



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Travel and Tourism Week activities May 7 – 15 at Springfield’s Union Station

SPRINGFIELD – Exhibitors, gift drawings, activities and more await visitors to downtown Springfield’s Union Station Tourist Information Center during National Travel and Tourism Week being observed May 8 – 16. Union Station is open daily free of charge from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Area tourist attractions and tourism agencies will have exhibits set up inside Union Station promoting such things as the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Route 66, Illinois State Museum, Knight’s Action Park, Lincoln Home, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, Lake Shelbyville, Amtrak, Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau, Looking for Lincoln, Great River Road, Lincoln Memorial Gardens, National Museum of Surveying, Grand Army of the Republic Museum, A. Lincoln Tourism Bureau of Logan County, Lincoln’s New Salem State Historic Site, Arthur/Amish Country, and Springfield Walks.

Visitors may register each day for prize drawings from the exhibitors.

The first full week of May is annually recognized as National Travel and Tourism Week, a tradition first celebrated in 1984. Localized events are presented in cities, states and travel businesses nationwide to champion the power of travel. It was established by Congress in 1983 and signed by President Ronald Reagan who urged citizens to observe the week with “the appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

In 2009, the Illinois travel industry brought in \$27 billion and directly accounted for 288,700 jobs in the state. One in ten Illinois jobs is directly or indirectly supported by travel expenditures. Illinois welcomed more than 82 million visitors in 2009 and travel spending in Illinois that year generated nearly \$5.1 billion in federal, state and local taxes.

Union Station Visitors Center includes tourism information services and is part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum complex.

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