

## Free/Reduced-Cost Summer Activities

### Cincinnati Zoo

*Every week:*

- Wings of Wonder Bird Show, Wednesday through Sunday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
- Cheetah Encounter, Friday through Tuesday, 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.
- Extended hours: 9am-6pm, May 25-Sept. 7
- Meet-a-Zoo-Keeper talks occur daily at various animal exhibits.

*Zoo Tales:*

Zoo visitors can listen to stories, sing-songs and Meet & Greet with storybook costume characters each Thursday at 10:30 am, June 4 - July 23.

Character Meet & Greet Schedule:

- June 4 - Junie B. Jones
- June 11 - Bunnica
- June 18 - Clifford the Big Red Dog
- June 25 - Curious George
- July 2 - July 9 - Franklin
- July 16 - Lyle Lyle Crocodile
- July 23 - Madeline



*Act Wild for Rhinos:*

Act Wild for Rhinos invites Zoo visitors to learn about endangered rhinos through family activities, crafts, discovery stations, keeper encounters, and special animal demonstrations.

The event is free with Zoo admission, and will take place on July 25 & 26, 2009.

Visitor Appreciation Days - 1/2 Price Admission & Parking!

August 7, 8 & 9, 2009

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is offering 50% off the regular admission and parking for all visitors as part of Visitor Appreciation Days.

The zoo often has a free day as well, but it is not yet been announced.

*Summer camp:*

The Zoo also offers a summer camp, with camps for children ages 4-14. The full-day camp operates M-F from 9am-4pm. Half-day camp operates M-F from either 9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm. New this year, the zoo is also offering before care starting at 8am and after care lasting until 6pm. For most ages, these camps run week-long programs all summer long (so a child could attend all summer, June 8-Aug. 21). Visit the site to find out specifics. [www.cincinnati-zoo.org/discovery/children/summercamp.html](http://www.cincinnati-zoo.org/discovery/children/summercamp.html)

**Contact 4C for more information and support today! 513-221-0033**

## The Museum Center

### *Free Fridays:*

One Friday of each month, from May until September, admission for each museum will be free. The free admission hours are 4pm-8pm. Dates: 5/22, 6/26, 7/24, 8/21, 9/11.

### *Day Camps*

Summer break means learning and fun at Cincinnati Museum Center. Children between the ages of 7 and 12 can immerse themselves in their favorite topic for an entire week. Summer Day Camps run 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Cost for members is \$150; \$175 for non-members.

Before & After Camp are offered for each Day Camp. Before Camp begins at 7:30 a.m. and is \$5 for members per day, \$10 for non-members per day. After Camp runs from 3 to 5:30 p.m. and is \$10 for members per day, \$15 for non-members per day. Sign-up for Before & After Camps at the time of day camp registration.

Camps are available from June 15-July 31, except the first week of July (no camp then)

### *Daily Programs:*

The Museum Center offers lots of different programs, events, and activities throughout the summer. Most are free with museum admission. Parents can see what's happening at [www.cincymuseum.org](http://www.cincymuseum.org).

## Gorman Heritage Farm

Open Wed.-Sat, from 9am-5pm and Sun. from 12pm-5pm. Admission: Adults, \$5/Children (3-17), \$3. Visit: [www.gormanfarm.org](http://www.gormanfarm.org) for more information

## Cincinnati Recreation Centers

CRC's run various programs throughout the summer. Summer camps, art programs, sports programs, and family activities are all offered. Information can be found at: <http://www.cincyrec.org>

## Hamilton County Parks

[www.hamiltoncountyparks.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyparks.org) lists events and activities taking place at all the Hamilton County parks. Or, stop by a local park to pick up the current program listing brochure. Many programs/activities are free!

Some specific parks info:

Woodland Mound

8250 Old Kellogg Road, 45255

This park contains playgrounds, nature trails, picnic areas, and a wet playground. Wet playground costs \$1 at last notice (summer 2008)

Otto Armleder Memorial Park 5057 Wooster Pike, Cincinnati, 45226

This park has a playground plus a dog park, so the whole family can enjoy some fun

Sharon Woods

11450 Lebanon Road, 45241: This park has outdoor and indoor playgrounds. Indoor playground is \$2.50/child. Outdoor is free.

