



RESOURCE CENTER for STUDENTS with CHILDREN

Free and Low-Cost Summer Activities for Families with Children

Portland Parks and Recreation

PP & R has many day camps for children all around the city. Scholarships are available based on financial need. Portland Parks and Rec also has many free activities during the summer, including movies and concerts in the park, a free swim lesson week, summer park activities, neighborhood barbecues, free summer meals, etc. Visit <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/> for more information.

Portland Parks Fountains

Did you know that Portland has a number of interactive fountains for kids (and parents) to splash and cool off in? This is a popular Portland pastime, especially for younger children. Visit <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/42348> for a list of locations and schedules.

Portland's Summer Free For All

A 100+ year tradition of free summer fun for Portland families including a mobile climbing wall, crafts, organized sports, camp songs and so much more – it's like going to summer camp, but at your neighborhood park! Summer Free For All also includes movies and concerts in the park, as well as other fun activities for the whole family. Check out the website at <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/61921> to see what is offered at the park near your house.

Cheap Movies

Watch movies for just \$1 at Joy Cinemas on Mondays and 5\$ daily! For locations and show times, visit <http://thejoycinema.com/>. Cinetopia movie theater at the Mill Plain 8 location offers \$5 movies all day every Tuesday! Visit Cinetopia's website for show times <http://cinetopia.com/tickets-showtimes/>. Some Regal Cinemas offer the same deal too! To find the participating theaters, visit <http://savingslifestyle.com/2011/08/regal-cinemas-5-movies-tuesdays/>

Metro Parent Magazine -

Monthly family calendar for Portland's For all things families, from the best tips on where to play, eat and shop with your kids to well-researched stories on the health and education issues that matter to you. In our magazine and on our website, and you'll find great giveaways, guides, reviews and stories that are fun, smart, local and just a little offbeat — just like PDX families. <http://www.metro-parent.com/>

Boys and Girls Clubs of Portland

<http://bgcportland.org/>

Boys & Girls Clubs are safe and positive place for kids to enjoy fun and engaging programs at an affordable price. Paid, professional staff members supervise a wide variety of programs to meet the needs of various ages and interests. Visit the website for summer camps, special events, programs and locations

[Camp Rosenbaum](#)

<http://www.camprosenbaum.org/>

The mission of Camp Rosenbaum is to provide life enhancing opportunities for low-income, at-risk youth through educational, mentoring and athletic programs designed to develop good citizenship skills and promote a sense that anything is possible with hard work and positive choices. We empower children to take responsibility for their lives, stay in school, and resist the allure of gangs and drugs. We reinforce hope and direction for a better future.

[SUN Community Schools](#)

<https://multco.us/sun/sun-community-schools>

SUN Community Schools in Multnomah County are full-service neighborhood hubs where the school and partners from across the community come together to make sure kids and families have what they need to be successful. SUN strategically organizes community resources to provide: Strong core instructional program, Educational support and skill development for youth and adults, Enrichment and recreation activities, and more. open to all ages, preschool to seniors, with a focus on students in the immediate school community. SUN Community Schools are the school-based service delivery sites for the SUN Service System, a broader system of community-based care and support for children and their families.

[Pioneer Square Events](#)

Pioneer Square hosts Flicks on the Bricks, a series of free movies each Friday in July, and Noon Tunes summer concerts on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They also often have other free events, like ice cream tastings and other promotional events. Check out their calendar at

<http://www.thesquarepdx.org/> for more details!

