

Great Lakes Regional Puppeteers Potlatch

First Time Attendees Guide.

Welcome! We are so glad you will be joining us this year for the Great Lakes Regional Puppet Potlatch. This is a family friendly, relaxed, laid-back regional gathering for everyone from professional puppeteers to brand new beginners. I hope this handy guide will help make the weekend more enjoyable.

Friday (The First Day)

As you enter the state park grounds there is a booth where you will pay a small entry fee. This fee as of 2025 was \$7.00 for cars with Indiana tags, and \$9.00 for out of State tags. This fee can change without notice. People will start gathering by midafternoon at the Pottowatomi Inn. Check in time is 4:00 P.M. Eastern standard time, but many people start gathering earlier in order to have time to enjoy greeting old friends and having a chance to catch up before this fun but hectic weekend begins. Some people like to arrive the day before in order to enjoy the beautiful Angola State Park.

The Inn also has a workout room, as well an indoor pool and hot tub, so come early and enjoy the Inn. The Puppet Potlatch registration desk is located at the entrance to the ball room and will be open at 4:00 pm on Friday afternoon. Please check in at the registration desk to receive your name badge, and allow us to mark you as having arrived.

All The Potlatch events take place in the ball room right off the Lobby of the Inn. We usually have access by about 3:00 P.M. and people start setting up the exhibit, and performers set up for the evening performances. If you wish you may bring items for the exhibit. The Guild in charge will be happy to assist you finding table space. It is suggested that whenever possible you bring your own display stands, and a small sign to put with your pieces identifying them.

Most people go to dinner early on Friday evening. The dining room at the Inn features both a full buffet, as well as a Soup and Salad buffet option. There is also a full Dinner menu available. There are also other dining options nearby, but it is best to stay on site the first night. There are also take out and limited delivery services available near the Inn. The hotel guide in your room has a listing of these options. Please be aware that the Inn is a “dry” facility and alcohol is not served. You may bring alcoholic beverages to consume in your room. All meals at The Potlatch, with the exception of the Sunday morning Punch Brunch, are on your own and are not included in your registration fee.

The Puppet Potlatch officially starts at about 7:15 pm in the ballroom. There will be welcome announcements, followed by a performance and then a puppet related “ice breaker activity.” These events have ranged from puppet flash mobs, to puppet game shows, and everything in between. After the evenings official activities people love to gather in the ball room and just talk puppets. There is also a bonfire outside (weather permitting). It is suggested that you get a good night’s sleep on Friday evening. Saturday is a BIG day!

Saturday (The Second Day)

Breakfast is available at the dining room at the Inn starting at 7:00 am. For early risers a coffee bar is located in the Lobby. The Dining room has a very hardy breakfast buffet available as well as a lighter “continental” buffet option. There is also a full breakfast menu available as well. Of course you are always welcome to bring simple breakfast items, and snacks with you to eat in your room.

Saturday morning is workshop time. There will be two one-hour workshop sessions on Saturday morning. The times are usually 9:15 to 10:15 am followed by a fifteen-minute break. The second session is 10:30 to 11:30 am. Coffee and water is available in the ballroom during the morning workshop session. The workshops will range from simple make and take all the way on up to professional level. We do our

best to make sure there is something for everyone at both workshop session. All times listed in this guide are approximate. The official schedule of events is available at the Reunion registration desk.

There is a break for Lunch between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm. The dining room has a full lunch buffet as well as a soup and salad option and full lunch menu. In addition to the dining room there is a smaller snack bar at the Inn that is open during lunch with pizza, sandwiches, salads and ice cream.

During the lunch break, the “Puppet Tradin’ Post” is set up in the ballroom. This is a puppet related “flea market” type event. All are welcome to bring puppet related items to sale. Sellers keep all proceeds from sales. The Guild in charge of the Tradin’ Post will help you find tables, as well as help “senior citizens” or disabled people as needed. First timers will be amazed at the number of items at the Tradin’ Post. Most sellers will take cash or checks. A few may take credit cards. There is also an ATM in the lobby. Whether you are buying, selling or just window shopping, we guarantee you will have a great time at the Tradin’ Post.

The Tradin’ Post concludes at about 2:00 pm and is followed by an intermission to get the room re-organized for the afternoon performances. The intermission is usually 15 minutes to a half hour in duration depending on how much merchandise must be cleared from the Tradin’ post.

The intermission will be followed by two afternoon performances. The afternoon performances are usually over by 4:00 to 4:30 pm. These will be followed by the official Great Lakes Regional business meeting for those that wish to attend.

Dinner is on you own after the afternoon activates. Many people leave the Inn to dine at one of the many restaurant options available in the Angola area. Many people also take an opportunity for a swim, or hike after the afternoon shows.

The Saturday evening events usually start at 7:15 pm with two professional puppet performances. After the Saturday evening performances, we take a short break to set up for our Potpourri open mic session. This is a wacky event made up of short five-minute performances. All are welcome to participate. You never know what will happen at Potpourri. All Potpourri pieces must be family friendly as we will have general public including children at all performances.

After Potpourri we suggest that people take down their exhibit Items as the ballroom will be reconfigured for the Sunday morning Punch Brunch.

Sunday (The Last Day)

The Punch Brunch will be served in the Ballroom at 9:00 am on Sunday morning. This is our one and only group meal at The Reunion and is included in your registration fee. This is a great time to unwind from a fun filled weekend, and to catch up with old and new friends. Breakfast is followed by a Punch and Judy show - one of the oldest puppetry traditions in puppetry. Our Punch performers assure you of a rollicking good time in the best tradition of Mr. Punch.

Sadly, after the Punch Brunch it is time to say goodbye to friends, both old and new, for another year. Check out time on Sunday is 11:00 A.M. Eastern standard time. We hope you will have enjoyed your first visit to The Puppeteers Potlatch, and we hope to see you again next year.

If there is any other information you need, please see the Inn’s Website at
www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/inns/patawatomi/lodging.html.

The Inn is located at 6LN100 Lake James • Angola, IN 46703
Phone 260-833-1077.

Take the Angola exit from the Indiana toll road and follow the sign for Angola, IN
Pokagon State Park.

For any additional questions please feel free to contact Vincent Polowy at
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