

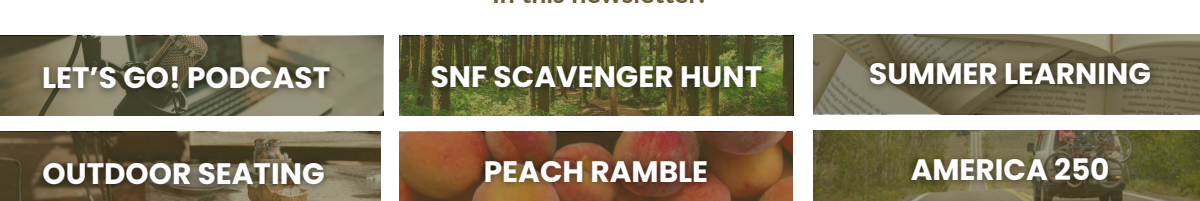


CELEBRATE SUMMER

EXPLORE SOUTHERNMOST ILLINOIS THIS SEASON!

There's something special about summertime in Southernmost Illinois. Whether you're planning a weekend getaway, a family adventure, or a relaxing afternoon outdoors, this season is filled with opportunities to make lasting memories. From peach season and patio sipping to shaded trails and summer events, your next adventure starts here.

In this newsletter:



EXCITING WEBSITE CHANGES COMING SOON!

We're making updates to southernmostillinois.com to help you discover local parks, experiences, lodging, and exciting things to do in a more user-friendly way. Follow our [Facebook page](#) for an update on when the refreshed site officially goes live!

ENJOY ILLINOIS: LET'S GO! PODCAST FEATURE 🎧



Southernmost Illinois recently took the spotlight on the Enjoy Illinois: Let's Go podcast! Join host Catie Sheehan as she chats with Shawn Gossman (of [Hiking with Shawn](#)) and Brandy Nance (Marketing & Event Director at [Blue Sky Vineyard](#)) about the scenic trails, hidden gems, wineries, and unforgettable experiences that make this region so special.

[LISTEN TO THE PODCAST](#) ➔



TAKE IT OUTSIDE: PATIO SEASON IS HERE ☀️

Summer is best enjoyed outdoors, and Southernmost Illinois is full of scenic patios, vineyard decks, shaded courtyards, and open-air dining spots perfect for the season!

Sip wine with sweeping hillside views at [StarView Vineyards](#), catch live music from the vine deck at [Alto Vineyards](#), or settle into a slow afternoon on the shaded patio at [Branch Cafe & Market](#). From riverside dining at [Cave-In-Rock Lodge & Restaurant](#) to lively summer nights at [The Cellar](#), there's no shortage of places to enjoy the fresh air.

Check out our newest blog post, [Patio Season in Southernmost Illinois](#), featuring even more outdoor seating options across the region, and discover your next favorite summer spot.

[FIND YOUR FAVORITE PATIO](#) ➔



FIND WOODSY: A NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT 🔍

This June, explore the beauty of the Shawnee National Forest with [Woodsy Owl's Photo Scavenger Hunt](#)! This family-friendly adventure invites visitors to hike four scenic trails while completing simple, hands-on activities that encourage stewardship of public lands.

You'll visit [Garden of the Gods](#), [Bell Smith Springs](#), [Pomona Natural Bridge](#), and [Tower Rock](#). Complete all four challenges by June 14, and receive a special reward: one free night of camping in the Shawnee National Forest! It's a fun, meaningful way to connect with nature while helping protect the places we all enjoy.

[START THE HUNT](#) ➔

FOLLOW THE PEACH RAMBLE ITINERARY 🍑



Peach season is one of the sweetest times to explore Southernmost Illinois. The [Peach Ramble](#) itinerary guides visitors through an orchard stop, peach-inspired treats, local drinks, coffee shops, and roadside favorites throughout the Alto Pass area.

Along the Peach, you'll explore the beauty of Illinois-fresh peaches at [Rendleman Orchards](#) and visit nearby destinations bursting with seasonal flavors, scenic views, and summertime charm.

Lean into fresh fruit vibes this summer by checking out other local favorites, like [Mileur Orchard](#) and [Flamm Orchards](#)!

[FOLLOW THE PEACH RAMBLE](#) ➔



KEEP CURIOSITY GROWING THIS SUMMER 💡

Learning doesn't stop when school lets out! From interactive museums and libraries to nature centers, hiking trails, and hands-on experiences, Southernmost Illinois offers plenty of ways for kids and families to keep exploring all summer long.

Our new blog, [School's Out But Learning Doesn't End](#), highlights fun, educational adventures like the [Davie School Inn](#) and a [School Bus Farm Stay](#), spark curiosity with attractions like the [Science Center](#) and the [Saline Creek Pioneer Village](#), and find community space at your local library.

[SPARK SUMMER CURIOSITY](#) ➔



CELEBRATE AMERICA 250 🇺🇸

Communities across the region are gearing up to celebrate America 250 with events that honor local history, heritage, and community spirit. Take part in these unique opportunities to experience Southernmost Illinois through the lens of America's past and present.

The [Union County 250 Roadtrip](#) itinerary guides you through historic markers, forest trails, murals, and the beautiful Annabelle Hydrangea Flower Trail. Whether you've got a day or a full weekend, this route has your Union County adventure mapped out.

The [American Discovery 250 Relay](#) is a coast-to-coast relay across America in celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary. Kicking off in California on July 1st, the relay will reach Southernmost Illinois around October 6th. You can take part in this incredible event: the American Discovery Trail is looking for relayers to participate!

[ACCESS THE ROADTRIP MAP](#) ➔

[PARTICIPATE IN THE RELAY](#) ➔

UPCOMING EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

- 6/12 SUPERMAN CELEBRATION
- 6/13 ANNABELLE FESTIVAL
- 6/20 HERBAL MEDICINE WORKSHOP
- 6/20 BIG MUDDY MONSTER FESTIVAL
- 7/3 METROPOLIS' FOOD, FUN, FIREWORKS
- 7/4 ANNA'S AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION
- 7/24 WINEMAKER'S DINNER SERIES
- 8/7 WINE + FOOD PAIRING WEEKEND
- 8/26 GREEN CORN MOOD PADDLE
- 9/5 HARVEST FEST @ ALTO VINEYARDS



[EXPLORE MORE LOCAL EVENTS](#) ➔

There's all this and more in Southernmost Illinois! Plan your perfect summer getaway, weekend adventure, or week-long vacation by visiting southernmostillinois.com.

#YESSITB

Tag us on your posts and use #yesSITB to be featured on our social pages and future newsletters!

WERE YOU FORWARDED THIS EMAIL?
SIGN UP TO RECEIVE YOUR OWN!

[LET'S GO](#) ➔

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER

[Take the survey >](#)