[Summer Reading at the Library](#)

Beginning June 12, kids and teens can visit any Multnomah County library to sign up for the Summer Reading game, which helps them maintain the skills they have learned in school. The library has a rotating schedule of free live performances, art, craft and interactive activities for kids at different locations around the city. Learn more at: <https://multcolib.org/summer-reading>

[Aquatics Program at Portland Public Pools](#)

Throughout the summer, Portland public pools open their waters to free open swim times so you can visit and do some splashing for free with the entire family. Additionally, older children can participate in league swim and junior lifeguard education. The website can help you find the pool

closest to your house – about half are indoor and half are outdoor. Check out the summer catalog: <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/38284>

Arts For All

Show your Oregon Trail Card and buy \$5 tickets to many of Portland's best theater, music and dance groups. More information here: <http://racc.org/artsforall/>

Learn to Swim Week

To kick off the swim lesson season each summer, Portland pools offer a week of free lessons to neighborhood kids June 15-19! Registration is on Saturday, June 14, just before lessons begin and registration must be done in person, not online. Limited space is available.

Free Swimming!

During the summer, Portland Parks and Rec's swimming pools have a rotating schedule of free days. You can swim for free almost any day of the week, although you may have to travel! To find out when to swim for free near you, look for the Summer Aquatics online catalog or visit <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/486768>

Sizzling Summer Day Camps

Sizzling Summer Day Camp, for students entering 1 - 6 grades, offers seven weeks full of FUN! Each week is jam-packed with great games, terrific trips, sizzling sports, and amazing arts and crafts. Each week features an adventurous field trip on Wednesday, with nature discovery excursions and visits to parks and athletic activities at local destinations throughout the rest of the week. A daily afternoon snack is provided. Registration begins March 3. <https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/index.aspx?page=1306>

Zone Adventure Day Camp

Students entering the 6 - 9 grades can participate in all kinds of adventures this summer! Camps include rock climbing, white water rafting, mountain biking, visits to the mountain and more! Registration begins March 3. <https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/index.aspx?page=913>

Free Summer Meals

For children ages 1-18, meals are provided all over Portland and the surrounding area. Visit <http://www.summerfoodoregon.org> or call 1-800-SAFENET for the site nearest you.

The Outpost

WANTED! Kids from Age 1 - 18 to receive free lunch! Fun activities, too! The Outpost is a FREE summer drop in activity and lunch program at Shute Park and Shadywood Park. <https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/index.aspx?page=906>

Food Not Bombs PDX

Free vegan community picnics in the local Portland area. We usually have plenty of whole wheat and gluten-free bread, produce & pastries to share at each serving for folks to take home! <https://www.facebook.com/Food-Not-Bombs-PDX-104789846291565>

Tucker Arts Camp

Tucker Arts Camp travels the world! Over the course of seven weeks, children experience arts, music, movement and cultures from diverse countries around the world at our beautiful SE

Portland campus. Our campus offers a large organic garden, chickens, goats, a rock-climbing wall, and plenty of space for children to be inspired by the natural world and enjoy fun in the summer sun. *Early registration ends April 15!* <http://www.tuckermaxon.org/artscamp/>

[Sherwood Robin Hood Festival](#)

July 17-19 in the Sherwood neighborhood, just outside of downtown Portland, an entire weekend festival is based on the original Robin Hood – there is a parade, archery contests, castle building competitions, a knighting ceremony, and much more! Free fun for the entire family! Visit: <http://www.robinhoodfestival.org/>

[Portland Farmer's Market](#)

Portland Farmer's Market offers a variety of fun activities for kids this summer, including live music, \$5 cooking classes with chefs from Culinary Arts Institute, a Market Play Zone at Buckman and King locations featuring free games and activities for youth, and scavenger hunts for children of all ages. Also, many of the Portland Farmers Market locations accept SNAP! See <http://www.portlandfarmersmarket.org/index.php/programs-and-services/kids-cook-at-the-market/> for more information.

[Lents International Farmers Market](#)

Discover the Power of Produce and have fun at Lents International Farmers Market this season! Food Scouts is our newest program at the market, for youth ages 5-12. Each week at the market, Food Scouts receive \$2 each to spend on fresh vegetables, fruit, or food producing plants. Scouts also earn badges and prizes by participating in educational activities at the market focused on a wide variety of subjects from nutrition, cooking, and food and culture to gardening, farming, food processing and more. There are take-home activities that children and families can do together during the week such as keeping a food diary or exploring kitchen chemistry. Parents and guardians can sign their children up for Food Scouts at the farmers market any Sunday!