Park's Farm

10073 Daly Road, 45231

Though specific activities at the farm cost money (wagon rides, the Playbarn, and pony rides cost \$2.50 each), the farm itself (seeing the animals) is free and open to the public. Hours for the extras (rides and Playbarn) from June 8-August 16 are 10am-5pm M-F, 11am-6pm Sat. and Noon-6pm on Sun

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## Other Parks

Lunken Airport Playfield, located at 4744 Playfield Ln. Cincinnati, OH 45226 (next to Lunken airport).

Features a children's (12 and under) playground, "The Land of Make Believe" which costs \$1 per child (adults are admitted free). Another free smaller playground is also available as is miniature golf, tennis courts, a driving range, and a larger gold course. This park is held by the Cincinnati Recreation Commission.

### East Fork Lake State Park

Has a lake and beach for swimming. They also have trails ranging from 1/2 mile to 14 miles. There is no entrance or parking fee. [www.dnr.state.oh.us/tabid/732/default.aspx](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/tabid/732/default.aspx)

## City of Cincinnati Park System

Visit: [www.cincyparks.com](http://www.cincyparks.com). Throughout the summer (on Thursdays), "Everybody's Backyard Picnic" will be held at several of the city parks. Each week, it moves to a different park. These are free and include family-friendly activities (face painting, a magician, balloon artist).

Summer day camps are offered at several parks, running from 9:30am until 2:30pm for children age 4-14. Preschool-aged children can also attend morning programs. Camp programs cost \$30-\$50/week for City of Cincinnati residents, \$35-\$60 for non-residents.

## Cincinnati Art Museum

Always free! Website: [www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org](http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org). The calendar includes several events for children of all ages, however most include a fee.

## Krohn Conservatory

Always free! Open every day from 10:00am until 5:00pm. Special events do charge admission.

## Cincinnati Nature Center

Rowe Woods: Mondays are free! On Tuesday-Friday, \$3 adults, \$1 ages 3-12. On Sat.-Sun. adults are \$5. Special family-oriented events on Second Saturdays every month. Free with admission. Visit: [www.cincynature.org](http://www.cincynature.org) for more information.

## Civic Garden Center

Free admission! Open Monday-Saturday from 9:00am-4:00pm. Visit: [www.civicgardencenter.org](http://www.civicgardencenter.org) for additional information.

## Coney Island

*Summerfair* May 29-May 31, Adults \$10 and Children under 11 are free. Parking is also free. Summerfair is Cincinnati's premier festival of fine arts and crafts. Celebrating 42 years in 2009, Summerfair features hundreds of artists from around the country exhibiting and selling their works. Other highlights include 5 stages of local entertainers, our Youth Arts Fest featuring hands-on craft projects for kids and a variety of delicious foods. Proceeds from Summerfair support grant and exhibition programs supporting the local arts community.

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### *10th Annual LaRosa's Balloon Glow*

Friday, July 3

Coney Island comes alive at the 9th Annual LaRosa's Balloon Glow! Live music, family entertainment and Coney's Classic Rides make for a fun-filled evening. Later, the evening sky illuminates when as many as 20 hot air balloons of every color "glow" for all to see. The grand finale for the event is a spectacular Rozzi's Famous Fireworks display over the banks of Lake Como beginning at 10pm.

Admission to the event is FREE. Normal rates apply for Sunlite Pool and Coney's Classic Rides

### *Kids' Outdoor Adventure EXPO*

Friday, June 26

Two sessions: 9am – 12pm and 1pm – 4pm

Kids' EXPO is designed for children and teens to have fun and learn about paddlesports, boating safety, water pollution, ecology and the environment.

### *8th Annual Ohio River Way Paddlefest*

Friday, June 26 – Saturday, June 27

Celebrate the beauty of the Ohio River during the 8th Annual Ohio River Way Paddlefest. Recognized as the Midwest's largest on-water canoe and kayak event, this family-friendly event will draw over 1,500 paddlers to the Ohio River for two days of paddling, education, entertainment, competition and camaraderie. Paddlefest is made up of several events including:

## Local Festivals

*The Juneteenth Festival:* Music, history, and lots of activities for children. June 20-21, 2009. Website: <http://juneteenthcincinnati.org/>

*Midwest Black Family Reunion:* August event, Website: <http://www.midwestbfrc.com/overview.html>

*Hamilton County Fair:* August 11-16, 2009

*Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo* - June 26 9-12 and 1-4. Parking is \$5. Lots of great water safety and environmental activities! [www.ohioriverway.org/paddlefest/events/kids/](http://www.ohioriverway.org/paddlefest/events/kids/)

## Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra

Monday, May 25, 2009, 3pm

Memorial Day Concert at Eden Park's Seasongood Pavilion. Free and open to the public.

## Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center:

[www.contemporaryartscenter.com](http://www.contemporaryartscenter.com)

Although they offer scheduled programming, families are encouraged to visit, play in and learn at the UnMuseum® anytime during the Contemporary Arts Center's regular hours. (The UnMuseum is a place for children to interact hands-on with art.) Below is the list of regularly scheduled programs at the UnMuseum® run by guest artists and educators. Please consult the calendar listings for specific topics. All family programs are free with CAC admission or with membership. For more information, call 513 345 8430 or email [ajones@contemporaryartscenter.org](mailto:ajones@contemporaryartscenter.org).

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**Family Sunday:** Guest artists and educators with a talent for working with children teach hands-on art projects that can be taken home or displayed in the UnMuseum's Art Lab. Projects use unusual materials and processes that artists of all ages can enjoy. Family Sunday is offered on the fourth Sunday of every month.

**Thursday Art Play:** This program uses storytelling, performance and hands-on artmaking activities to excite and educate our youngest visitors. It is designed especially for children ages 3 to 5 years old, and their parents and caregivers. Thursday Art Play is offered on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month, 1-2 pm.

## Miscellaneous Free Activities

**Free Summer Bowling - Colerain Bowl** participates in a program that allows kids to bowl 2 free games every day. They also have a family pass for \$24 that allows up to 4 adults 2 free games per day all summer too. Go to [www.kidsbowlfree.com](http://www.kidsbowlfree.com) for details and to sign up.

**Free Movies - Showcase Cinemas - the showcase in Springdale** has Bookworm Wednesdays. The kids write a book report on the form provided by Showcase and they get free admission to the movies. The movies start at 10:00am and the program runs from July 8 - August 12. Adults don't need to write a book report.  
[www.nationalamusements.com/program/bookworm.asp?page=5](http://www.nationalamusements.com/program/bookworm.asp?page=5)

**Deerfield Stadium 16 in Mason, OH** has free movies every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:00am. The Tuesday movies are rated G and the Wednesday movies are rated PG  
[www.regmovies.com/nowshowing/familyfilmfestivalschedule.aspx](http://www.regmovies.com/nowshowing/familyfilmfestivalschedule.aspx)

**Cheap Movies - AMC Theatres (Newport on the Levee)** has \$1 movies every Wednesday at 10:00am They also have a \$3 kids pack with popcorn, a drink and candy.  
[www.amctheatres.com/smc/movies.html](http://www.amctheatres.com/smc/movies.html)

**Free Book - Barnes and Noble** has a summer reading program. Kids read 8 books of their choosing, fill out a special journal and get a free book! [www.barnesandnoble.com/summerreading](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/summerreading)

**Free Books – Half Price Books** has a reading program which enables children to earn a \$3 gift card every week they read at least 15 minutes a day. [www.halfpricebooks.com/feed\\_your\\_brain.html](http://www.halfpricebooks.com/feed_your_brain.html)

**Free Ice Cream - In July, Graeters** has a coloring contest for a few weeks. The kids color the sheet and turn it in for a free cone. The coloring sheet will be available online and in stores. [www.graeters.com](http://www.graeters.com)

**Free fun with the Cyclones - This is on Saturdays.** The Cyclones do a summer tour where kids get to hang out and play some roller hockey. And they get free snacks! [www.cycloneshockey.com/splashfiles.splash\\_CC.html](http://www.cycloneshockey.com/splashfiles.splash_CC.html)

**FREE art classes!** Happen Inc in Northside is offer free summer art classes on Tuesdays, Wed and Thursdays. Check here for details. [www.happeninc.com/calendar.index.htm](http://www.happeninc.com/calendar.index.htm)

Don't forget to check out your local library for fun activities!

When you just need to watch a movie:

From Parents.com: Top 10 Family Movie Classics

1. Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
2. Ella Enchanted
3. E.T.
4. Freaky Friday
5. Harry Potter
6. The Sound of Music
7. Spy Kids
8. Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
9. Whale Rider
10. The Wizard of Oz

From Parents.com: 10 Classic Animal Movies

1. Babe
2. Charlotte's Web
3. Free Willy
4. Into the West
5. My Dog Skip
6. Old Yeller
7. 101 Dalmations
8. Shiloh
9. Stuart Little
10. Two Brothers

