



Midway Village Museum
Rockford's
HISTORY MUSEUM

Calendar of Events 2025

MISSION

Midway Village Museum collects, preserves and interprets the diverse history of the Rockford region and is committed to educating and enriching our community by providing high quality exhibits, programs and events.

SEASONAL SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2 – MAY 2

Tuesday - Sunday: Museum Self-Guided Tours

MAY 6 – MAY 9

Closed for Civil War School Programming

MAY 3 – MAY 30

Tuesday - Thursday: Village Self-Guided Tours (includes Museum Self-Guided Tours)

Friday - Sunday: Village Guided Tours (includes Museum Self-Guided Tours)

MAY 31 – JULY 6

Tuesday - Friday: Village Guided Tours (includes Museum Self-Guided Tours)

Saturday & Sunday: Village Living History Weekends*

JULY 7 - AUGUST 3

Tuesday - Thursday: Village Guided Tours (includes Museum Self-Guided Tours)

Friday - Sunday: Village Living History Weekends*

AUGUST 4 - AUGUST 31

Tuesday - Friday: Village Guided Tours (includes Museum Self-Guided Tours)

Saturday & Sunday: Village Living History Weekends*

SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 31

Tuesday - Friday: Village Self-Guided Tours (includes Museum Self-Guided Tours)

Saturday & Sunday: Village Guided Tours (includes Museum Self-Guided Tours)

SEPTEMBER 22 - SEPTEMBER 26

Closed for WWII Days Event Preparation

NOVEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 31

Tuesday - Sunday: Museum Self-Guided Tours

ADMISSION PRICING & HOURS

Main Museum Center Exhibits Self-Guided Tours

\$10 Adults • \$8 Child (ages 5-12) • \$8 Senior (62+)

Victorian Village Guided Tours & Museum Exhibits

\$12 Adults • \$10 Child (ages 5-12) • \$10 Senior (62+)

Victorian Village Living History Weekends & Museum Exhibits

\$14 Adults • \$12 Child (ages 5-12) • \$12 Senior (62+)

Free admission for museum members and children ages 0-4. Special events at right are priced separately; please consult midwayvillage.com.

Hours of Operation (please check in at Museum Center)

Tuesday - Saturday: 10am-4pm • Sunday: Noon-4pm

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

February 16	Black History Month Lecture
March 8	Sock Monkey Madness - Rockford Sports
March 9	Women's History Month Lecture
April 26-27	World War I - The Great War
May 24	Rockford Peaches Play Date in the Village
June 21	From Field to Fork
July 26	The Roaring Twenties
August 15	815 Day
Sept. 27-28	World War II Days
October 25	All Hallows' Eve
November 15	Rockford's Hometown Veteran Heroes
December 13	Christmas Truce in the Trenches

LIVING HISTORY WEEKENDS

Visitors will learn about life between 1890-1910 by engaging with costumed History Interpreters in the Historic Village. A variety of different people, technologies, lifestyles and cultures will be on display. Discover how life in the Rockford region has changed over the last 125+ years, and also how life has stayed the same.

Living History Weekends will often feature a unique historical emphasis, with a focus on different technologies, activities and historical elements. Check our website or Facebook for details before your visit. **Admission to Living History Weekends includes entrance to the Main Museum Center exhibits.**

* Living History Weekends begin on **Saturday, May 31** and run through **Sunday, August 31**. From July 7 - August 3 our Living History Weekends will run Friday through Sunday (see hours at left). Please note that on Saturday, July 26 our schedule and pricing will change for **The Roaring Twenties**. The Village will be open from 1 - 7pm for this special event.

Beginning **Saturday, September 6** and running through **Sunday, October 26**, the Historic Village will be open for tours by costumed History Interpreters. On Saturdays, tours will begin on the hour from 11am - 3pm. On Sundays, tours will begin on the hour from Noon - 3pm.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, please visit midwayvillage.com. Questions? Call us at 815.397.9112

ABOUT US

Victorian Village

Our 148-acre museum campus includes a living history village representing a rural community during the era of 1890-1910, with 26 structures and 8 heritage gardens. From May to September, the Victorian Village is open for tours with costumed History Interpreters. Living History Weekends offer visitors an immersive experience, engaging with interpreters in multiple buildings with demonstrations of life during the Victorian era.

