

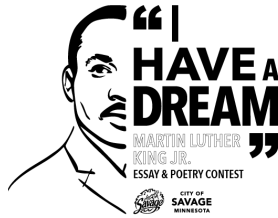


Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay/Poetry Contest

To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the City of Savage Community Equity Commission is holding its annual MLK Jr. Essay/Poetry Contest. Students are asked to select an MLK Jr. quote and write an essay or poem around how the quote applies to their own lived experience and its meaning or impact. The work may include reflection on the importance of his words and how to carry their legacy forward in our community.

MLK Jr. Essay contest criteria:

- Open to students in grades 5-12 who live in Savage and attend school in the Shakopee School District (ISD 720), Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District (ISD 191), or Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools (ISD 719). This is also open to private and home-schooled students in these districts.
- The essay or poem must not be more than 800 words.
- Submissions must be your own work and may not include the use of AI.
- Only one submission per individual.
- **Submissions will be accepted 12/1/25 - 1/6/26.**



Submissions should be uploaded as a Microsoft Word document using this QR code. Submissions can be in any language. If individuals are unable to submit the work electronically or need to request reasonable accommodation, please contact Communications@savagemn.gov or call 952-882-2660.

The Community Equity Commission, working with the Rotary Club of Savage and the Rotary Club of Prior Lake, will look through all the submissions and pick one winner from grades 5 - 8 and one winner from grades 9-12. We'll announce the winners at the City Council meeting on January 20, 2026. Everyone who participates can choose to receive a commemorative T-shirt.

Designated Driver Program

December 31 & January 1

McHugh's Public House, Neisen's Sports Bar & Grill, & Whiskey Inferno Meat House & Craft Bar

Win BIG by becoming the designated driver for New Years! Local bars and restaurants are joining Savage Police to reward designated drivers this holiday season. Thank you for celebrating responsibly.

How it works:

1. Tell your server you are the designated driver.
2. Scan the QR code and submit your information (one entry per designated driver).
3. All participating designated drivers will be entered into a drawing for prizes!

Upcoming Community Events

Holiday Tree Lighting & Santa Cop Night

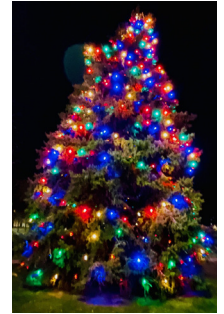
December 4

5:30 - 6 p.m. | Tree Lighting

6 - 7:30 p.m. | Santa Cop

City Campus, 6000 McColl Drive

Help kick off the holiday season! Join Mayor Kelly for hot cocoa and the countdown of the holiday tree lighting, then head to the Savage Police Department to drop off your unwrapped gifts for the annual Toys for Tots campaign and visit Santa and Police Chief Juell. Don't forget your camera!



Reminder: Unwrapped gifts for Toys for Tots can also be dropped off at the Savage Police Department through December 12. For more details, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Jennifer Wells at jwells@savagemn.gov or 952-882-2604.



Secret Holiday Shop

December 6 | 9 - 11 a.m.

Savage Sports Center, 13450 Dakota Ave.

Kids, this one's all yours! Shop for family and friends at the Savage Parks and Recreation Annual Secret Holiday Shop - and yes, parents have to stay outside. Browse tons of cool gifts, pick your favorites, and we'll

wrap everything up and add tags so it's ready to go under the tree. Gifts are \$1 to \$15, so you can find something perfect for everyone on your list. **Purchases can be made with cash or check only, debit or credit cards will not be accepted.**

Youth Snowmobile Safety Training

Online event + December 6 Safety Class and Driving Test

Students must complete a safety information course through an interactive online platform. This online course takes approximately 2 - 4 hours. Once the student has completed the online course, they will also need to complete a safety class and driving test on December 6, 2025. For more information, contact the Savage Sno-Pacers at 612-567-6691 or snopacers@gmail.com or follow Savage Sno-Pacers online at [facebook.com/SavageSnoPacers](https://www.facebook.com/SavageSnoPacers).

Jump, play, and connect at See Me Play meetups at the Savage Sports Center!

Savage Sports Center, 13450 Dakota Ave.

Savage Parks and Recreation is teaming up with See Me Neurodiverse for open play times at the Savage Sports Center. These free playtimes are specifically for families with neurodiverse children.

