

YOUR FALL CHECKLIST

in the greater Champaign County area

October-December 2021

visit **champaign** county

YOU'RE WELCOME 

yourewelcomeCU.com

MUST-ATTEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



1 ILLINOIS HOMECOMING

October 3-9 | homecoming.illinois.edu

Celebrate Illinois Homecoming all week with a variety of events and activities. New this year, enjoy community night in downtown Champaign on October 7 with live music, kids activities, and more! Then show up in your orange & blue as the Illini take on Wisconsin on October 9.

PUMPKIN & APPLE PICKING

Fall isn't really fall until you've picked your pumpkins and apples! Stop by Curtis Orchard to get your fall treats and enjoy plenty of family-friendly activities. The Great Pumpkin Patch in Arthur features over 200 varieties of cucurbits in astounding displays.



3 CU FOLK & ROOTS FESTIVAL

October 21-23 | folkandroots.org

This homegrown festival brings dozens of folk, acoustic, and singer-songwriters from around the country to downtown Urbana, taking over multiple venues with live music, demonstrations, and so much more.



4 FALL FOLIAGE

Catch all the top spots for fall foliage! Climb the Bell Tower Carillon at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve for a view of the entire park, or head to Allerton Park & Retreat Center for a fall hike that's populated with art along the way.

PARADE OF LIGHTS

November 27 | champaigncenter.com

Be ready for a visit from Santa during the annual Parade of Lights in downtown Champaign, with carolers, hot chocolate and the tree lighting all surrounding the evening's big event.



6 HOLIDAY SHOPPING

With over 200 retail shops in the greater Champaign County area, you can do all your shopping local. Check out locally-owned boutiques throughout the region and stop at the many markets and holiday fairs that happen from November through the holidays.

KISS A REINDEER

Nothing brings the magic to the holidays like the reindeer at Hardy's Reindeer Ranch. Did you know reindeer love graham crackers? In exchange for one, you'll get a kiss from one of over a dozen reindeer on this charming farm in Rantoul.



CHAMBANAWELCOME CREW

A new community ambassador program to recruit and welcome residents to Champaign County.

Did you know?

- The new Chambana Welcome Crew matches community ambassadors to new and potential residents looking to get connected in Champaign County. This program is designed to help create a sense of belonging and provide a welcoming atmosphere. Get connected to one of our ambassadors at yourewelcomecu.com/cwc.
- The New American Welcome Center at the University YMCA recently unveiled their Champaign County Welcoming Plan. This plan creates an actionable framework to promote equitable access, civic engagement, economic opportunity, education, and safe and connected communities for immigrants. Check it out at universityymca.org/welcome.
- Krannert Art Museum on the University of Illinois campus is second-only in size to Chicago's Art Institute. Their diverse collection and rotating exhibits can be viewed year-round at no cost, though donations are encouraged. Check out what's new there this fall and engage in their many events at the museum.

COMMUNITY RANKINGS

- Realtor.com named Champaign-Urbana one of the [top college towns](#) to buy a home.
- The University of Illinois system is ranked high in numerous categories from U.S. News & World Report. The Urbana-Champaign campus is [ranked 15th](#) among public national universities and 47th among all national universities.
- Triptych Brewing's Dank Meme won the bronze medal in the Juicy/Hazy Pale Ale category at this year's edition of the Great American Beer Festival in 2021.



Want more ideas for events & activities?
visitchampaigncounty.org

Learn more about community rankings & innovations
+ search for jobs:
yourewelcomecu.com

TOP IDEAS FOR FOOD & DRINK

Crane Alley

115 W. Main St., Urbana | crane-alley.com

With featured burgers, an impressive line-up of brews, and everything in between, Crane Alley is a perfect spot for a casual night out with food that will impress.

Neil St. Blues

301 N. Neil St., Champaign | neilstblues.com

Southern-style cuisine is sure to provide you with comfort and remind you of those meals from home. Enjoy everything from catfish to chicken & waffles at this downtown Champaign spot.

BakeLab

410 N. Lincoln Ave., Urbana | brewlab.coffee/bakelab

These artisan pastries will have you wanting to share with all your friends and colleagues, or to keep them all to yourself. Handmade from scratch every day, you'll find plenty to give you sweet and savory treats.

Baxter's American Grill

100 Trade Center Dr., Champaign | baxtersgrille.com

Just down the street from Memorial Stadium, this is a great stop before an Illini game. This Chop House has a broad steak and seafood selection, ready to appease your palate.



Triptych Brewing

1703 Woodfield Dr, Savoy
triptychbrewing.com

With their recent award-winning Dank Meme as their most popular beer, Triptych is always experimenting with new flavors in their craft brews.

Masijta Grill

202 N. Race St., Urbana | masijtagrill.com

Always wanted to try Korean hot pot or take part in Korean BBQ right from your table? This is your spot in downtown Urbana. Expand your taste buds with this international dining option.

Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery

4410 N. Lincoln Ave., Champaign | prairiefruits.com

Start your weekend off in a unique setting, with a crafted cheese and charcuterie board featuring their award-winning goat cheese and local meats and breads, alongside a curated list of wine, beer and spirits. Open hours on weekends only.



Selfie Spots

Check out these spots, or any on our fall checklist, and share on Instagram with #outsideofordinary and #yourewelcomecu for a chance to win a Champaign Proud t-shirt!



Clockwise from top left

1. Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch
2. Hardy's Reindeer Ranch
3. Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve
4. Christmas Tree in Downtown Champaign

STAY ACTIVE & INVOLVED

As the leaves and the weather starts to change, there are plenty of ways to stay active. Also, check out the many volunteer opportunities throughout the community this fall and holiday season.

Outdoor & Indoor Activities

Homer Lake Forest Preserve

2573 S. Homer Lake Rd, Homer | ccfpd.org

Rent a kayak from Lunatic Kayak Rental located next to the preserve and get out on Homer Lake.

Kickapoo Rail Trail

Urbana to St. Joseph | onekrt.org

Run, walk, or bike this 7+ mile ride to St. Joseph soon to be extended through Ogden.

Regent Ballroom

1406 Regency Dr. W., Savoy | regentballroom.com

Impress your dance partner by learning how to dance at one of their many classes.

Volunteer Opportunities

C-U One-to-One Mentoring | Make a difference in a student's life
cu1to1.org

ImpactLife | Give a pint, save a life. | bloodcenter.org

Crisis Nursery | Volunteer during their holiday events
crisisnursery.net