

YOUR SUMMER CHECKLIST

in the greater Champaign-Urbana area

July–September 2024

MAKE IT
CHAMPAIGN
URBANA



MUST-ATTEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



1

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

You'll find fireworks and parades from Champaign to Rantoul to Mahomet and Monticello from July 1–4. Make your plans to celebrate!

SHOP AN ART FAIR

August 3 & September 15 | 40north.org

Discover local artists at two upcoming art fairs—Crystal Lake Park Art Fair in Urbana in August, and West Side Arts returns for year two in downtown Champaign in September.



2

STREETFEST

August 3 | champaigncenter.com

The streets of downtown Champaign burst to life with local music, dancing, a BBQ cookoff, kids activities, and much more in this celebration of summer.



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4

FIGHTING ILLINI FOOTBALL

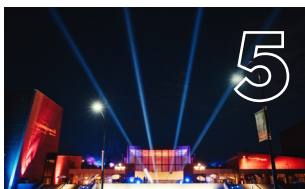
August–November | fightingillini.com

Back in Memorial Stadium under head coach Bret Bielema, Fighting Illini football returns August 29. Get your orange & blue gear, pack for a tailgate, and get ready to cheer for the Illini!

KRANNERT CENTER OPENING NIGHT

September 6–7 | krannertcenter.com

Krannert Center celebrates their opening in style! Catch two full days of live music and entertainment showcasing the various facets of this incredible performing arts center.



5



6

PYGMALION

September 18–21 | thisispygmalion.com

Bringing together music, literature, comedy, and tech, Pygmalion is the event to check out on campus and throughout Urbana this fall.



7

CU PRIDE FEST

September 15–22 | unitingpride.org

Illinois' largest Pride celebration south of Chicago returns to downtown Urbana on September 21 for a parade, drag extravaganza, and so much more!



Did you know?

- ⌘ Livability named Champaign-Urbana one of the top 100 places to live in the United States for 2024.
- ⌘ There are 30 different trails to explore across seven forest preserves in Champaign County. Try them all as part of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District's 2024 Trail Challenge!
- ⌘ The University of Illinois Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation is #1 in the nation in NSF funding and supports 150+ centers, laboratories, and institutes.
- ⌘ The Dual Career Program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has been ranked #2 in the Nation thanks to the institutions' values of recognizing the holistic needs of faculty and their families is reflected in the Champaign-Urbana community.



- ⌘ The Champaign-Urbana area has over 200 pieces of public art that continues to grow. Explore using our Art in CU passport and earn rewards for every 50 check-ins! Sort by location or see what's near you!

Want more ideas for events & activities?
experiencecu.org

Learn more about the community+ search for jobs:
makeitcu.com

TOP IDEAS FOR FOOD & DRINK

Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery

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

Discover true farm-to-table cuisine right on the farm at this goat dairy homestead. Take advantage of their themed dinners in the summer on Wednesday nights or visit their on-site restaurant Thursday–Sunday for elevated, farm fresh flavors.

Punch! Bar & Lounge

217 N. Neil St., Champaign | punchdrink.com

Make this downtown hot spot your go-to happy hour place! Known for their crafted cocktails, they'll treat you to an elegant atmosphere, with plenty of small plates to enjoy.

Mad Goat Coffee

57 E. Main St., Champaign | madgoatcoffee.com

The newest spot in downtown Champaign, this coffee shop highlights their roasting in their coffee and specialty drinks. Open daily, this has quickly become a meeting spot for locals and the ideal way to start your day.

San Maru Korean Restaurant

2504 Village Green Pl., Champaign | sanmarucu.square.site

Located at The Crossing, this authentic Korean spot is known for their Bulgogi, Bibimbop, and Galbi-Tang (beef soup).

The Main Scoop

133 W. Main St., Urbana | themainscoopicecream.com

With four locations across the region, The Main Scoop offers the perfect ice cream treat, whether it's summer or winter. Their homemade cones with gourmet ice cream will keep you coming back time and again.

The Bread Company

706 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana | thebread.com

This Swiss-inspired campus restaurant features traditional dishes like cheese fondue and Raclette, alongside hearty sandwiches, salads, pizza, and pasta.

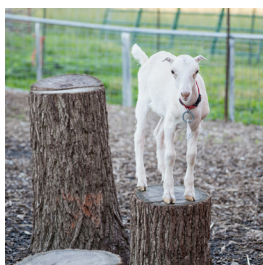
Old Orchard Lanes & Links

901 N. Dunlap Ave., Savoy | oldorchardinc.com

There's a lot of debate about the best pizza in town. Don't sleep on the pizza found at this Savoy bowling alley. A long-time favorite in the community, this thin-crust pizza brings people out to eat and bowl a few games. and again.

Selfie Spots

Check out these spots, or any on our summer checklist, and share on Instagram with #experiencecu!



Clockwise from top left

1. With a goat at Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery
2. Block I in Grange Grove
3. Street Mural at Urbana's Market at the Square
4. Clearview Farms when sunflowers bloom

Stay Active & Involved

While the weather is warm, there are plenty of ways to stay cool and active. Also, check out the many volunteer opportunities throughout the community this summer.

Outdoor Activities

Allerton Park & Retreat Center

515 Old Timber Rd., Monticello | allerton.illinois.edu
Stroll the fourteen formal gardens and get inspired by what's possible. Cool down as you hike the trails along the Sangamon River.

Lake Shelbyville

925 IL-32, Sullivan | sullivanmarina.com
An hour south of C-U, you can boat on the vast Lake Shelbyville, or kayak on their kayak trail. Check out their beach for a day in the sun!

Sholem Aquatic Center

2205 Sangamon Dr., Champaign | champaignparks.com
Splash the day away in this zero-depth pool, or go around the lazy river to stay cool!

Volunteer Opportunities

Area Rotary Clubs

Join one of the many local rotary clubs to network and provide service to the community. See a list at rotarydistrict6490.org.

United Way of Champaign County

Get a list of community organizations needing volunteers at uwayhelps.org/volunteer

PLUG INTO

[Job Board](#) + [Community Job Application](#) + [Chambana Welcome Crew](#) + [New to CU Mixers](#) + [Chambana Proud Podcast](#) + [Chambana Proud Shop](#)
makeitcu.com