- Sunday, December 7: 10 a.m. - noon
- Sunday, January 4, 2026: 10 a.m. - noon
- Sunday, February 1, 2026: 10 a.m. - noon

To learn more about See Me Neurodiverse and RSVP for the meetups, visit www.seemeneurodiverse.org/events.

Public Safety



Have a Security Camera? Help Savage Police Solve Crimes.

If you have a surveillance camera at your home or business, the Savage Police Department would like to partner with you.

Security cameras can be incredibly helpful when investigating crimes, but police often don't know who has cameras or where they're located. That means they might miss footage that could solve a case.

The SafeCam program is a voluntary program where you register your camera with the police department. If a crime happens near your camera, officers will know to contact you and ask if you captured anything useful. You're not giving the police direct access to your camera. You're just letting them know it exists so they can reach out if needed.

Want to help keep Savage safe? Register your camera at savagemn.gov/departments/police-department/public-safety/safecam-registration.

Should Savage Police Use Drones? Tell us what you think.

The Savage Police Department is thinking about buying two drones to support law enforcement operations. They'd use them for things like finding missing people, getting a bird's-eye view during emergencies, and keeping our community safer overall. Here's why it matters. Right now, if we need a drone, we have to wait for another agency to send one. Having our own means faster response times when every second counts.

The cost: This wouldn't come out of your taxes. We'd pay for the drones using community donations and department forfeiture funds.

What about privacy? We get it. That's a real concern. Minnesota law is pretty specific about when police can use drones without a warrant. Think life-threatening emergencies, searching for missing people, serious crash scenes, natural disasters, and keeping an eye on large public gatherings. They can also be used in public spaces when there's reasonable suspicion of a crime, for training officers, or at community events. And here's an important safeguard: per state statute 626.19, we're required to delete drone footage within seven days unless it's part of an active criminal investigation or needs to be kept for other specific legal reasons.

The bottom line? This decision affects everyone in Savage, and the city wants to hear what you think.

Do you see drones as a helpful public safety tool? Do you have concerns about privacy or how they might be used? Your perspective matters. Share your thoughts at letstalksavage.com.

FREE Holiday Light Recycling | December 1 - January 15

Drop off your old, tangled, and broken lights in the lobby at Savage City Hall, 6000 McColl Drive, between December 1 and January 15. The city will take them to the Scott County Household Hazardous Waste Facility for recycling. NOTE: Scott County HHW accepts all holiday lights year-round, free of charge.

Code Corner | Winter parking

Winter's here, and that means a few parking rules kick in. Here are a few quick reminders:

No street parking from 2 to 6 a.m. from November 1 through March 31. This applies every night, even when there's no snow. Why? Plow trucks roll through around 2 a.m., and parked cars block their path. If you forget, you may get a ticket or be towed. If you're in a bind and really need to park there, please call the police department at 952-882-2600.

Cars are only allowed on the paved driveway. Parking on the grass or anywhere else in your yard isn't allowed, at any time of year.

Boats, trailers, and RVs belong on your driveway or tucked in the side or back yard, at least 5 feet from the property line (unless screened).

That's it. Follow these rules and you'll avoid tickets, help the plows keep our streets clear, and keep the neighbors happy. Thanks for doing your part this winter.

Enjoy the Snowmobiling Season; Just Know the Rules.

Trails will be open December 1 through March 31, but may be closed due to limited snowfall.

The City of Savage permits the peaceful and safe operation of snowmobiles within its city limits, but riders must obey all traffic rules, regulations, and traffic control devices. Here are a few tips to help riders have an enjoyable season.

- **Ride only on designated trails.** The Savage Sno-Pacers is a volunteer group that helps maintain more than 24 miles of trails in Savage. These trails provide local riders with access to regional and state trails. Riders must follow the marked trails within the city except for access from their residence to the nearest marked trails.
- **Be respectful,** and don't ride after 11 p.m. or before 7 a.m.
- **Access trails by taking the most direct route** possible from your home base. Violators could be cited and/or have their snowmobiles impounded.
- **Obey posted speed limits** and don't operate at high speeds (over 15 mph) when near houses.
- **Be alert,** don't drink and drive, and dress weather appropriate.

Check out the Savage Sno-Pacers, a local group of snowmobile enthusiasts who share camaraderie with others who love the sport and promote snowmobile safety, plan trips and local rides, and hold off-season get-togethers. Follow them on Facebook at @SavageSnoPacers, or email snopacers@gmail.com or call 612-567-6691 for more information.

