

## FREE AND LOW COST SUMMER ACTIVITIES



1. **Clark Park Summer** 43rd and Baltimore. Shakespeare in the Park free performances. This year will be performed on July 25-29, 2018. Free. For more information- [www.friendsofclarkpark.org](http://www.friendsofclarkpark.org)
2. **2018 Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival** May 01, 2018 - June 30, 2018 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. For questions and more information, call 215-629-5801 Franklin Square-Race Street Between 6th and 7th Streets Philadelphia PA 19106. The Chinese Lantern Festival is a celebration of light and culture that features artisans from China and the Philadelphia region. For seven weeks, Franklin Square will glow with more than 25 larger-than-life illuminated displays of giant flowers, a three-story pagoda, a huge Chinese dragon and much more, created using traditional Chinese methods with thousands of LED lights in brilliant colors. Enjoy daily performances, food, crafts by working artists, Mini Golf or a ride on the Parx Liberty Carousel. Admission to Franklin Square remains completely free before 5 p.m. After 6 p.m., tickets are required to enter the square and the Chinese Lantern Festival. After 6 p.m., \$17 adults, \$12 youth (17 and under), \$15 senior/military. For additional information- [www.historicphiladelphia.org/chineselanternfestival](http://www.historicphiladelphia.org/chineselanternfestival)

- 3. Spruce Street Harbor Park** Spruce Street Harbor Park, one of the Delaware River waterfront's most popular attractions, opens for the season on Friday, May 11. Food and drinks from local chefs, dozens of colorful hammocks, oversized games and plenty of space for lounging along the waterfront. Walnut and Market Streets at Columbus Boulevard. Lauded as one of the best urban beaches in America. Free and Open to the Public. Read more: <http://www.visitphilly.com/outdooractivities/philadelphia/spruce-street-harbor-park/>.
- 4. Once Upon A Nation Historical** Reenactments Greet the History Makers and hear moving readings from the Declaration of Independence. Take place in Independence Square, directly behind Independence Hall. Enjoy a light-hearted adventure where kids of all ages will help animal puppets search for a missing copy of the Declaration of Independence. Along the way, find a runaway dog, Freedom and meet helpful two-legged and four-legged friends such as Francois the Frog, Graciela the Goose, Nibbles the Mouse, and Broadside the Cat. The show takes place behind Carpenters' Hall, 320 Chestnut Street May 27 – June 10, 11:30 am & 1 pm, Saturdays June 16 – July 22, 11:30 am & 1 pm, Fridays and Saturdays. Free **FOR ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND TIMES** <http://historicphiladelphia.org/freeprograms/>
- 5. The Woodlands is a National Historic Landmark District** on the west bank of the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. 4000 Woodland Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19104 (215) 386-2181 includes a Federal-style mansion, a matching carriage house and stable, and a garden landscape that in 1840 was transformed into a Victorian rural cemetery with an arboretum of over 1,000 trees. More than 30,000 people including many historians are buried at the cemetery.
- 6. South Street Spring Festival and Maifest Saturday, May 5, 2018** Multiple blocks of South Street close down to traffic and open to festival goers for the huge South Street Spring Festival and Maifest. More than 30 food and drink vendors, dozens of local shops, music stages and hands-on entertainment line Front to 8th streets on South Street.

