

# My Indiana

## A personal presentation

At the end of 4<sup>th</sup> grade, each student will be **required** to give a 15 – 20 minute oral presentation about a place in Indiana where they have visited. The goal for this project is for the child and family to participate together in a ‘field trip’ **to a new place that they haven’t been before in our state**. This can be a historic site, state park, nature preserve, famous event (i.e. Bill Monroe Bluegrass Festival), historic building (i.e. St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Ft. Wayne), town (i.e. Corydon.), or eatery (Triple X Restaurant), etc.

The student will have nearly the entire school year to go someplace (**near or far**), document the experience, and come up with a presentation for the class. Specific guidelines will be handed out and posted online at the beginning of the school year.

As a starting point, I suggest to take pictures, gather brochures & maps, interview a guide or interpreter, take notes, learn the history, make pencil/crayon rubbings, take videos, etc. Any or all of these things will help you learn more about the place you visit. You can use any or all of these items as part of your presentation as well! **YOU** are the teacher and your job is to inspire your classmates to want to visit or learn more about these awesome places in our state!

All I ask is that you choose someplace that you have never been (or won’t be going to on one of our scheduled field trips) so that you see and learn about it with fresh eyes. Some students have presented more than one place if they made numerous related or road trip stops along their journey (for example, Triple X Restaurant & Purdue University). There are many resources out there for finding new places. Besides searching the Internet, here a few book titles to look for at the library to assist in planning your trip. Former students and families are also a great resource to consult as you are planning.

*My Indiana 101 Places to See* by Earl L. Conn\*

*My Indiana 101 More Places to See* by Earl L. Conn\*

*Indiana: A New Historical Guide* by Taylor, Stevens, Ponder, & Brockman\*

*Kids Love Indiana* by George & Michele Zavatsky\*

*Indiana State Parks* by John Goll

*The Nature Conservancy’s Guide to Indiana’s Preserves* by Jordan, Leonetti, & Nature Conservancy (U.S.)

\*I have copies of these in the classroom as well

The project should end up being student designed and made, but the experience should be one that the student can enjoy with a family member or the whole family. Have fun planning and deciding where to go and I look forward to May 2018 and seeing all the wonderful places in our state where we have visited.

**A partial list of places presented by former 4<sup>th</sup> graders can be found on the back of this page!**

- Ivanhoes (Upland)
- Triple X Restaurant (West Lafayette)
- Rotary Jail (Crawfordsville)
- Benjamin Harrison Home (Indianapolis)
- Lew Wallace Library (Crawfordsville)
- Marengo Caves (Marengo)
- Indiana State Fair and Historic Buildings (Indianapolis)
- Indiana Represented in Washington D.C. (Washington D.C)
- Historic Corydon (Corydon)
- Squire Boone Caverns (Mauckport)
- Exotic Feline Rescue Center (Center Point)
- Historic Vincennes (Vincennes)
- Grissom Air Force Base and Museum (Peru)
- James Whitcomb Riley Birthplace (Greenfield)
- Polar Express Train (Noblesville)
- Zaharakos (Columbus)
- Schimpff's Confectionary (Jeffersonville)
- The Big Four Bridge (Jeffersonville)
- Maple Syrup Festival (Salem)
- Ducks Unlimited Greenwing Marsh (Velpin)
- Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge (Patoka)
- Soldier and Sailors Monument (Indianapolis)
- Historic Madison (Madison)
- Lanier Mansion (Madison)
- Indiana Dunes (Chesterton)
- McCormick's Creek State Park
- Amish Acres (Nappanee)
- Black Pines Animal Sanctuary (Albion)
- Minnetrista Cultural Center (Muncie)
- Mounds State Park (Anderson)
- Shades State Park (Waveland)
- Indiana World War Memorial Plaza and Museum (Indianapolis)
- Morgan-Monroe State Forest (Martinsville)
- Purdue University (West Lafayette)
- Wolf Park (Battle Ground)
- Battle of Tippecanoe 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary festival and memorial (Battle Ground)
- Prophetstown (Battle ground)
- Ball State University (Muncie)
- Exploration Acres (Lafayette)
- Angel Mounds (Evansville)
- Holiday World (Santa Claus)
- Lincoln Boyhood Home (Lincoln City)
- Limberlost State Historic Site (Geneva)
- Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site (Rome City)
- Levi and Catherine Coffin Home (Fountain City)
- Friends Yearly Western Meeting House (Plainfield)
- Historic Catacombs (Indianapolis)
- Historic Union Station (Indianapolis)
- The Oasis Diner (Plainfield)
- Historic Bethel United African Methodist Church (Indianapolis)
- Hillforest Mansion (Aurora)
- French Lick / West Baden Springs Hotel (French Lick/West Baden)
- Spring Mill State Park (Mitchell)
- Pokagen State Park (Angola)
- Wilbur Wright Birthplace and Museum (Hagerstown)
- Concordia Theological Seminary (Fort Wayne)
- Kawachinagano Japanese Garden (Carmel)
- Zoo'Opolis Exotic Petting World (Columbus)

**The rubric that is used to grade these presentations is very broad (allowing for creativity) and can be found under parent and student resources on**

**<http://alhedges.weebly.com>**