/or Plant Sale
  - Spaghetti Dinner or Pancake Breakfast
  - Car Wash and Raffles
  - Selling of T-Shirts, Baseball Caps or Buttons



Developing the Budget – Items to Consider

- Pre-Reunion Costs
  - Phone calls, Postage and Printing
  - Decorations, Welcome Packets and Transportation (Bus Rental)
  - Venue Rental Expenses
- Reunion Day Costs
  - Food and Beverage
  - DJ, Entertainment, Photographer

## The Reunion

### Hospitality Suite

- For Registration and Packet Pick-up
  - Agenda and Name Badges
  - Family Update Form
  - Meal Tickets
- Meet and Greet for Family Members
  - Snacks
  - Beverages
- Picnic
  - Food and Games
  - Reacquaint and Fellowship
- Banquet
  - Plated Dinner/Family Style/Buffer
  - DJ and Dancing
  - Awards
    - Oldest Family Member
    - Youngest Family Member
    - Family Member that Traveled the Farthest



### Timeline

- One Year Out: mail/email – Save the Date Postcard with location and date
- 8-10 Months Out: mail/email – Reunion Information with fees and deadlines
- 5-8 Months Out: mail/email – Hotel Information and Registration

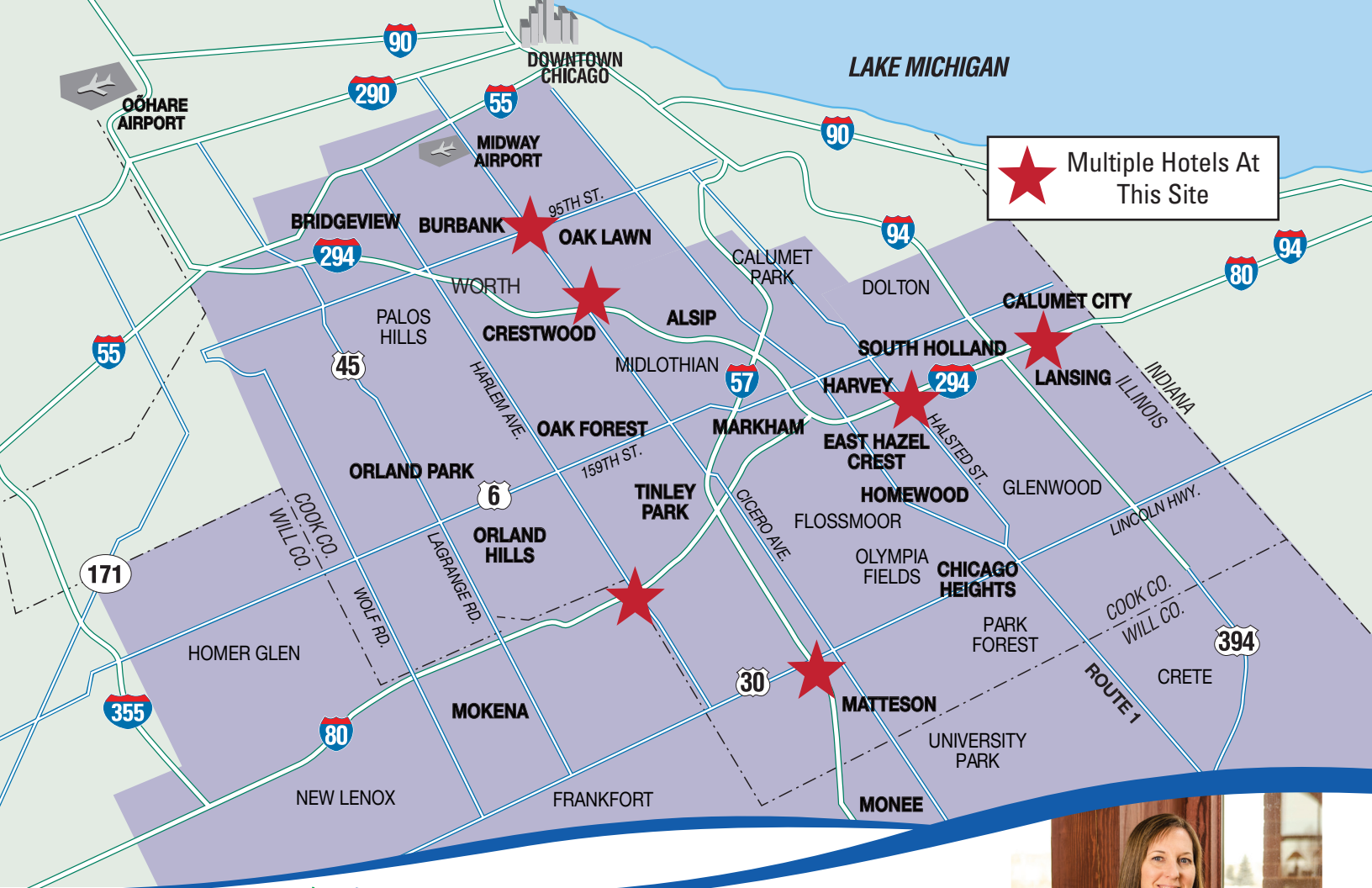
## Event Services

The Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau will supply the following items free of charge for family reunions:

Visitors Guides  
Coupon Books  
Festivals & Events Guides

Traveler Maps  
Stick-on Name Badges  
Plastic Bags

Table Tent Cards



★ Multiple Hotels At This Site

Chicago  
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*Just Beyond the City Limits*

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## Accommodations

The Chicago Southland offers a multitude of trusted hotel brands.