- 7. FREE Summer Roller Skating for Kids** Keep kids 15 and younger active and entertained when you sign them up for the Kids Skate Free program, where they'll receive weekly passes for FREE roller-skating sessions (skate rentals not included) on select days and times. International Sports, Skating & Fun Centre, Cherry Hill, NJ International Sports, Skating & Fun Centre, Mt. Laurel, NJ. Register at [KidsSkateFree.com](http://KidsSkateFree.com)
- 8. PECO Multicultural Summer Festival Series- Place: Great Plaza at Penn's Landing, 101 S. Columbus Boulevard 06/04 – 09/17** Multicultural Summer Festival Series, a succession of outdoor festivals that celebrate cultural traditions from across the globe. Check website for event times and dates. <http://www.delawareriverwaterfront.com/events/peco-multicultural-festival-series>.
- 9. Celebration of Black Arts Festival** – 2018 Celebration of Black Arts Festival May 1 through May 31 Mainly at Art Sanctuary 628 S. 16th St. is a month-long celebration of African-American literature and art that features an array of events welcoming all ages, backgrounds and interests. <https://phillyfunguide.com/>
- 10. Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse**, located at 3500 Reservoir Drive Philadelphia, PA 19121-(215) 765-4325 [info@smithplayground.org](mailto:info@smithplayground.org) has been a treasured destination for over 100 years. There are indoor and outdoor play opportunities for children 10 and under. April 1 through September 30 Tuesday – Friday 10am – 6pm /Saturday – Sunday 10am – 7pm
- 11. Home Depot Kids Workshop** is a free class for children ages 5-12. It is held the first Saturday (April 7, May5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6 )of the month in Home Depot stores across the country. Projects include fire trucks, birdhouses, picture frames, toolboxes, mail organizers, race cars, planters and more. **Visit Home Depot Weekly Workshops and click on the Kids Workshops tab to view the project for the upcoming Home Depot**

**12. Michaels' Craft** Classes for Kids host free craft classes for kids several times a month on the weekend. The Free classes for kids at Michaels' include all kinds of craft projects that are often holiday themed oriented. **Visit Michaels Store Events scroll down to see all the events that will be happening at Michaels this summer.**

**13. LEGO Stores** offer free monthly mini model builds for children ages 6-14. At this free event, children will learn how to build a mini model and then take home the free LEGOs used to complete it. Space is limited. The local Lego Store is located at King of Prussia Mall 160 N. Gulph Rd - Space 1150 King of Prussia PA 19406-2911 610-337-3203. **For additional information visit- [www.lego.com](http://www.lego.com)**

**14. Philadelphia's First outdoor roller rink** will take place at 101 S. Columbus Boulevard. (During the winter it is Blue Cross RiverRink) In addition to skating, there will be a boathouse-styled Lodge, a play area for kids, food, and summer events throughout the season. Opening Memorial Day weekend. Summerfest will be free and open to the public daily through the end of September. \$3.00 admission \$10 skate rental Admission is free for all Independence Blue Cross cardholders and employees

**15. Apple Camp-** This free three-day workshop held at the Apple Store is for children ages 8-12. Campers learn can expand their digital creativity through hands-on projects with experts at Apple. Campers choose one of three tracks, and then spend 90 minutes a day for three days at a local Apple Store immersed in the subject of their choice. At the end of the session, campers debut their masterpieces at the Apple Camp Film Festival. **Registration and additional information: <https://www.apple.com/retail/learn/youth> Kids ages 8 to 12**

**16. Italian Market Street Festival-** Everyone is Italian on May 19 & 20, 2018, when the nation's oldest outdoor market celebrates the annual Italian Market

Festival. Procession of Saints, Music and a variety of ethnic food. **For additional information: <https://phillyfunguide.com/culinary/italian-market-visitor-center> or telephone- Italian Market Visitor Center 215-278-2903.**

**17. Barnes Museum First Sundays** 2025 Benjamin Franklin Parkway Philadelphia PA 19130 On the first Sunday of every month, enjoy free admission, family entertainment and informative seminars from 10 am to 6 pm. Free tickets can be obtained at the Barnes Foundation beginning at 9 am. Advance reservations are not available for Free First Sundays. This offer is limited to tickets for two adults and two children per transaction. Tickets are limited and available on a first come-first served basis. Tickets include access to the Collection gallery, special exhibition and any programming taking place that day. **[Additional Information-www.visitphilly.com](http://www.visitphilly.com)**

