

ULTIMATE FALL GUIDE

Dive into family fun in Chicagoland

Taste Fall's Best Treats

Where to enjoy the season's sweet and savory flavors

Fall Fun for the Whole Family

Seasonal favorites and new attractions you'll all love



Apple Picking Adventures

Enjoy a crisp day and apple treats at these Chicagoland orchards

Your Guide to Halloween Fun

Spooktacular events, pumpkin patches and more

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Taste Fall's Best Treats

By Nikki Roberts

Get your family into the fall spirit by sampling some of the best fall flavors in Chicagoland. Start with a savory, Oktoberfest-style snack, then indulge with some sweet treats at eateries around the city and suburbs. Your taste buds will thank you!

Cinnamon sugar, pumpkin spice and everything chocolate — that's what fall treats are made of!



1 The Pretzel at Prost!

2566 N Lincoln Ave., Chicago

Every day is Oktoberfest at Prost! Start by ordering The Pretzel — a massive buttered pretzel served with mustard and warm beer cheese. Other kid-friendly options include cheese curds and schnitzel strips.



2

Cider Cyclone at All Seasons Orchard

14510 IL-176, Woodstock

Apple cider donuts are the best-selling treat but the Cider Cyclone — an apple cider slushie is topped with ice cream and the orchard's signature apple cider donuts — is a must-try.



3

Colossal Fall Milkshakes at Creamery

400 E Illinois St. Unit A, Lemont and 506 E St Charles Road, Lombard

Creamery's over-the-top milkshakes are a fall favorite. Try The Pumpkin Patch or Deep Dish Apple Pie, each packed with seasonal flavors.



4

We Fell in Love in October Coffee Flight at October Cafe

6046 N. Avondale Ave., Chicago

This fall-themed cafe offers a customizable coffee flight featuring four mini craft beverages, including a PSL and Cozy VP chai tea latte.



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FROLIC IN FALL FEST FUN

By Kari Zaffarano

Welcome the changing colors with these great festivals for kids around Chicagoland.

Although the calendar says summer has ended, festival season in Chicagoland is still in full swing, especially as the leaves begin to turn. In fact, fall might just be the best time to enjoy our vibrant festival scene!

Apple Fest

Sept. 20-24 2024

Where: Long Grove

Cost: \$5

Enjoy the beautiful fall outdoor ambiance and free live music throughout the historic village. Plus, get your apple fix on treats like brown bag apple pies, apple cider donuts, hot apple cider, caramel apple lattes and more.



German American Oktoberfest

Sept. 6-8, 2024

Where: Lincoln Square, Chicago

Cost: Free admission

The family-friendly festival features live bands, food, beer, wine, carnival games and more. The parade will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Lincoln Park Zoo Fall Fest

Sept. 27-Oct. 27, 2024

Where: Chicago

Cost: Free admission

During the weekends, celebrate fall at the zoo with seasonal decor, music, story times, professional pumpkin carving and more.

Tinley Park Oktoberfest

Sept. 20-22, 2024

Where: Tinley Park

Cost: Free admission

This event resembles the traditional Oktoberfest held in Munich, Bavaria, Germany, with food, drink, traditional dancing, a vendor fair, a carnival and more.

Huntley Fall Fest

Sept. 27-29, 2024

Where: Huntley

Cost: Free admission

Enjoy carnival rides, beer garden, food vendors, lots of fall activities, live music and family fun at this fall festival. There will be a fireworks display Saturday night.

Parkway Bank Park Fall Festival

Sept. 29, 2024

Where: Rosemont

Cost: Free admission

Enjoy outdoor activities like bounce houses, face painting, pumpkin painting, a petting zoo, live entertainment and more.

The Great Highwood Pumpkin Fest & Skeleton Invasion

Oct. 4-6, 2024

Where: Downtown Highland Park

Cost: Free admission; fees for rides

You can expect carnival rides, pumpkin carving stations, live music, vendors, hayrides, pumpkin walls, contests and more.

Family Fall Fest

Oct. 5, 2024

Where: Elmhurst

Cost: Free admission

Get your costumes on and bring the family to The Depot at Wild Meadows Trace for Safety Town trick-or-treating and fun fall festivities.

Autumn Harvest Festival

Oct. 6, 2024

Where: Heritage Farm, Schaumburg

Cost: Free admission

Experience the fall harvest with 19th-century farm life demonstrations, kid's crafts, games, pumpkin decorating, live music, food and more.

