



# MIDWEST RAIL RANGERS

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing on-board educational programs on the South Shore Line & private rail excursions

P.O. Box 308 Elm Grove, WI 53122

(847) 271-1979 [info@railrangers.org](mailto:info@railrangers.org)

Robert Tabern, President Robert Neil, Vice President

PRESS RELEASE

## SPRING & SUMMER 2019 SCHEDULE FOR ONBOARD EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED



**Midwest Rail Rangers Educational Officer Kandace Tabern narrated to passengers on the South Shore Line near Hammond, Indiana; similar on-board educational programs will run all spring and summer.**

Would you ever watch the Travel Channel or the History Channel with the audio turned off? The answer is probably a resounding 'no' --- after all, imagine all of the important information you would be missing! The same principle applies to a train ride. Imagining how much more fun it would be to actually learn about all of the interesting people, places, and history passing by outside your window. That is where an organization called the Midwest Rail Rangers comes in. This 501(c)(3) non-profit organization has a mission of providing on-board educational programs to passengers on the South Shore Line and on private rail excursions across the Upper Midwest.

## SOUTH SHORE LINE PROGRAMS

Since August 2017, the Midwest Rail Rangers have teamed up with the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) to present their unique brand of fun educational programs to passengers on select weekends, year-round. Those riding between Downtown Chicago and South Bend via Hammond, East Chicago, Gary, Michigan City, and Hudson Lake can now participate at no extra cost above their regular train ticket. Interpretive Guides with the Midwest Rail Rangers share stories about the south side of Chicago, the



historic steel-mill region of Northwest Indiana, the scenic Indiana Dunes National and State Parks, and the 'bread-basket' farming region of La Porte and St. Joseph Counties.

Think you know it all about this region? The information shared by Guides might even stump the most seasoned residents of the area. What's with the horse-head architecture around the Pullman Neighborhood? Why did a pioneer aviator conduct hang-glider experiments in Northwest Indiana? What makes the South Shore Line the last Interurban Railroad in America? How did Michigan City participate in the Lincoln Funeral Train Procession? These questions and much more can be answered if you ride with the Midwest Rail Rangers.

Programs are given two to three weekends per month round-trip from Chicago to South Bend. Upcoming on-board educational program dates on the South Shore Line include the following: **April 6, April 13, April 27, May 4, May 18, May 25, June 1, June 8, July 6, July 27, July 28, August 10, August 24, and August 25.**

Eastbound programs are presented on the train leaving Millennium Station-Chicago at 8:40am CT; westbound programs are presented on the train leaving South Bend's Airport Station at 1:05pm ET.

Narration is provided in only one car of the train, where seating is on a first-come, first-serve basis (find us by looking for the yellow signs on the inside of the car - usually near the middle of the train). For additional future dates, check out [www.RailRangers.org](http://www.RailRangers.org).

Reservations are not needed, nor accepted for our South Shore programs. Simply purchase your ticket the day of the trip on-line or from a kiosk. (And don't forget --- on weekends, up to three children 13 years of age and under may ride free when accompanied by a parent or guardian.) Some 'enhanced' Midwest Rail Rangers program even feature a Junior Rail Rangers program for kids and teens to learn about the train route.

## OUTREACH EVENTS AT LOCAL LIBRARIES & MUCH MORE



When not actually aboard the train this spring... the Midwest Rail Rangers are still serving up a heapin' helping of South Shore Line history! The organization chose to team up with four local libraries across Illinois and Indiana to help educate residents about the unique history of the South Shore Line. Normally there isn't much time when riding the train to delve deep into what makes the South Shore Line so special --- but through these special one-hour presentations -- - you can learn about America's Last Interurban Railroad. Volunteer Interpretive Guides with the

Midwest Rail Rangers will be making the rounds to the upcoming locations: **Saturday, April 13 @ 3:00PM CT** at the Chicago Public Library-Hegewisch Branch (3048 E. 130th Street in Chicago); **Saturday, April 27, 2019 @ 11:00AM ET** at the New Carlisle-Olive Township Public Library (408 Bray Street in New Carlisle); **Saturday, April 27, 2019 @ 2:00PM CT** at the La Porte County Library - Coolspring Branch (6925 W. 400N in Michigan City); and **Saturday, May 11, 2019** at the Lake County Public Library - Merrillville Branch (1919 81st Avenue in Merrillville). Following each presentation, the Midwest Rail Rangers will also hold a book signing for their 100-page Chicago to South Bend South Shore Line route guide entitled "Outside the Rails: A Rail Route Guide from Chicago to South Bend, IN". Personally autographed copies by the authors will be available for \$20, with all proceeds benefiting the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization's efforts. Additional route guidebooks for other Midwest train routes will also be available for purchase. Copies of these books can also be purchased in advance on-line at **[www.MidwestRails.com](http://www.MidwestRails.com)**.

And if all of that isn't enough --- the Midwest Rail Rangers will also be presenting special on-board educational programs on private rail excursions across the Upper Midwest this year, too. This includes rides on coach charters and/or trips featuring luxurious historic railcars from the 1950's and 1960's that operate on the back of regular Amtrak trains. Interpretive Guides will be presenting programs out to Kewanee, Illinois on Sunday, May 5th... Carbondale, Illinois on Saturday, June 8th... Galesburg and Quincy, Illinois on Saturday, June 22nd... Detroit, Michigan on the weekend of July 19-21st... Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Saturday, August 17th... the Twin Cities on the weekend of October 4-6th... and a custom-designed Southern Illinois train/bus tour on the weekend of October 26-27th. More details and ticketing information for these trips are available on the Midwest Rail Rangers' website -- **[www.RailRangers.org](http://www.RailRangers.org)**

There are plenty of events going on this spring and summer -- we hope to see you out at one soon.

**For more information about the Midwest Rail Rangers, please contact our President, Robert Tabern, at [rtabern@railrangers.org](mailto:rtabern@railrangers.org). While e-mail is preferred, you can also leave our team a voicemail message at 847-271-1979.**