**18. Science At Play- Science History Institute** formerly the **Chemical Heritage Foundation** 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 Monday-Friday 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. Science at Play, the first major museum exhibition to explore the many facets of these miniature laboratories for children, draws from the Chemical Heritage Foundation's collection of more than 250 science kits and toys. **For additional information [www.chemheritage.org](http://www.chemheritage.org) or call 215.925.2222**

**19. Independence National Historical Park- Most sites between 5th & 6th Sts. and Market & Chestnut Sts. Philadelphia, PA 19106** The Liberty 360 show, a 15-min., 3-D experience about American symbols, runs several times daily at the Historic Philadelphia Center (6th & Chestnut Sts.). Start at the Independence Visitor Center (6th & Market Sts.) **to get your free tickets** for tours of Independence Hall (5th & Chestnut Sts.), where the Declaration of Independence & U.S. Constitution were debated, adopted and signed. No tickets are required to see the Liberty Bell (6th & Market Sts.). **For more information- [www.nps.gov/inde](http://www.nps.gov/inde)**

- 20. Valley Forge National Historical Park** 1400 North Outer Line Dr. King of Prussia, PA 19406 Many historical sites and nature walks. For more information call-**610-783-1077**
- 21. Edgar Allan Poe House** (1809-1849), one of America's most original writers, lived in this red brick home with his wife, Virginia, and his mother-in-law, Maria Clemm. During that time, he penned The Black Cat, which describes a basement eerily similar to the one here. Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9-5. Admission is Free. **532 N. 7th Street Philadelphia, PA 19123 (215) 597-8780.**
- 22. Elfreth's Alley** Visit the nation's oldest continuously inhabited residential street. Off N. 2nd Street between Arch & Race Streets. Friday through Sunday Noon to 5 PM. Guided tours are 5.00. **Homes are open to the public on Fete Day. Museum Shop-** 215.574.0560
- 23. Bartram's Garden** This historic garden along the Schuylkill River was once the home of pioneering 18th century botanist John Bartram. Explore Bartram's former house & farm buildings, along with the surrounding gardens, meadows & wetlands. 5400 Lindberg Blvd. Phila, PA 19143 215-729-5281. Admission is Free.
- 24. Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education** 8480 Hagy's Mill Rd. Phila., PA 215-482-7300 Dig, build, craft, and meet others in the community! Please dress for the weather – rain or shine. Free
- 25. Wissahickon Environmental Center** This Fairmount Park nature center, also known as 'the Tree House,' features a native fish aquarium & children's activity center. Pick up a trail map for exploring the surrounding Andorra Natural Area. The Center hosts kids & family programs.300 Northwestern Ave. Phila., PA 19118 Telephone-215-685-9285

**26. Fishing with Friends Penn's Landing Pier 68** Fishing with Friends will take place once a month on Sundays from June-September. Learn the fundamentals of fishing, how to properly catch and release, and study River conservation with partner Todd Pride of the Mid-Atlantic Youth Anglers & Outdoors Program. Free. All ages welcome.

**27. Splash Pads and Sprinkers- *Spraygrounds*** are located in playgrounds throughout the city. **For additional information including locations:** <http://planphilly.com/articles/2013/07/16/beat-the-heat-wave-pools-spraygrounds-and-splash-pads>

**28. Philadelphia, PA 19143 (215) 729-5281 [info@bartramsgarden.org](mailto:info@bartramsgarden.org)** Free public boating is available every Saturday, at the Bartram's Garden Community Boathouse, located at the base of the Bartram's Garden meadow. No experience necessary and all are welcome. Each excursion lasts 30 minutes and boaters must stay in a designated area off the banks of the Garden. Rods and tackle are available to borrow, free of charge, from the Welcome Center at Bartram's Garden (open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat-Sun 10am-6pm). Equipment may be borrowed for up to a week at a time.

**29. The Franklin Institute** is pleased to present Community Nights! Everyone is welcome to join in the fun at these FREE educational and fun-filled science extravaganzas that include The Franklin Institute's famous exhibitions, special programs, and themed activities. Community Nights are from 5:00-8:00 pm, on the third Wednesday of the month ( April 24, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18) unless otherwise specified. **Admission is free** and there is no need to pre-register. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Check in at the registration table for a chance to win a free Family Membership!