The Last Straw at Gregg House Museum

Oct. 6, 2024

Where: Westmont

Cost: Free admission; fees for some activities

Enjoy lots of fall fun and family-friendly activities including pumpkin decorating, making a scarecrow, taking a hayride, listening to music, making crafts and more.

St. Charles Scarecrow Festival

Oct. 11-13, 2024

Where: Route 64 and Fox River, St. Charles

Cost: Free admission

See over 110 handmade scarecrows showcased around town and vote on your favorites. Also, check out the Family Zone which features photo ops, Scarecrow-to-Go and family activities.

Embrace the crisp autumn air and indulge in the delightful scents of falling leaves, alongside the flavors of pumpkin and apple, at some of our favorite fall-themed festivals.

Naper Settlement Oktoberfest

Oct. 4-5, 2024

Where: Naperville

Cost: \$20/adult, \$15/ages 4-12, free/ages 3 and under

At this annual event, guests can enjoy German food, local and traditional Oktoberfest beer varieties, pop-polka music and more.

4 Must-See Fall Attractions

By Kari Zaffarano

The leaves are changing and the weather is getting cooler. Fall is approaching and Chicagoland has so many great events for families to check out. Whether you're looking for a fun Halloween event, theater performance, new exhibit or something fall-themed, we've got you covered.



Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

Opens Sept. 10, 2024

**James M. Nederlander Theatre,
24 W. Randolph St., Chicago**

Cost: \$45.50-plus

See the Broadway performance on its first-ever North American tour. The story depicts Harry Potter's son, Albus befriending Draco Malfoy's son. You'll see spells, battles and theatrical magic. For ages 8-plus.



Haunted Hues

Opens Sept. 12, 2024

Color Factory Chicago, 320 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago

Cost: \$29-plus

Haunted Hues is a limited-time Halloween themed celebration, which will offer frightful family fun and the best festive colors of the season. There will be special treats, a scavenger hunt, photo opps and a palette pumpkin patch like never before.



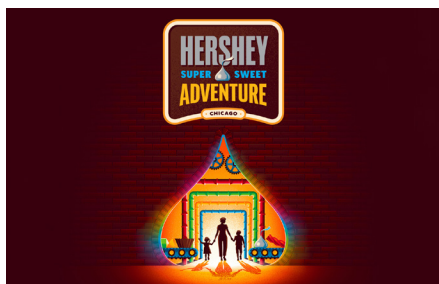
Aim High: Soaring with the Tuskegee Airmen

Opens Sept. 28, 2024

Chicago Children's Museum, 700 E. Grand Ave., Chicago

Cost: \$21/person, free/under 1

This interactive, traveling exhibit allows visitors to explore the world of aviation along with the history of the Tuskegee Airmen. All ages can explore this immersive, hands-on experience where visitors can imagine themselves as aviators.



Hershey Super Sweet Adventure

Opens Oct. 4, 2024

Water Tower Place, 835 Michigan Ave., Chicago

Cost: \$24/early pricing until Oct. 17, \$29.99-plus/after Oct. 17

Enjoy hands-on activities, immersive environments, interactive challenges and Hershey treats at this family-friendly experience. For all ages.

Corn Mazes To Get Lost In

From family-friendly to haunted, here's where you can find some of our favorite Chicagoland corn mazes. By Cheryl Eugenio

One of the best things about fall is getting lost in a maze! Local farms offer acres of land topped with intricate designs. We love trying to find our way through these mazes that spin you around.

This year, you won't be disappointed by the most a-maze-ing mazes in Chicagoland. Here are some of our favorite corn mazes that you and the family don't want to miss.

A Jonamac Orchard

Address: 19412 S. Shabbona Road, Malta

Cost: Included in general admission,
\$5-\$10 per person

The orchard offers a new theme every year, with a spooky night maze in October.

B Kroll's Fall Harvest Farm

Address: 13236 W. Town Line Road, Waukegan

Cost: \$8-14/adults, \$6-12/ages 3-12,
free/ages 2 and under.

Enjoy a curriculum-based game in the corn maze with well-maintained paths.

C Richardson Adventure Farm

Address: 909 English Prairie Road, Spring Grove

Cost: \$20-30/person, free/kids ages 2 and under

Explore the 28-acre "World's Largest Corn Maze" with five different game options.

D Siegel's Cottonwood Pumpkin Farm

Address: 17250 Weber Road, Lockport

Cost: Included with general admission; \$19.95-\$24.95

This 12-acre maze features a Super Mario Bros. theme, open on weekends.

