Welcome, summer researchers! In this packet, you will find a variety of information to help make your research experience and your time in DeKalb an enjoyable one. Included will be some general tips to help get you started, local venues to eat, play, and celebrate any kind of occasion. Along with that will also be information regarding public transportation and public services.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning at: ugresearch@niu.edu or 815-753-8154.
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Tips and Tricks for a Successful Summer Research Experience

1. **Set Weekly Goals, A Regimented Schedule, and Challenging Expectations**

   You were selected because you have a strong drive coupled with a passion in your studies. By delivering on expectations set for you and expectations set for yourself, you’ll find great success and experiences throughout the program.

2. **Establish Meaningful Connections With Those You Meet**

   During this program, you will meet many influential figures of the DeKalb, NIU, and various academic communities as a whole. Network with them whenever possible and don’t be afraid to ask questions or to stay in contact.

3. **Feel Free and Welcome to Communicate With Any and All OSEEL Staff**

   Research. Is. Hard. The entirety of the OSEEL staff knows and understands the challenge undergraduate research imposes and are equipped to help you when any needs arise. Whether it be a change in research to a simple pep talk, we are always welcome to assist you and lend a supportive hand to help you achieve your goals.

4. **Set Time to Have Fun, Make Friends, and Make Memories**

   Summer research provides you more than just experience and an opportunity to make a difference: It also provides you with a group of fellow, academically driven peers who will each individually make an impact on your success and experience. Don’t forget there is more to life than research and reports. Use this guide to explore new restaurants and things to do in the area. Make sure to have fun this summer!
Food

**Breakfast**

*Dunkin’ Donuts | 1101 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115*
Long-running chain serving signature donuts, breakfast sandwiches & a variety of coffee drinks.

*Starbucks | 1015 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115*
Seattle-based coffeehouse chain known for its signature roasts, light bites and WiFi availability.

*IHOP | 131 N Annie Glidden Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115*
Long-standing chain serving a wide variety of pancakes & other American breakfast & diner fare.

*Flippin Eggs | 831 S 4th St, DeKalb, IL 60115*
Family-owned spot offering standard breakfast fare, plus sandwiches & soups in comfy digs.

*Egg Haven Pancakes & Café | 2562 Sycamore Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115*
Straightforward, easygoing diner serving sandwiches & American breakfast favorites like omelets.

*Lincoln Inn | 240 Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115*
Veteran diner-style place serving hearty breakfasts, burgers & sandwiches, plus fresh baked goods.

*Barb City Bagels | 122 S 1st St, DeKalb, IL 60115*
Offers a wide variety of delicious bagels, sandwiches, soups, and more.

*Shawn’s | 204 Somonauk St, Sycamore, IL 60178*
Serving up fresh, toasted bagels every morning and hearty soups and sandwiches at noon, Shawn's is the perfect rest stop.

**Lunch**

*Chipotle | 1013 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115*
Fast-food chain offering Mexican fare, including design-your-own burritos, tacos & bowls.

*Potbelly Sandwich Shop | 1013 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115*
Retro-style counter-serve chain known for made-to-order toasted sandwiches, salads & baked goods.

*Popeye’s Louisiana Chicken | 1127 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115*
Louisiana-accented fast-food chain known for its spicy fried chicken, biscuits & sides.
Culvers | 1262 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
Fast-food chain specializing in frozen custard & signature burgers made with Midwest beef & dairy.

Pita Pete’s | 901 Lucinda Ave, DeKalb, IL 60115
Relaxed campus joint offering build-your-own pita sandwiches stuffed with hummus, gyros & more.

Huddle Restaurant | 817 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
Counter-service joint offering specialty burgers, wraps & sandwiches, plus smoothies & bubble tea.

Panda House | 901 Lucinda Ave, DeKalb, IL 60115
Offers the best authentic Chinese food.

Tom and Jerry’s | 215 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
Gyros, burgers & sandwiches round out the menu at this casual standby with milkshakes & fried sides.

Panera Bread | 2476 Sycamore Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115
Counter-serve bakery/cafe chain serving sandwiches, salads & more, known for its bread & free WiFi.

Subway | 340 Carroll Ave, DeKalb, IL 60115 (Holmes Student Center)
Casual counter-serve chain for build-your-own sandwiches & salads.

Jimmy John’s | 850 Pappas Dr, DeKalb, IL 60115
Counter-serve chain specializing in sub & club sandwiches, plus signature potato chips.

McDonald’s | 805 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
American hamburger and fast food restaurant chain.

Dinner
Eduardo’s | 214 E Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
Casual Mexican eatery with classic cooking, a full bar, a lounge with sports on TV & patio seating.

Tapas La Luna | 226 E Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
Globally inspired tapas & wines delivered in a trendy, polished dining room & in a bar with TVs.

Fatty’s | 1312 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
A university crowd gathers for pre- & post-game drinks, hearty American grub, plus games & trivia.

Portillo’s Hot Dogs | 1780 DeKalb Ave, Sycamore, IL 60178
Chicago-born chain for hot dogs, Italian beef sandwiches & more, plus beer & wine, in retro digs.
Buffalo Wild Wings | 2466 Sycamore Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115
Lively sports-bar chain dishing up wings & other American pub grub amid lots of large-screen TVs.

