

Chicago

February 18-19, 2026

Led By: Anne Rogalski and Mara Prausa



Continuing Education
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point



Chicago Trip Itinerary

Step into a whirlwind of science, history, art, and culture in the heart of Chicago. Spend an afternoon exploring the hands-on exhibits at the Museum of Science and Industry, then check into the iconic Palmer House—a Hilton Hotel and the birthplace of the brownie. In the evening, enjoy the electrifying Broadway production *The Outsiders* at the stunning Cadillac Palace Theatre. The next day begins with a peaceful morning surrounded by greenery at the Garfield Park Conservatory, followed by a delicious lunch of classic Chicago street food at Portillo's.

Trip Leaders: Anne Rogalski and Mara Prausa

Traveling within Chicago requires frequent walking. Please be prepared to walk up to a half a mile at a time in the winter, totaling 2 - 3 miles in a day (this includes time spent touring the museum and the conservancy). You are welcome to get an Uber/Lyft/Taxi at your own expense to decrease your walking mileage.



Wednesday, February, 18, 2026



- Travel by Bus
- Visit the **Museum of Science and Industry**
 - From the awe-inspiring U-505 submarine to the enchanting model train journey across America, each display offers something for the curious mind!
- Lunch on your own - At the Museum Kitchen or one of the many snack bars
- Check in at **Palmer House a Hilton Hotel**
 - As America's longest continuously operating hotel, it offers rich history, refined accommodations, and an unforgettable atmosphere just steps from the city's top attractions.
- Dinner on own - **The Lockwood Restaurant** and Potter's Bar are located inside the hotel
- Leave for **The Outsiders** show at Cadillac Palace Theatre
 - This show brings S.E. Hinton's classic 1967 novel, *The Outsiders*, to life. With a dynamic folk-rock-tinged score, bold choreography, and rich storytelling, the show captivates from start to finish!

Thursday, February, 19, 2026



- Breakfast on own
- Check out of hotel
- Depart for a guided tour at **Garfield Park Conservatory**
 - The Garfield Park Conservatory offers a lush, tropical escape from Chicago's winter chill, with vibrant greenery and blooming flowers in full display.
- Lunch at **Portillos** then head home

Pricing

Full Payment Fee is due by September 5, 2025

General Public: \$799 per person

LIFE Members: \$779 per person

UWSP Alumni/Staff/Student: \$779 per person

Veteran: \$779 per person

Single Room Supplement: \$215 per person

Registration closes September 5, 2025

***Since we make financial commitments in advance, no refunds will be issued for cancellations.**

However, you may send a substitute in your place.

Please email us at uwspceweb@uwsp.edu to inform us of a cancellation or substitution.



Price includes:

- **Comfortable Transportation** – Relax and enjoy the ride with convenient, round-trip coach bus travel.
- **Iconic Accommodations** – Stay at the legendary Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel located in the heart of downtown Chicago, home to timeless elegance and the birthplace of the beloved brownie.
- **Unforgettable Experiences** – Admission to the Museum of Science & Industry, a Broadway performance of *The Outsiders*, and a guided tour of Garfield Park Conservatory.
- **Expert Guidance** – Friendly, knowledgeable trip leaders will take care of the details so you can focus on enjoying every moment.

Trip Leaders:

Anne Rogalski (right)

Anne Rogalski, Associate Director of Continuing Education at UW-Stevens Point, has years of experience leading cultural tours across the U.S. and Europe, where she brings a mix of curiosity, warmth, and fun to every journey. On this Windy City getaway, Anne will lead you through Chicago's top sights, from the mind-bending Museum of Science and Industry to the historic Palmer House Hotel, both of which speak to her history teaching background. Whether you're getting swept up in Broadway magic at *The Outsiders* (which Anne saw in New York with Mara and absolutely loved), soaking in tropical vibes at the Garfield Park Conservatory (not quite like hiking the Ice Age Trail with her husband and dogs but just as entertaining), or diving into a retro feast at Portillo's (a must do whenever she is in Chicago), Anne is dedicated to making sure your trip is enjoyable and educational.

Mara Prausa (left)

Mara has been leading trips with UWSP's Adventure Tours for nearly four years and loves nothing more than great adventures with great people. A former professional musician, she's all about live entertainment—*The Outsiders* blew her away in NYC, and she's thrilled to see it again! She's also a nature lover who's looking forward to a splash of tropical color at the Garfield Park Conservatory in the middle of winter. When she's not traveling, Mara enjoys hiking, biking, and staying active with her teenaged kids, firefighter husband, and black lab. A self-proclaimed foodie, she's also planning to savor a legendary brownie at the Palmer House Hilton—where the dessert was invented!