Snowmobile trail maps are available at Savage City Hall, 6000 McColl Drive. For reports on trail conditions, call the Scott County Sno-Trails Hotline at 952-440-1003. For complete information on the Savage City Snowmobiling Ordinance, go to savagemn.gov.





Good News!

Have you seen the new skatepark sign at Community Park? It looks pretty awesome! This is part of our larger plan to give Savage a stronger identity and make people feel proud of where they live. Yes, it took longer than we thought it would, but we think you'll agree it was worth the wait.

Everything is made from steel by Ricki and Sons, a local manufacturer in Prior Lake. The skateboard character was designed by local artist Clayton Strohmeier and stands over 8 feet tall with a powder coat finish. The 3-foot letters are left uncoated, so they'll develop that rusty patina look over time, which will actually make the sign even cooler as it ages. It's truly one of a kind.

And we're not finished. A shade and seating area is scheduled to be installed next, with an expected completion date of spring 2026.

Ready to Get Involved? Apply to be on a Commission

Each year, the City Council appoints commissioners to serve in important volunteer roles for the city. Our goal is to have our commissions reflect the wide range of backgrounds and diverse perspectives that make up our community.

Who are commissioners, and what do they do?

Commissioners are volunteers who care about the quality of life in Savage and the programs and services that the city provides. They review and discuss important policies, procedures, and initiatives, and make recommendations to the City Council.

What types of commissions are there in the City of Savage?

The city has four commissions:

Community Equity Commission (CEC)

- Meets on the second or third Thursday at 6 p.m.

The CEC advises the City Council on making Savage more inclusive and equitable for everyone. They look at city policies and practices through an equity lens and work to strengthen relationships with communities that have historically been underrepresented in local government.

Economic Development Commission (EDC)

- Meets on the third Wednesday at 7:15 a.m.

The EDC helps the City Council with anything related to growing Savage's economy. That means attracting new businesses, helping current businesses succeed, and making sure our local economy stays diverse and healthy.

Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission (PRNRC)

- Meets on the fourth Monday at 7 p.m.

This commission works with city staff on parks and recreation. They give input on things like recreational programs, buying new parkland, and improving the parks we already have.

Planning Commission (PC)

- Meets on Thursdays after Council meetings at 7 p.m.

The Planning Commission handles land use and zoning decisions within city limits. Basically, they help decide what gets built where and how the city grows.

Who can serve as a commissioner?

If you live in Savage and want to help your city, you can apply to be a commissioner. We also welcome high school students who want to learn how local government works.

One exception: to serve on the Economic Development Commission, you need to either live in Savage or own a business here.

Learn more and apply at savagemn.gov/government/commissions. Questions? Contact Administrative Assistant Lisa Crist at lcrist@savagemn.gov or 952-882-2660. The deadline to apply is January 9, 2026. Interviews with council members will be scheduled for January 26, 2026.

Winter Prep: 5 Things to Remember

Here are a few things that'll make life easier for everyone:

- 1. Put your trash cans in your driveway, not the street.** On trash day, put your bins at the end of your driveway, behind the curb. Not in the street. Bins in the street block snowplows, which means your road won't get fully cleared. Our plow crews really appreciate the help.
- 2. Bring in those basketball hoops.** If you have a portable basketball hoop, bring it in for the winter. Plows need all the room they can get.
- 3. Shovel your sidewalk.** Once the snow stops, you've got 24 hours to clear the sidewalk in front of your house. During big storms, it might take our crew a bit longer to hit all the main roads, but please do your best to keep up with your sidewalk.
- 4. Don't dump snow in the street.** Don't shovel or blow snow into the street, alley, or onto sidewalks. It's got to stay on your property.
- 5. Help us out with fire hydrants.** This one's important. If there's a hydrant near your house, clear about 3 feet around it after it snows. In a fire, every second counts. Firefighters need to get to it fast.

Thanks for being a good neighbor!



Shake the Habit!

Salt helps keep our roads, driveways, and sidewalks safer in slippery weather, but our excessive use of salt is detrimental to the health of our streams, rivers, and lakes. More salt does not equal more melting. Here are a few tips and tricks you can use to shake the salt habit:

1. Shovel first, then apply salt only if necessary.
2. Don't apply salt when the temperature is below 15 degrees - it's ineffective.
3. A little salt goes a long way. One coffee mug full of salt is enough for ten sidewalk squares or a 12x20-foot driveway.
4. Give it time to work. The colder it is, the longer it takes salt to work.
5. When the ice has melted, sweep up any excess salt and save it to reuse or throw it in the trash.