History Education Programs

The museum offers year-round special events and quality educational programs. Visit midwayvillage.com for schedule details and programming updates throughout the year.

Group Tours

The museum can accommodate any size group to tour the museum, including schools, scouts, churches, and garden and social clubs. Book a tour by contacting the museum.

Heritage Gardens

Eight enchanting gardens envelop you in the rich history of Victorian horticulture. Private garden tours uncover the mysteries of 19th century garden design and the legacy of heirloom planting. The Historic Iris Preservation Garden is a collection of rare irises dating from the 1500s to 1910, with tours during the early spring bloom.

Membership

We greatly appreciate our members and their support for Rockford's history museum. Benefits include free admission to the Village and Main Museum Center exhibits, and discounted special events admission. Members also receive a 10% discount in the Museum Gift Store and a monthly in-depth email update. For details or to become a member, please visit our website or call 815.297.9112.

Volunteering

Assist the museum in areas such as Exhibits, Textiles, Collections, Gardens, Wood Shop, Administration, Marketing and Education.

Rentals

The museum campus offers several unique and spectacular spaces for weddings, receptions, gala events, award dinners, company meetings, picnics and more. For more information, please call 815.397.9112, or email lisa.beardsworth@midwayvillage.com.

Museum Gift Store

Shop the Gift Store in-person during regular hours of museum operations, or online at midwayvillage.com. Shipping is available and arrangements can be made for shipping overseas. Choose from a large selection of sock monkeys, Rockford Peaches, Camp Grant, and other themed merchandise. They make perfect gifts!

Speaking Engagements

We offer many opportunities to engage with museum staff for presentations on Rockford area history. Please call 815.397.9112 at least 3 weeks in advance to arrange a speaker.

Rockford History Walk Tours

This tour stops at 19 plaques installed at downtown Rockford historical locations. The self-guided tour starts at any of the tour stops listed on the downloadable map. To learn more or for the map, visit RockfordHistoryWalks.org.

Thank you for your support.



MAIN MUSEUM CENTER EXHIBITS:

Inside the Museum Center, visitors explore Rockford's history through interactive exhibits in over 20,000 square feet of gallery space. *Tours are available in Spanish. Email educator@midwayvillage.com to arrange.*

COMING SOON - You're in the Army Now: Camp Grant, Rockford's Legacy

We have kicked off our capital campaign to build a new permanent exhibit telling the story of Rockford's Camp Grant, where over 300,000 soldiers trained to defend our nation in World Wars I and II.

Many Faces, One Community

This exhibit features stories of Rockford's immigrants from 1834 to the present. Arrive through the train depot, stroll along 7th and South Main Streets, visit an immigrant home, and apply for a job at the Swedish furniture factory.

Queen City of the Prairies

Only 20 years after its founding, Rockford became an important regional center of government, industry and commerce. Learn more about life in 1840s Rockford.

The Girls of Summer

Meet the famous Rockford Peaches and learn about the storied ladies who played hardball in the 1940s-50s.

The Missing Link: Socks, Monkeys and Rockford's Industrial Past

View the Nelson knitting machines and learn about the red heel socks that earned Rockford the title of "Home of the Sock Monkey."

Flight Gallery

Learn about pioneering local aviators like Dr. Bessica Raiche, and see the restored 1920 SMI Stinson-Detroiter airplane named "Greater Rockford" that Col. Bert "Fish" Hassell flew in the failed first attempt at the Great Circle Route from Rockford to Stockholm.

Industrial Gallery

Rockford's industrial geniuses created innovative products that impacted the local and worldwide economy.

Old Doll's House Museum

Outside the Museum Center, the Old Doll's House Museum has 30 miniature homes representing different countries.

Woodward Millhouse

Tour an 1860s recreated mill with a functioning waterwheel.

Visit the Online Digital Collection

At midwayvillage.com you can browse over 5,000 digitized historical photographs documenting the history of the Rockford region.