<http://www.lentsfarmersmarket.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/lentsfarmersmarket>

[Portland Rose Festival](#)

From May 25-June 7, everyone in Portland loves the Rose Festival each summer and families especially love it because most of the activities are free. Check out the website for a full schedule of the parades, clown appearances, dragon boat races, and fireworks. For all the details, visit <http://www.rosefestival.org/>

[Tigard Balloon Festival](#)

June 26-28 at Cook Park in Tigard, they have balloon launches, a soccer tournament, carnival, live music, a classic car show, and many vendors. For more details, visit <http://www.tigardballoon.org/#day-one>

[Portland Children's Museum](#) Free on the first Friday of each month from 4:00 – 8:00 pm, \$10 annual membership for families who qualify at the main Children's Museum location (4015 SW Canyon Road)

The perfect spot to escape the hot Portland afternoon sun this summer – the Portland Children's Museum. Join them on Free First Fridays to let the kids play while you wait for your house to cool down. See <http://www.portlandcm.org/mission/access/> for more info.

Oregon Maritime Museum

When: Families get in free on the third Saturday of every month

Where: Near Waterfront Park in downtown Portland (SW Naito Parkway at Pine St)

If you have a little one who is obsessed with boats and pirates, you should add the free family day at the Oregon Maritime Museum to your summer calendar. You'll all love the hands-on Children's Corner – don't miss the super loud ship whistle!

Oregon Zoo

\$4 admission on the second Tuesday of each month! The Oregon Zoo also has summer day camps, and they offer tuition assistance for August camps. For more info, visit

<http://www.oregonzoo.org/discover/camps-classes-and-programs/summer-camp-2014>.

Summer Concerts

Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from June through September, fans of folk, rock, world music and more stake out spots on the zoo's amphitheater lawn, and enjoy performances from some of the hottest, most diverse acts performing today. Concert tickets include zoo admission on the day of the show! Check out the weekly schedule at <http://www.oregonzoo.org/visit/summer-concerts>

Story and Stroll and Muddy Boots Family Nature Club

Location: Tryon Creek Nature Center (11321 SW Terwilliger Blvd)

Designed for families with kids ages 2-6 (though all are welcome), Story and a Stroll is a fun free event that gets you outside and exploring one of Portland's best parks. The story is read by a park naturalist and is followed by a guided walk through the park that relates to the story. This program integrates nature exploration, art, literature, movement, and outdoor play. Visit their website for all the details, including registration information

<http://www.tryonfriends.org/learn/kids-scouts-families/>

BARK

Bark is awesome! Bark is the resource for community action to protect Mt. Hood National Forest and surrounding federal lands. We prioritize grassroots organizing and believe in the power of an engaged public. We recognize that the forest should thrive not just to provide resources for the human community, but also for the inherent value of nature itself.

Kid's night at Bark is a monthly event, hosted by some of our youngest Barkers! There will be games and activities designed by kids and each month we will watch a kid's environmental movie. This is for kids of ALL AGES! <http://bark-out.org/event/kids-night-bark-1>

Free educational hikes and events offered by Bark can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/barkout>, <http://bark-out.org/upcoming-events>

Oregon Parks Let's Go Camping Program

This program is for novice campers and folks who have not been camping for a long time. Each weekend during the Summer, we take a group camping in one of our state parks. The cost is only \$30 PER FAMILY for the weekend. We provide tents, sleeping bags and liners, mattress pads and camp stoves to campers who do not have their own. We camp as a group in a different state park each weekend. Every other weekend, we are camping in a park on the Oregon Coast. Staff and volunteers camp with these campers and are available to help them. Park rangers lead the group in educational and recreational activities at each park. Campers bring their own food but we provide dutch oven biscuits, fruit upside-down cakes, dutch oven cinnamon rolls and plenty of s'mores for everyone to enjoy around the campfire. We also do presentations to the campers on