Rec Corner

Savage Sports Center is now open.

It might be cold and dark outside, but inside the Savage Sports Center, it's always a comfortable 59 degrees! There are lots of ways to stay active this winter at the Savage Sports Center:

Open Walk/Jog | FREE

The Savage Sports Center offers an artificial grass field ideal for winter exercise. Walk or jog indoors for free with family and friends from November 3 - April 30. Strollers are welcome. No food or drinks are allowed on the turf. 1 mile = 4.5 laps around the inside of the facility. For the safety of our walkers and runners, please note that no balls or toys are allowed during this time.

Ages: all ages

Cost: FREE

Time: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday and Thursday, Noon - 3:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday, 6 - 8 a.m.

Tot Time

We know how you feel. Days spent indoors with an energized toddler can be exhausting. Your toddler can play on inflatables, throw balls, hit with bats, and more from November through April. We'll provide all the equipment. This is a great way to burn off excess winter tot energy and offers age-appropriate large-motor skill practice.

Ages: 6 and under (an adult must accompany all toddlers)

Cost: \$3 per toddler

Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Open Play

Grab your friends and come hang out at open play! It's the best space to play soccer, baseball, football, ultimate frisbee, bocce ball, lacrosse, and more. Just remember to bring your own equipment (gloves, balls, whatever gear you need).

Ages: 6+ (participants 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult)

Cost: \$5 per person

Time: Monday - Friday, 3 - 5 p.m. *Schedules are subject to change.

PeeWee Soccer Camp | January 7, 14, 21, 28

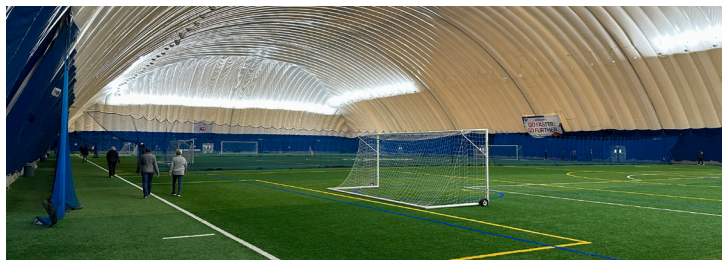
Camp coaches cannot wait to teach you all about soccer! In soccer, participants will learn to dribble, kick, and protect the ball. Every day, we will focus on sportsmanship and fun! Participants should wear tennis shoes and bring a water bottle and a soccer ball to camp. Registration deadline: January 4. Learn more and register online at savagemn.gov.

Ages: 3 - 5

Cost: \$40 per person

Time: 10 - 10:45 a.m.

Location: Savage Sports Center, 13450 Dakota Ave.



KEEP IN TOUCH:



Glow and Skate Party | January 16

Bring your family, skates, and smiles. Enjoy an evening of ice skating at Woodhill Park and glow in the dark while wearing glow necklaces and bracelets. Keep warm with hot chocolate and a treat. No registration is required. Skates are not included.

Ages: all ages

Cost: FREE

Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Woodhill Park, 8901 W. 138th St.



Outdoor Skating Rinks

Bundle up and grab your skates! The outdoor skating season starts December 22 (weather permitting) and runs through February 16, 2026.

Four rinks to choose from:

- Canterbury Park, 13444 Inglewood Ave.
- O'Connell Park, 5165 South Park Dr.
- Trost Park, 5455 137th St.
- Woodhill Park, 8901 W. 138th St.

Regular hours:

Monday through Friday: 4 to 8:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday: Noon to 8 p.m.

Holiday hours:

December 24: Noon - 2 p.m.
December 25: CLOSED
December 31: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
January 1: Noon - 8 p.m.
January 19: Noon - 8 p.m.
February 8: Noon - 4 p.m.
February 16: Noon - 8 p.m.

When warming houses close

Warming houses will close if conditions become unsafe, including when the wind chill reaches -15 degrees or colder, the air temperature drops to 0 degrees or colder, more than 2 inches of snow has fallen and not been cleared, or warm temperatures have made the ice too soft to skate on.

After snowstorms

Public Works clears streets and sidewalks first after heavy snow. Rinks will be plowed when crews are available.

For weather updates and cancellations, call the Recreation Weather Information Line at 952-882-2688.

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