**30. Wissahickon Valley Park.** Fish, bike, or hike the beautiful park. More than 50 miles of rugged trails offer hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians the opportunity to explore the park's dense forests, open meadows, and shaded creeks. Because Wissahickon Valley Park is so large, there is not a single street address for it. There are several entrances with free parking throughout the park, which can be seen on this Google Map. To look for a landmark to find your way to the park, search for "Valley Green Inn." The Inn is in the center of the park and has parking nearby. You may find more information on Friends of The Wissahickon at [www.fow.org](http://www.fow.org)

**31. East Coast Black Age of Comics Convention-** The Tech Freire Charter School 2221 North Broad St. Philadelphia, PA 347-400-1415 May 20<sup>th</sup>- 11AM to 7 PM This is a comic-book marketplace filled with artists, writers, comic books, sci-fi novels, posters, memorabilia, games and action figures. [www.ecbacc.com](http://www.ecbacc.com) for additional information.

**32. South Street Spring Festival** The South Street Headhouse District is the City of Brotherly Love's destination for eclectic food, great retail, and diverse arts and culture. South Street, between Front and 11th Street, and along numbered streets from Lombard to Bainbridge Street, and down 4th Street from Lombard to Christian Streets. Bike rentals, dining, festivals. Weekly Sunday Farmer's Market.

**33. The Wagner Institute's nineteenth century exhibit hall** 1700 West Montgomery Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19121– 215-763-6529 A soaring three-story space – houses an extraordinary collection of natural history specimens including mounted birds and mammals, fossils, rocks and minerals, insects, shells, dinosaur bones, and the first American saber-toothed tiger, discovered on a museum-sponsored expedition to Florida in 1886. Highlights include William Wagner's personal mineral collection The mounted skeletons, skulls and skins represent species from around the globe, including many that are now endangered. Originally assembled to teach science, the specimens are

arranged for study. The Museum is open to visitors Tuesday through Friday 9 AM to 4 PM for self-guided tours.

- 34. Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts-** Thursday, May 31, 2018 - June 10, 2018 The Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA) officially kicks off at the end of May with the 2018 PIFA GALA at the Kimmel Center. The gala serves as the celebratory start of the arts-fueled festival, which consists of one-of-a-kind performances, a giant street fair on Broad Street, an aerial dance party and more. **Where: Various locations including the Kimmel Center, 300 S. Broad Street**
- 35. John Heinz Wildlife Refuge-** John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum **8601** Lindbergh Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19153 office 215-365-3118 The largest remaining freshwater tidal wetland" in Pennsylvania. Entrance is free to all, which provides your family with opportunities for hiking, biking, canoeing, fishing, animal watching, and environmental education. johnheinznwr@fws.gov

## ACTIVITIES WITH FEES

1. **Paddle Penn's Landing** is opening on the weekends with limited hours starting Friday, May 6. Regular schedule (7 days a week) begins on Friday, May 27. Swan-boats, Kayaks, Rowboats 10.00 hour.
2. **Boat House Row Bike Rental** Located conveniently between Boathouse Row and Lloyd Hall in East Fairmount Park, Wheel Fun Rentals encourages park exploration with a range of vehicles, from Surreys to cruiser bikes. Bikes 6-12 hour.
3. **The Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum** is an automotive museum with the world's largest collection of racing cars. Located at 6825 Norwitch Drive in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19153 Telephone- 215.365.7233 Hours of Operation: Tuesday – Friday 10:00am to 6:00pm,

Saturday – Sunday 10:00am to 4:00pm. General Admission is 12.00  
<http://www.simeonemuseum.org>