OSEEL STAFF TOP PICK
Thai Pavilion | 131 Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
Laid-back Thai restaurant serving satay, dumplings, salad, curry, noodle dishes & stir-fry.

Nat’s on Maple | 112 S Maple St, Sycamore, IL 60178
Relaxed yet classy American eatery with art on the walls & comfort foods like pot roast & meatloaf.

Applebee’s | 2411 Sycamore Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115
Full-service chain bar & grill providing hearty American eats in an informal setting.

Fushi Yami | 822 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
Unassuming Japanese eatery offering tempura & yakisoba, plus sushi rolls & hibachi-grilled dishes.

The Junction | 816 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
Country-themed eatery dishing up home-style American plates, from all-day breakfasts to steaks.

Vinny’s Pizza and Wings | 221 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
Quick-serve choice for Italian-American mainstays such as wings, baked pasta & pizzas.

Miscellaneous
Ollies | 2290 Oakland Dr, Sycamore, IL 60178
Best frozen custard in DeKalb County.

La Michoacana Ice Cream Bar | 162 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
Ice cream, corn in a cup and more!

Sweet Dreams | 1969 DeKalb Ave, Sycamore, IL 60178
Roomy bakeshop for whimsical special-occasion cakes, plus a variety of sweetbreads, cookies & bars.

Common Grounds Coffeeshop, Books, and Beans | 150 E Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
DeKalb’s full coffee, tea and expresso bar! Highest quality 100% organic coffee, whole leaf teas and an eclectic library for browsing or buying.

Mindful Delights | 1770 West State St, Sycamore, IL 60178
Mindful Delights Specializes in 100% Plant based non GMO organic baked goods.

The House Café | 263 E Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
Coffeehouse with a menu of wraps & pita pizzas, live music & open-mike nights.
Transportation

HuskieLine Buses
Pick-up and drop off at the Holmes Student Center. NIU students ride free if they present their One Card. Fare rate for non-students is $1. Bus route information is available on the NIU website.

Huskie Safe Line
Shuttle that runs from 11:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m. Refer to the NIU website for specific pick-up and drop-off locations.

Greyhound Bus | 377 Normal Rd Slip 6, DeKalb, IL 60115
Online tickets available. Refer to the Greyhound website for more information.

Elburn Train Station | Elburn Metra Platform, Elburn, IL 60119
Tickets may be purchased online or on the train. More information can be found on the Metra Rail website.

Entertainment

Egyptian Theatre | 135 N 2nd St, DeKalb, IL 60115
Historic performance space for films, readings, live concerts & an annual haunted house.

Market Square | DeKalb Market Square, 2160 Sycamore Road, DeKalb, IL 60115
Movie Theatre

Mardi Gras Lanes | 1730 Sycamore Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115
Bowling

Hopkins Park Pool | 1403 Sycamore Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115
Outdoor Water Park.

Ellwood House Museum | 509 N First St, DeKalb, IL 60115
The Ellwood House Museum reflects the central role of Isaac Ellwood in the development of the barbed wire industry in America.

Prairie Park | 401 Clifford Dr, DeKalb, IL 60115
Disc golf, picnic tables, and a walking trail.

CherryVale Mall | 7200 Harrison Ave, Rockford, IL 61112
Shopping Mall
Coronado Performing Arts Center | 314 N. Main St. Rockford, IL 61101
Ornate, throwback locale for Broadway-style shows, comedy & varied musical/symphony concerts

Magic Waters | 7820 Cherryvale N Blvd, Cherry Valley, IL 61016
Seasonal outdoor family park with water-based rides & attractions plus numerous food concessions.

6 Flags Great America | 1 Great America Pkwy, Gurnee, IL 60031
Sprawling amusement park with more than 100 rides & attractions, including myriad roller coasters.

Fitness

NIU Recreation Center | Stadium Dr E, DeKalb, IL 60115
Sand Volleyball Courts | New Hall | 1175 Lincoln Dr N, DeKalb, IL 60115
Anytime Fitness | 901 S Annie Glidden Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115
Fitworkz | 1690 Sycamore Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115
DeKalb Nature Trail | N. 1st Street and Sycamore

Health & Safety

Kishwaukee Community Hospital | 1 Kish Hospital Dr, DeKalb, IL 60115

NIU Health Services | Health Service Center | DeKalb, IL 60115

NIU Police Department | 395 Wirtz Dr, DeKalb, IL 60115

DeKalb Police Department | 700 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
Festivals/Fireworks/Events

DeKalb Municipal Band | Hopkins Park | 1403 Sycamore Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115 | Every Tuesday

DeKalb Farmers Market | Van Buer Plaza | 148-198 N 2nd St, DeKalb, IL 60115 | Every Thursday

Kane County Cougars | Northwestern Medical Field | 34W002 Cherry Lane, Geneva, IL 60134 | Schedule Varies

Freedom Run | Knights Park | Sandwich, IL | July 2

Hopkins Park Fourth of July Celebration | Hopkins Park | 1403 Sycamore Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115 | July 4

Kirkland 4th of July Celebration | Kirkland, IL 60146 | July 4

Rockford Fourth of July | Davis Park | 320 S Wyman St, Rockford, IL 61101 | July 4

Kishwaukee Fest and Baconpalooza | Kishwaukee, IL | July 22-29