

# Upcoming Programs & Events

October - December



## Halloween Rec Night



**October 29**  
**6-8PM**



Second First Congressional  
318 N. Church St. Rockford

**\$5.00 Per Person**

- Come dressed in your favorite fall attire or costume and enjoy a night of dancing, games, and socializing at Rec Night!
- Call or visit our website to register!

## Epilepsy Support Group



**October 21 & December 16**  
**12-1PM**



The Arc of Winnebago,  
Boone & Ogle Counties

### Free to attend

- Learn about services and resources provided by Illinois Epilepsy Support and Resources.
- Connect with others and share experiences in a supportive group setting.
- Funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services; light meal provided.

## Art in the Family



**November 14**  
**10AM-2PM**



The Atrium at Rock Valley College  
3301 N. Mulford Rd. Rockford

### Free to attend

- Shop a festive selection of original artwork, handmade cards, bookmarks, stickers, and more created by Project Art artists.
- Celebrate the season while supporting Project Art artists and sharing their creativity with the community.

## Taste of Aktion Club



**November 7**     **6pm-8PM**



Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2821 N Bell School Rd, Rockford

**\$10.00 Per Person**

- Join Aktion Club for their annual all-you-can-eat fundraiser featuring delicious
- Desserts and appetizers!
- Funds raised go back into the community.



## Project Art



**October 6 - November 12**

- Tuesday 3-5PM
- Thursday 3-5PM
- Wednesday 2-4PM
- Explore, Create, and Grow – Discover new art mediums and skills in a fun, friendly environment!



The Arc of Winnebago,  
Boone & Ogle Counties

**\$110** / Six-Week Session Call & ask for Tyler



Partially Funded by Community Foundation of  
Northern Illinois, Kjellstrom Foundation, &  
Rockford Area Arts Council

## Beadware

**Every Monday 1-3PM**

- Make your own jewelry
- Design bracelets, necklaces, and more!
- Spend time with friends!

**Free to attend**

Call & ask for Tyler



The Arc of Winnebago,  
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## Communtiy Quest Gaming Group



**October 5, November 2,  
December 7 3:30-6:30PM**



Cataclysm Games  
8289 Burden Rd,  
Machesney Park, IL.

- Join us for tabletop role-playing games (like Dungeons & Dragons) and board games with friends from The Arc!

**\$10** Per Session (Pizza included!)

Call & ask for Nicholas or Chris to sign up or register online! Limited space available



## Next Chapter Book Club



**October 12 & 26, November 9 & 23,  
December 7 & 21**

**Afternoon Club**

**2:30-3:30PM**

**Evening Club**

**6:30-7:30PM**



Panera  
(1512 West Lane Rd,  
Machesney Park)

- Read, snack, and socialize with us! In the afternoon club, we're reading *Nothing Like the Movies* by Lynn Painter, and in the evening club we're reading the sequel.
- Books provided! No outside reading required! We'll read aloud and discuss together, readers of all levels are welcome!
- Free. Call & ask for Sara or Beth to sign up.

## Life Skills: Social Media Safety & Money Management

**Mondays**

**September 14 - October 19 5-6PM**

- Learn how social media helps us connect and communicate with others.
- Talk about online safety, privacy, social media, and online dating do's and don'ts.
- Reflect on personal social media use and set healthy goals for the future. **\$100**

Call & ask for William to sign up.

**Mondays**

**October 26 - November 30 5-6PM**

- Learn smart shopping strategies to make your money go further.
- Explore practical home economics skills for everyday living.
- Build confidence with saving, budgeting, and managing expenses. **\$75**



The Arc of Winnebago, Boone & Ogle Counties



# National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Every October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) recognizes the contributions of workers with disabilities and calls attention to the barriers that still keep too many people out of the workforce.

The 2026 NDEAM theme is “Celebrating Value and Talent.” The U.S. Department of Labor is carrying last year’s theme forward in honor of America’s 250th birthday, highlighting the role people with disabilities have played in shaping workplaces, communities, and the economy.

There’s still a long way to go. In July 2026, only 38.3% of working-age people with disabilities were employed, compared with 75% of people without disabilities. For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), opportunities for competitive, integrated employment are even more limited.

The problem isn’t a lack of talent or desire to work. Employers can underestimate workers with disabilities or make assumptions about what they can do, what support they will need, or how much accommodations will cost.

Common barriers include:

- Hiring bias and low expectations
- Inaccessible applications and interviews
- Inadequate workplace accommodations
- Transportation and support barriers
- Limited opportunities for promotion and career growth
- Too few opportunities for competitive, integrated employment

Hiring people with disabilities gives companies access to talent that too often gets overlooked. Research has also found a strong relationship between disability inclusion and business performance.

A disability-inclusive workplace builds accessibility, accommodations, flexibility, and trust into everyday workplace practices.

At The Arc, disability employment is year-round work. We advocate for policies that expand competitive, integrated employment, challenge low expectations and discrimination, and create more opportunities for people with disabilities to build careers and earn fair wages. People with disabilities deserve the same opportunities as anyone else to find work, earn fair wages, grow in their careers, and be valued for what they bring to the workplace.

Written by The Arc of the United States

# Summer Recap at The Arc

Community. Connection. Inclusion.