Camping Basics, Leave No Trace, 10 Essentials of Hiking, Dutch oven cooking, as well as Fire Building and Safety. Each weekend is loaded with fun activities for the kids as well as the adults. Visit the website for the schedule of camping locations and register at http://www.oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=thingstodo.dsp_letsGoCamping

Kruger Farms Free Summer Concerts on Sauvie Island

Free outdoor concerts at Kruger Farms on Sauvie Island every Thursday evening in the summer. Schedule has not yet posted, check <http://www.krugersfarmmarket.com/> for updated information. Did you know that you can take Trimet to Sauvie Island? The #16 bus goes there!

THESE PROGRAMS ARE MORE EXPENSIVE, BUT HIGH QUALITY, AND ALL OFFER SOME FORM OF SCHOLARSHIP:

Trackers NW

Trackers Earth offers award-winning camps. They offer day camps fueled by compelling story and old school outdoor adventure. This summer they have camps on paintball, how to be a ninja, zombie apocalypse, archers, and secret agents. Some partial scholarships are available, apply here: <http://trackerspdx.com/scholarship-application.php#.U1VIEPldXA0>

Rewild Portland believes that environmental education is important for creating a sustainable future. At their camps children re-integrate the human component of participating in nature by making the things we need to live and survive from the elements of the natural world. Their 2016 summer camps offer children ages 5-11, opportunities for nature based learning and play. <http://www.rewildportland.com/>

OES Summer Programs

OES has Lego, Chess, Cooking, Arts, Drama, Sewing, Knitting as well as many outdoor and sports camps. For a full schedule visit <http://www.oes.edu/page.cfm?p=484>

PDX Kids Calendar Summer Camps Guide

Follow this link for even more summer camp ideas.

<http://www.metro-parent.com/portland-summer-camps-guide/>

Audubon Society

The Audubon Society provides day and overnight camps for children in grades 2-12. Some examples this year include learning to fish, animal tracking, Jurassic Portland, Northwest Canoe Adventure. Ask about scholarships, they are not advertised but they are available.

Mother Earth School Summer Camp

Mother Earth School summer camps are taught by Waldorf-trained or Waldorf-inspired teachers on urban farms in both SW and SE Portland. Both of our locations provide organic gardens, enchanting forests, farm animals, outdoor kitchens, compost toilet facilities, running water, and covered eating areas. Each week children participate in nature-based crafts and empowering activities such as gardening, food harvesting & preservation, cooking, making herbal remedies, crafting, natural building, woodworking, or forest exploration. They spend time each day with the farm animals, in the gardens and immersed in the surrounding forest, singing and hearing stories about the native plants, animals and customs indigenous to this landscape.

*We are committed to making our programs available to families regardless of economic status. There are a limited amount of need-based scholarships available.

http://www.motherearthschool.com/summer_camp.shtml

<https://motherearth-school.squarespace.com/>

[Community Cycling Center Bike Camp](#)

Bike Camp brings kids in grades 1-8 together for a summer of bike adventures, learning, and friendship. Campers learn how to ride safely and maintain their bikes in a supportive, hands-on environment. At Bike Camp, kids build confidence, skills, and a life-long love of biking.

Scholarships: Campers who qualify for free or reduced lunch at school are eligible for our limited number of scholarships. <http://www.communitycyclingcenter.org/community/bike-camp/>

[OMSI Camps](#)

OMSI has a variety of day and overnight camps involving science and nature for grades K-12, as well as family camping trips! This summer they have camps on Lego Robotics, river rafting, desert and ocean trips, paleontology, and so much more! Scholarships are available, and can cover up to \$515 per camper per year. Information is available at:

<http://programs.oms.edu/camps-and-classes>

[Saturday Academy](#)

Saturday Academy has a wide variety of classes and day camps for children of all ages at a variety of locations, with subjects ranging from music, art and theater, to science and mathematics. They are committed to making financial aid available to families earning under \$54,000 a year and award aid for one camp per registrant based on a sliding scale model. More information here:

