

Getting Out There: Bowling in Duluth

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If you love to spend your free time knocking down pins, Duluth has some options that are open with a few modifications for safety measures. With three locations within the vicinity of the CSS campus, there's sure to be a lane to meet your bowling needs.

First, located on 601 West Superior Street in Duluth, is the Incline Bowling Station Center. While you may want to jump up and head over there, one main requirement of the facility is to call ahead to make sure there is a lane for you to use.

To prevent overcrowding and a lack of space, Incline Bowling asks bowlers to call ahead and be flexible if they're busy at the specific time you wish to bowl.

Tired of bowling? Incline Bowling also has a few arcade games to pass the time between lanes. Find more information about them on their website here.

Another bowling location in Duluth is located at Skyline Social and Games. North of campus and found at 4894 Miller Trunk Highway, this spot is another perfect area to come for some pins. Again, this location also requires reservations in advance for any lane usage, but if a phone call isn't up your alley, they also take online reservations. If you are hoping for some food to go with your outing, make sure to order with plenty of time before 11 p.m., the mandatory time for the kitchen to be closed. Masks are enforced at this location, so don't be surprised to follow all COVID precautions. Further information is available on their website.



Incline Station in Downtown Duluth. Submitted Photo.

Finally, the third option of Duluth bowling is Country Lanes North. Located at 2327 Mountain Shadow Drive, this is one of the closest options to campus residents. While this spot also has other options of entertainment like volleyball and bean bags tournaments, it's still a popular bowling location.

Enjoy late night bowling options? Country Lanes North offers unlimited bowling from 9 p.m. until midnight each night they're open. Call ahead for lane availability, and expect to comply with safety regulations. Further information is available on their website.

With any social gathering, be sure to follow the same COVID safety tips as on campus.

Weekend Activities: Zero Hour Escape Rooms

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While the fun of going to the movies in a large group may still be a few months out, Duluth has a very special trick up its sleeve for those looking for all the twists, turns, and deduction of a good story. Zero Hour Escape Rooms is located on 1st Street in downtown Duluth and is currently the home of three unique and challenging escape rooms. I had the opportunity to experience the prison break room a couple weeks ago, and it was a challenging and fun opportunity to stretch my brain in ways I rarely do.

Given an hour to escape, attendees must work together to solve puzzles and find clues in a series of deduction-based rooms. Per COVID guidelines, masks were encouraged at all times, but it was honestly one of the few activities I have participated in in recent memory that wasn't accompanied with many COVID-necessary accommodations. I believe that this is because of not only the close proximity of the rooms, but also the group nature of the experience. Each room is limited to eight participants at any given time. Because of this, most groups are already acquainted with each other. However, with all the necessary COVID precautions in place, all reservations are private bookings. This means that you will not be placed with other groups if you do not have eight people in your group. This makes it much easier if you don't want to work with another group at the same time.

Coming from an escape room rookie, I felt that the experience was approachable enough for every member of the group while still creating an engaging atmosphere and environment. Beginning in a rather claustrophobic jail cell, our group spent at least ten minutes trying to find an escape from the first of the many puzzles we were to experience. Thankfully, the employees are tuned into every piece of the event, as they watched us through a series of cameras set up throughout the room. Each room also has a television with a ticking clock and occasional hints should we need them. We did, and when the screen blinked a clue, we finally found what we needed in order to move on to the actual event!

Zero Hour Escape Rooms is an excellent weekend activity for students. While there was no specific student discount, the website is constantly running promotions, coupons and special offers. Especially when compared with other entertainment available during COVID, an escape room is an incredibly entertaining and memorable option that is sure to satisfy and intrigue any group of friends, not only for the hour in the room, but for hours afterwards. It's a wonderful experience, and I cannot wait to be back as soon as possible. I just have to find seven more people!