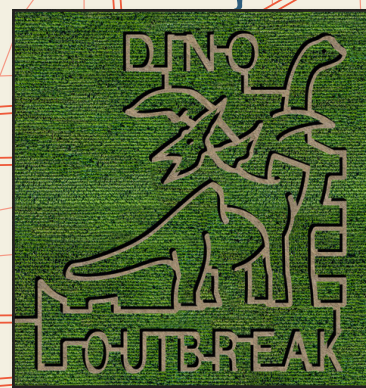
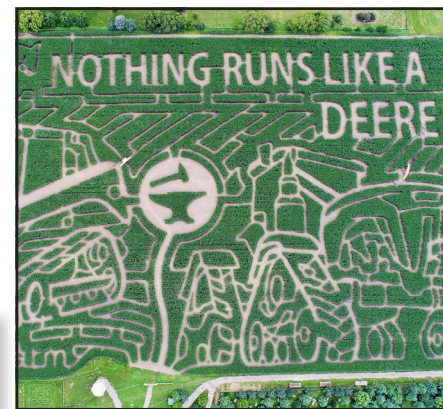
E Stadel's Farm and Market

Address: 3709 Miller Road, McHenry

Cost: \$18-\$22/general admission,
free/ages 2 and under

Families can enjoy the Shades of Autumn Festival and a two-acre corn maze.

NOTE: Before visiting, please check each farm's website or call ahead to check dates of their pumpkin patch season. Some farms may also require you to pay an admission cost.



PICK YOUR PERFECT APPLES

These apple orchards near Chicago offer apple picking, cider and lots of scrumptious sweets.

By Cheryl Eugenio

Apples don't just keep the doctor away — they can also make for a day full of family fun! Apple picking is already a treasured fall tradition for many Chicagoland families.

On a beautiful day, you have to drive out to one of these local farms for apple picking. Some orchards even offer great apple treats or kids' activities like corn mazes or tractor rides.

A All Seasons Orchard

Address: 14510 Illinois Route 176, Woodstock

Cost: \$12/person for 1/4 peck apple bag

This orchard boasts more than 15,000 apple and pear trees. (Bonus: If you love Honeycrisp apples, All Seasons has one of the largest Honeycrisp orchards around.) Also, check out the on-site bakery where you may watch the making of extremely delicious apple cider doughnuts along with other amazing fall treats. Strollers and wagons are not allowed.

B Christ Orchard

Address: 4317 Texas Road, Elmwood

Cost: \$30/half bushel, \$18/one peck, \$10/half peck

Customers can pick their own apples at this location from September to mid-October. Take a wagon ride to the orchard and make sure to hit up the Apple Shed for cider and other fall favorites afterwards. Also, offers u-pick pumpkins.

C Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch

Address: 3902 S. Duncan Road, Champaign

Cost: \$9/person (1/4 peck bag), \$8/5-plus admissions, free/kids under 36" with paid parent or guardian (no bag included)

This u-pick location is estimated to open early August. Their free activities include a petting zoo and playground. Additional fees for corn maze, pony rides, putt-putt golf and rope maze.