<http://www.saturdayacademy.org/classes-camps>

[Oregon College of Art and Craft Youth Programs](#)

Oregon College of Art and Craft offers a wide variety of high quality, interactive classes, camps and workshops in all kinds of art media for kids from 18 months to 18 years, and also offers family workshops. <https://ocac.edu/community-programs/youth-programs>

[Camp Westwind](#)

Located at a beautiful site on the Oregon coast (near Lincoln City) and operated by the YWCA.

They have a stated value of making camps accessible to as many people as possible and will offer scholarships based on need. More info here: <http://westwind.org/camps/>

[Camp Namanu](#)

Our summer programs keep kids exploring and learning during the out-of-school months. These programs all work to battle the “summer learning slide” (the loss of learning and skills during idle summer months) while immersing youth in unique hands-on adventures that turn the world into their classroom. Camp Namanu lights a spark in thousands of youth every year, keeping them learning all summer long! Our Namanu Ranch and Resident Camps are designed for kids aged 7-17, and our Day Camp is available starting at age 5.

<http://campfirecolumbia.org/summer-programs/camp-namanu/>

[Zenger Farm Summer Camp](#)

Campers will harvest from the field, cook and craft in our new Urban Grange, and explore our farm and wetlands. Camp activities include digging in the Children’s Gardens, creating plant potions,

adventuring on the farm, and enjoying the ripest of fruits! Need-based scholarships, Extended Day, and sibling discounts are available. <http://www.zengerfarm.org/index.php?page=Summer-Camp>

[Oregon Zoo Summer Camps](#)

At Oregon Zoo summer camps, children 4 years old to youth entering eighth grade explore the habits and daily lives of some of the zoo's residents. Each week-long camp includes a lot of learning and fun, with crafts, songs, stories, snacks, animal visitors and in-depth tours of the zoo. Regular summer zoo events and shows are incorporated into camp each week. Students are grouped by the grade they are entering school for fall 2016.

<http://www.oregonzoo.org/events/summer-day-camps>

[Cascade Mountain School](#)

Cascade Mountain School is an outdoor science school located at the base of Mt. Adams, in the Columbia River Gorge about 1.5 hours drive from Portland, Oregon. Our programs are for outdoor enthusiasts, science lovers, multi-sport adventure junkies, and everyone in between. Students come from all over the country to explore with us. We offer custom programs throughout the calendar year, summer camps for K-12 students, adult workshops, teacher trainings, and a high school Semester School during the fall academic term. All of our programs include outdoor adventure, gobs of fun, service, and hands-on learning! <http://www.cascademountainschool.org/>
<http://www.cascademountainschool.org/#!/full-class-list/yh4hl>

[Camp Meadowood Springs](#)

A unique summer camp experience for children with social learning and communications challenges and their neurotypical peers/siblings. <http://meadowoodsprings.org/>

[WILLOWBROOK ARTS CAMP](#)

Summer day camp providing opportunities to develop creative potential through experiences Arts and Environmental studies. <http://willowbrookartscamp.org/tour>

FOR TEENS

[Hands On Portland](#)

Hands on Portland has a teen volunteer program with lots of great suggestions for keeping those older kids busy this summer! http://www.handsonportland.org/Teen_Volunteering

[Portland Parks and Recreation is Hiring](#)

Get paid this summer! Day Camp Counselor positions are available for youth 15 years and up. See <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/433603> for more information.

