

Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay – A signature event of the Indiana bicentennial celebration



This project was developed by the Indiana Office of Tourism Development (IOTD), funding was secured by this office and the staff and resources are maintained by this office.

The relay is patterned after the Olympic Torch Relay and is designed to connect Hoosiers across the state and nation with their home state during this year of celebration.

“The torch relay is a great opportunity to promote and unify the state by connecting people, communities and regions,” said Mark Newman, IOTD executive director. “The relay is also a symbolic occasion and an opportunity for current generations of Hoosiers to ‘pass the torch’ to future generations.”

Torch Relay Facts:

- 3,200 mile journey across the state traveling through 92 counties
- Starts on September 9, 2016 and ends October 15, 2016
- The Torch Relay will begin in Corydon, the state’s first capital, and culminate in Indianapolis on the Statehouse Grounds with a grand celebration called Hoosier Homecoming
- The torch will travel 6 days per week (Mondays rest day) for 5 weeks/32 days
- Torch Bearers were chosen from nominations by each county in the state
- Walkers, runners and torch bearers employing modes of transportation that are representative of Indiana culture and heritage including: a hovercraft on the Wabash River, an IndyCar at IMS, a Batmobile in Jackson County, a circus wagon in Miami County, ride a roller coaster at Holiday World, just to name a few.

- Relay will cover 260 Cities & Towns; 17 State & National Parks; 9 Lakes & Rivers; 27 National, State and Local Sites of Historic Significance; 22 Colleges & Universities
- Indiana made Subaru Outback is the [official vehicle](#) of the Bicentennial Torch Relay
- The Torch Relay will conclude on the Statehouse Grounds with a grand celebration called Hoosier Homecoming

The Torch-

- Specially designed by Purdue faculty and student engineers
- Replica of Hadley torch on Indiana flag
- Illuminated at outset of journey and will be used to light an everlasting flame that will be part of the new Bicentennial Plaza on the west side of the statehouse
- Powered by Indiana bio-fuel
- Technologically advanced – including a built in GPS, HD camera microprocessor and automatic shut-off for safety
- Exterior shell is made by Alcoa (based in Indiana) of a light weight space age alloy material (aluminum lithium)
- Most advanced device of its kind in the world
- Non-flame torch also developed

Torchbearers -

[Torchbearers](#) were nominated by the public and selected by local committees on a county-by-county basis. More than 4,000 torchbearer nominations were received. Those selected are Hoosiers who demonstrate exceptional public service, excellence in their profession, acts of heroism or volunteer service to their neighborhood, community, region or state.

Final Count- 2,242

The [uniforms](#) were made possible by Indiana Farmers Mutual Insurance, who also showed its commitment to the relay by providing outfits to staff and local volunteers.

The specially designed torch bearer uniform is comprised of a light-weight lined wind resistant jacket made of rip stop polyester fabric, 100% micro polyester moisture wicking t-shirt and a specially designed cap.

County By County

County coordinators were chosen in all 92 counties. They help plan and execute bicentennial related events in their perspective counties. The Bicentennial Coordinators are responsible for upholding the four key values decided upon by the Bicentennial Commission:

1. Nature Conservation
2. Youth and Education
3. Community Involvement
4. Historical Celebration

Coordinators selected the torchbearers who have made a significant contribution to their county. The counties are currently working on their route operations plans to determine which torchbearer will carry the torch during which leg of the relay.

The Kickoff

- The start will occur on the grounds of the Old State Capitol Building in Corydon, which is an Indiana State Museum State Historic Site.
- The relay is starting in Corydon because it is the home of the first state capitol and because it is where our state began. It's also where the state constitution was also formed and signed.
- There will be a full ceremony starting at 10:00 am on September 9.
- There will be dignitaries' on-hand, historic re-enactors, music, and the ceremonial first lighting of the torch.
- Harrison County has also invited all 650 fourth graders from the county to attend.
- All attendees will receive a bicentennial or Indiana state flag to wave (first come first serve) as the torch is carried off the property.
- Judy O'Bannon will serve as our first torchbearer.

Closing Celebration

The relay will culminate in Indianapolis on the Statehouse campus where an Everlasting Light will be lit as a legacy to Indiana's last 200 years and inspiration for generations of Hoosiers in the next 200 years.

The Everlasting Light for Indiana will be a permanent memorial that pays homage to the generations of Hoosiers that preceded us and serves as inspiration to the ones that follow. It will be resistant to harsh weather conditions, accessible to all and remain lit 365 days per year.

The Bicentennial Experience

The Bicentennial Experience was first conceptualized over three years ago by IOTD as part of its [Bicentennial Torch Relay](#) planning. The following partners have since played an integral role in the design and construction of the unit: [Water's Edge Consulting](#), [Indy Racing Experience](#), [Maribeth Smith & Associates, Inc.](#), [Sensory Technologies](#) and [Sport Graphics](#).

Inside The Bicentennial Experience are 6 different exhibits areas.

From Indiana's stunning landscapes and waterways, to its most precious natural resources, visitors will encounter some of the state's most prolific assets in *Indiana Treasures*. An interactive touchscreen invites them to dig deeper into Indiana's environments.

Also, visitors can learn about the people who put Indiana on the map in the *Indiana Leads* exhibit.

Indiana Grows will bring to life Indiana's unmatched agricultural heritage. It will also heighten every visitor's sense of smell with a mystery scent station featuring Indiana products.

Hoosiers are born makers and doers. In *Indiana Inspires*, visitors will meet notable Hoosiers through a visual touch screen database.

Indiana Innovates is an artifact display case that shows items invented by Hoosiers, made by people from Indiana or built with Indiana products.

Indiana Unites is the finale. The last experience is a powerful video showcasing Indiana's virtues and illustrating Hoosiers coming together during this time of celebration.

Click [here](#) for the tour schedule.

The App

Follow the flame through a new custom mobile app created by [Bluebridge Tourism, LLC](#) a partner of the [Indiana Office of Tourism Development](#) (Visit Indiana). Users will be able to get up-to-the-second information about the torch's whereabouts thanks to a GPS tracking device that has been built into the official Bicentennial Torch Relay [torch!](#)

Other content features of the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay app include:

- Celebration Schedule - Full list of bicentennial celebration dates, locations and times during the 92-county journey.
- Torchbearer List - list of over 2,200 people expected to carry the torch. Find the people carrying the torch in each county.

- [Official Bicentennial Merchandise](#) – Shop Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay and general bicentennial gear.

The bicentennial torch is also equipped with an HD camera and micro-processing unit, which will allow torchbearers to capture real-time images and video during their leg of the route. These images will be shared on the Torch Relay [website](#) and [social media](#) sites.

HD Video & Pictures: IndianaTorchRelay.com Username: torchmedia Password: torch6120

The Logo



The logo for the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay draws inspiration from the state's bicentennial logo as well as the Indiana State Flag. The color palette is complementary to the state flag and the color scheme used by the bicentennial commission. The centerpiece of the torch relay logo, a torch, was inspired by the Indiana State Flag where it represents liberty and enlightenment. The use of the torch on this logo continues that symbolism while also representing the relay's torch that will cover 3,200 miles across all 92 Indiana counties during the event. The years 1816-2016 are the first two hundred years of Indiana statehood. The star is also borrowed from the state flag and is a reference to Indiana as the nineteenth state. The ribbon denotes the unifying effect that the

bicentennial torch relay will have throughout the state, symbolically tying Hoosiers together during this monumental year. It was also inspired by the use of ribbons at the start/finish of a race, signifying the conclusion of the torch relay- and the beginning of Indiana's next 200 years. The typeset follows that of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission.

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