D Homestead Orchard

Address: 11802 Charles Road, Woodstock

Cost: \$20/peck

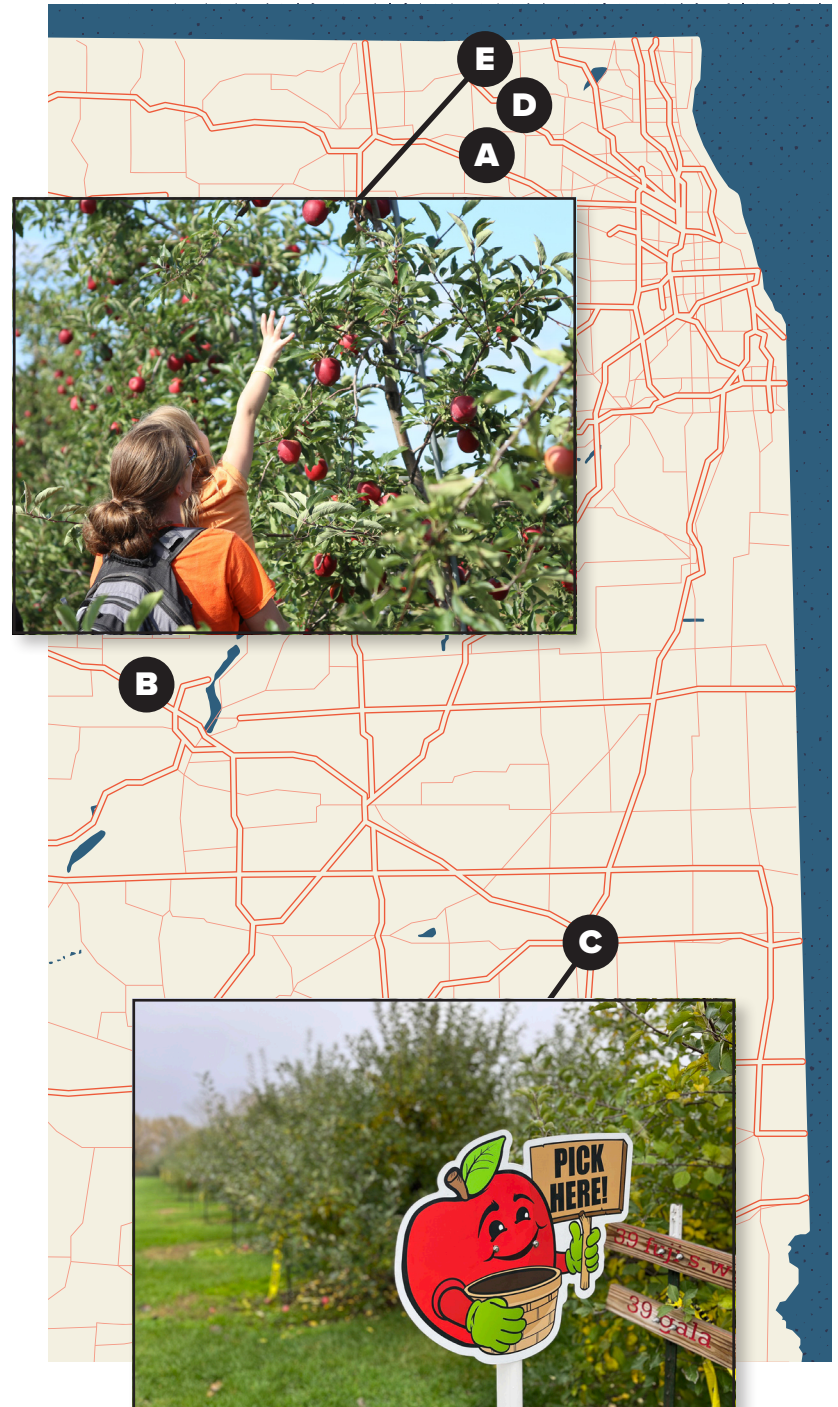
Homestead has more than 20 varieties of apples to pick, beginning in late July and running through October. The farm also keeps bees, so you might find some of the wildflower honey or their beeswax candles.

E Royal Oak Farm Orchard

Address: 15908 Hebron Road, Harvard

Cost: \$12/person (includes 1/4 peck of apples)

Located just south of the Illinois-Wisconsin border, Royal Oak Farm has more than 20,000 apple trees in more than 30 varieties at the orchard. While you're there, check out their apple tree maze, playground, petting zoo, kiddie train and carousel.



Quick tips before heading out

While apple picking can be a fun time for kids of all ages, here are a few things to keep in mind when visiting:

- **Check if they're open.** Always look for daily updates from the farm, either on their website and social media channels or by calling ahead to see what apple picking options look like for the day.
- **Check the weather.** Dress accordingly with hats and apply plenty of sunscreen if it's sunny. Bring the boots if you expect muddy conditions.
- **Pack snacks and water.** If it's a long drive, plan ahead with food for the car ride or even a picnic basket with lunch.
- **Bring a stroller or wagon (if allowed).** Some farms require a lot of walking and while the roads can be bumpy, you want to keep your littles happy.
- **Be patient.** Depending on your child's age, they can lose focus fast so try to remind yourself it's more about having fun than rushing to fill your baskets to the rim.

NOTE: Before visiting, please check each apple orchard's website or call ahead to make sure if apple picking is available (weather permitting).



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Spooktacular Family Fun

By Chicago Parent Team

Kid-Friendly Halloween Events Not to Miss

When spooky season arrives in Chicagoland, local businesses and attractions go all out to offer plenty of Halloween fun for kids. The best part is that you can celebrate Halloween during the whole month of October!

Here are some of our favorite Halloween events you have to add to your calendar.