[OMSI Teen Science Volunteers](#)

The application deadline is May 1, 2015. Visit <https://www.oms.edu/youthvolunteers>

[Volunteer at the Oregon Zoo](#)

Youth ages ten and up may volunteer at the Oregon Zoo! Check out their webpage for a list of the various opportunities. <http://www.oregonzoo.org/get-involved/volunteer-zoo>

[Boys and Girls Clubs](#)

Boys and Girls Clubs have a number of Portland locations with summer opportunities for teens ranging from social events to skill-building and career exploration. For more information, visit: <http://bgcportland.org/>

[Lents Youth Initiative](#)

Lents Youth Initiative (LYI) was launched in 2015 by ROSE CDC and OPAL Environmental Justice to bring together youth ages 13-21 from Lents and surrounding neighborhoods for leadership, hands on skill building, and training in environmental justice and community organizing. In the summer of 2015, LYI youth interns were hired to work alongside neighborhood partners on projects that improved food security, built community connections, cared for the environment, and impacted community livability. Projects included recycling, homemade soda, and kids activities the Lents Street Fair, depaving 1260 sq ft of a parking lot for a new bioswale, collecting pollinator data, harvesting food, exploring the neighborhood by bike, and organizing a community Multi-Cultural Fair. <http://rosecdc.org/lents-youth-initiative/> , <https://www.facebook.com/LentsYouthInitiative/>

[2016 Next Generation Climate Justice Action Camp](#)

This summer, the Civil Liberties Defense Center is hosting the third annual action camp for young people ages 14-18 to gain knowledge and skills to organize for climate justice! The camp will include a youth led public event focused on a climate justice campaign! The camp will be from Tuesday July 12th-19th, 2016! People should plan on being at the campsite at noon on Tuesday, July 12th and depart by noon Tuesday, July 19th. The camp is being held at Apserkaha Park at Howard Prairie Lake, 40 minutes east of Ashland. The Camp registration fee is \$150.00, but no one will be turned away if they can't afford the fee. We have full and partial scholarships to cover the registration cost and we even try to provide transportation to everyone who needs it. <https://cldc.org/2016/02/16/2016-ngcjac/>

[City of Portland Teen Force](#)

Portland Parks and Rec have created specialized programming for teens, including volunteerism, work, nature and outdoors, and swimming programs. See <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/44322> for more information!

[Summer Nature Day Camp Teacher Apprenticeship](#)

Summer Nature Day Camp is offering (for the first time ever) an apprenticeship volunteer program so that you can gain valuable job experience, and play with kids in nature! This is a great stepping stone for becoming staff at Summer Nature Day Camp. Bonus – you get a staff t-shirt and small group job skills training with Jill and other Nature Day Camp Staff! You can volunteer for a week of camp, or multiple weeks.

If you are interested in the Teacher Apprenticeship Program: Contact Chrissy Larson: 503-823-1149 or chrissy.larson@portlandoregon.gov

[Youth Conservation Crew](#)

Love getting paid to work outside? The Youth Conservation Crew is hiring for summer jobs! You can apply to the No Ivy League, the Trees Crew, the Trails Crew, or the Teen Naturalist Team. Find applications here: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/ycc>. Applications are due **May 9th**.

[Community Center and Summer Camp staff](#)

Community Centers hire staff for all sorts of fun camps in the summer! You could work in a community center, in a park, with kids, with sports, with art... there are lots of opportunities! More information can be found here: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/484636>.

[Trackers Leadership in Training program](#)

Gain leadership and outdoor survival skills during a 1-week training program. Learn more by visiting Tracker's website at

<http://trackerspdx.com/youth/summer-camp/residential-overnight/junior-counselor-in-training-program.php>

[Greenspaces Restoration & Urban Naturalist Team \(GRUNT\)](#)

GRUNT is a volunteer naturalist and job skills program that leads to paid work and long-term career counseling. GRUNT's goal is to diversify the environmental field by getting urban teens interested in nature, and providing the job skills and work experiences they will need to be successful. We begin with a volunteer naturalist training program, then build on skills and knowledge with paid summer work and school-year internships. All graduates are eligible for ongoing access to resources, including resume help, career counseling, and networking for jobs within PP&R. For more information, visit <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/64362>

Keep an eye on the **[Red Tricycle Family Events Calendar](#)** as well for more free activities that pop up throughout the summer.