

Museum & Library

The not-for-profit museum is established exclusively and strictly for educational, cultural, and scientific purposes as stated in the Articles of Incorporation. Such purposes shall be carried out for the benefit of the public, not for the special benefit of any private entity or group.



The specific goals of the mission are to provide, preserve and operate a library, museum, and an archives collection, and to restore and display artifacts, books,

documents, photos, and other historic items pertaining to history, culture, heritage, and democratic ideals of Sokol Organizations.

These goals are accomplished by researching, collecting, and preserving artifacts and manuscripts, then exhibiting these artifacts at current events and sponsoring various educational programs.



Greatness is not measured by what a man or woman accomplishes, but by the opposition he or she has overcome to reach his goals.

—Dorothy Height

Like what you see?

Find your *Local Sokol* online at:

www.american-sokol.org



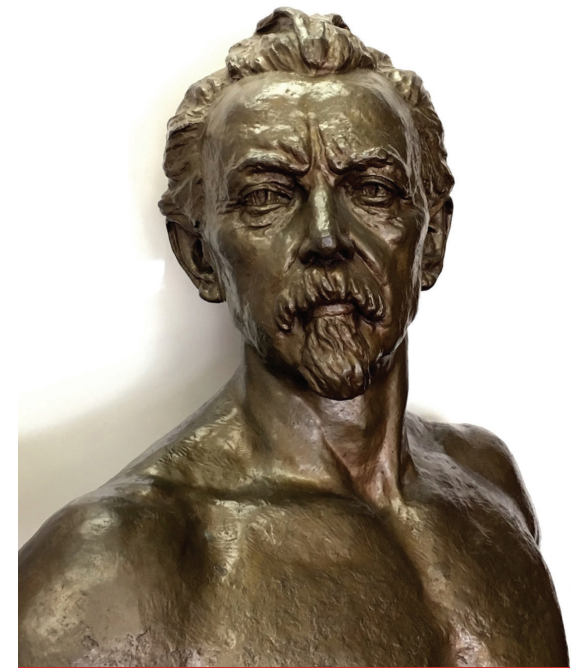
Support the Museum

American Sokol Museum & Library

9126 Ogden Ave.

Brookfield, IL 60513

aso@american-sokol.org



*A Sound Mind in
a Sound Body*



**Your Fitness &
Social Organization**

***Over 150 Years
Strong—and Growing!***

Mission Statement

The Sokol Museum and Library is dedicated to preserving the history and accomplishments of the Sokol movement. From its origin in 1862 in the Czech lands, it was based on a program of systematic gymnastic training that cultivates a healthy body, sound mind and responsible citizenship. Sokol became an historic organization that established the Czech culture and Czech identity. The goal of the museum and archives is to demonstrate Sokol's contributions to society as well as to gymnastics, physical fitness and sports.

The Sokol Museum & Library is a functional component of the American Sokol Organization, a 501c3 non-profit organization, managed by the Sokol Museum & Library



Board, under the auspices of the American Sokol Executive Board and Board of Governors.

The American Sokol Organization has one full-time Office Administrator, one part-time Board of Instructor Secretary and one part-time Sokol Museum & Library archivist.

New Location

The Sokol Museum & Library intends to purchase a property/building that will fulfill its mission and purpose. The new location may include a Czech restaurant, bar and banquet room that would assist in managing the financing of the building.

www.american-sokol.org

Sokol History

The first Sokol unit in the United States was founded on February 14, 1865, in St. Louis, Missouri. Within a few years Sokol units were formed in Chicago, New York, Baltimore, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Detroit, Cedar Rapids, and Omaha. Since then they have expanded from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Canada to the Rio Grande.

The latter half of the 19th century was a period of heavy immigration. The newcomers, imbued with the spirit of reawakening in the old homeland, brought with them the fire, ideals and culture of a new age. They found the freedom and democracy of this country to be fertile ground for their efforts. As the settlers pushed out to virgin land or moved to urban areas with their varied skills, they brought with them their choral, theatrical, physical and cultural ideals. These ideals were embedded in the Sokol movement,

The current Sokol Museum & Library is located at 9126 Ogden Ave, Brookfield IL 60513



which originated in the Czech lands in 1862.

These Czech settlers began raising families and desired to have their children develop their bodies and character in an atmosphere of fraternity as was embodied in the Sokol movement. The immigrants were willing to use their own hard-earned resources to build Sokol units. This shows our forefathers determination.

By 1879 the first gymnastic competitions were held in New York with 19 athletes from seven units participating. As the American Sokol grew, so did the participation at its Slets (gymnastic festivals that featured mass calisthenics along with gymnastic and track and field competitions). In 1893, 575 men and women, and 368 children performed mass calisthenics. By

1925 the Sokol Slet hosted in Chicago, mass calisthenics were performed by 1,382 men and women, 170 junior boys, 264 junior girls and 491 children. The Slets of the 1960s had more than 2,000 participants from all over the country.

While our beloved American Sokol no longer depends on European immigration and culture, the Sokol ideals continue to be important for our country and its citizens.