Lemontser Days

Sept. 21-Oct. 31, 2024 • Lemont

Lemont goes all out for Halloween with a variety of fall events such as a Harvest Fest on Oct. 5, drive-in movie featuring Casper on Oct. 11 and The Forge Monster Mash on Oct. 12.

Highwood Pumpkin Fest

Oct. 4-6, 2024 • Highwood

You can expect carnival rides, pumpkin carving stations, live music, vendors, hayrides, pumpkin walls, contests and more.

Boo! at the Zoo

**Oct. 5-20, 2024
(Saturdays and Sundays)
Brookfield Zoo**

The not-so-scary and fun-filled zoo event has something for the entire family to enjoy. There will be giant inflatables, trick-or-treat stations, photo frames and more.



BatFest

Oct. 26, 2024 • Batavia

Head to downtown Batavia to find trick or treating, “bat booths” hosting interactive family activities and a farmer’s market.



Upside Down Halloween Parade

Oct. 26, 2024 • Washington Park, Chicago

This event is a “reverse” parade where families can dress up and join the parade procession on Russell Drive. Also, enjoy musical groups, dance performances, circus acrobats and sports mascots.

Best Places to Trick-or-Treat

When it's the Halloween season, we know the majority of kiddos (and parents) have candy on their minds.

If you're looking to get an extra day or two of trick or treating before Oct. 31, check out these trick-or-treating events for kids in Chicagoland.



Trick or Treat Trail

Oct. 18, 2024 • Buffalo Grove

Ages 12 and under can enjoy this trick-or-treat trail where friendly characters will be passing out candy. The first 200 kids will receive a goodie bag.

Trick or Treat At Naper Settlement

Oct. 20, 2024 • Naperville

Naperville Settlement welcomes families to wear their costumes and enjoy trick or treating at their historical homes (while candy supplies last). Tickets are \$5 per person, free for kids ages 4 and under.

Trunk or Treat

Oct. 26, 2024 • Frankfort

The Frankfort Police Department hosts their annual costume contest and trunk or treat event as a safe option for families to enjoy trick or treating. Following the parade at 10 a.m., community members will hand out treats in their decorated trunks.

Lincoln Scared & Ravenswood

Oct. 27, 2024 • Chicago

Businesses in Lincoln Square and Ravenswood treat the kids to candy and more Halloween fun. Be sure to grab their map online before heading out!



Where to See Fall Colors

By Natalie Dal Pra

Whether you're looking for gorgeous foliage as a backdrop for family photos or simply want to get in the autumnal mood, we've rounded up places that will burst with fall colors in October.

Chicago Botanic Garden

The fall colors are so gorgeous here that the garden offers an actual guide to peak foliage on its website. Beautiful Japanese maples, oak trees, weeping willows and wildflowers set amongst 385 acres of land promise to give quite the autumnal show. The first two weeks of October are ideal for spotting the best colors.

Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area

If you're interested in getting off the grid, this is the place to be. The dense woodlands of Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area in Riverwoods become so remote at points that you feel like you've been transported into another world. Hiking is encouraged, but biking is a big no-no (along with pets) due to the park's designation as an Illinois Nature Preserve.

St. James Farm

There's no better way to spend a fall day than exploring this forest preserve's 100 acres of woodland. Spend the day hiking, biking or horseback riding, then relax with a picnic lunch by the pond. You may even be lucky enough to spot a white-tailed deer while visiting, as they're known to roam the Warrenville farm.



Photos provided by The Morton Arboretum

The Morton Arboretum

Take a day trip to Lisle to explore the 16 miles of hiking trails the arboretum has to offer. Not in the mood to hike? No problem. The arboretum also offers guests an open air tram ride to view some of the 4,000 types of trees on its property. While visiting, be sure to check out the award-winning Children's Garden and Maze Garden and try out the nature play areas.

Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve

The preserve is made up of 985 acres of woodlands, so you're bound to get some great foliage viewing during your visit to Park Forest, along with plenty of opportunities to spot wildlife. Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve also offers classes, workshops and hands-on activities for both kids and adults who want to learn more about the natural world.



Confidence leads to success.

Learn more or attend an Open House at a school near you!

OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, October 26 • 10:00 am – 1:00 pm



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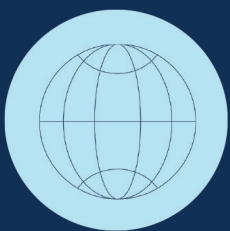
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