4. **LEGOLAND®** Discovery Center Philadelphia Plymouth Meeting Mall, Unit #1055 500 West Germantown Pike Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 will unlock imaginations as wannabe builders dive into an interactive world of hands-on play. Iconic Philadelphia landmarks created from millions of LEGO bricks in MiniLand, Play Zones with an almost unlimited supply of LEGO bricks, a kid-friendly ride and 4-D cinema will keep children and parents entertained for hours at this indoor playground. **Online price from \$19.00 Walk up Price \$24.00**
  
5. **Amish Country Backroads Bus Tour** Field Trip -Address Amish Village Backroads Bus Tour 199 Hartman Bridge Road Ronks (Strasburg), PA 17572 2395 This 90-minute tour gives you a close-up look at Amish lifestyle. Tour Guide (driver) will share information on area history, culture, local stories, and more. See Amish schoolhouses, buggies, barns, beautiful farmland vistas, and historic homesteads. Included in the tour is also a self-guided walking tour of a 15-acre farm. Historic farm has exhibits, animals, an Amish-built one-room schoolhouse, centuries old covered bridge and more. **Primary - (717) 687-8511**  
<http://www.theamishvillage.net/> **Adult \$23.00 /Children 0-12 \$16.00**
  
6. **Betsey Ross House** – Tour the home where Betsey Ross sewed the first flag. Take a kid-friendly audio tour any day the museum is open, for \$5 including admission. 239 Arch St. Philadelphia, PA 19106 215-629-4026  
[www.betsyrosshouse.org](http://www.betsyrosshouse.org)
  
7. **Philadelphia Honey Festival HONEY HAPPY HOUR!** 5-9 pm; suggested donation \$10 adult, \$5 under 21. Following locations: Glen Foerd on the Delaware, Grant Avenue and Milnor Street, Philadelphia PA 19114( 2) Wyck Historic House, Garden, Farm, 6026 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144 and Bartram’s Garden, 5400 Lindbergh Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19143 For more information-  
<https://phillyhoneyfest.com>

8. **Philadelphia International Children's Festival** Thursday, May 17 - 19, 2018  
Performances made for children are the focal point of the Philadelphia International Children's Festival, Performances range from circus arts to an imaginative show featuring a giant, costumed dragon. Outside of the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts (the festival venue), kids can take part in hands-on activities and enjoy eats from a roster of food trucks. Where: Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street 215.898.3900. Ticket prices vary by show and include most PlazaMania activities. Additional charge for face painting and food.
  
9. **Sail Philadelphia** Thursday, May 24 - 28, 2018- This Memorial Day weekend, take to the Delaware River waterfront to check out Sail Philadelphia, a festival celebrating impressive ships and Philly's nautical past, present and future. From May 24 to 28, 12 Tall Ships will dock at Penn's Landing where guests can embark on tours of the impressive ships, day sails and on-the-ground fun. Where: Penn's Landing, 101 S. Christopher Columbus Boulevard
  
10. **Mütter Museum** -America's finest museum of medical history, the Mütter Museum displays its beautifully preserved collections of anatomical specimens, models, and medical instruments in a nineteenth-century "cabinet museum" setting. The goal of the Museum is to help visitors understand the mysteries and beauty of the human body and appreciate the history of diagnosis and treatment of disease. The Mütter Museum and the Penn Museum offer dual admission for sale only at the front desk of both museums. Adult \$26 Student\*, Youth (6-17) \$16
  
11. **Inflatable Fun** Citizens Bank Park | June 23rd 2018 The Inflatable Run & Festival. A fun family event featuring a kid-friendly 1 mile / 5k inflatable obstacle course, free family activities, live entertainment, thrilling inflatable attractions, delicious food truck vendors, and many more fun surprises. Festival Adult Admission \$ 25.00 Children 0-12 FREE

## DISCOUNTED TICKETS

1. \*\*\*\*\*If you belong to Bank of America, show your credit or check card and photo ID to receive free admission to participating attractions nationwide on the first weekend of every month.

Museums in program: Philadelphia Museum of Art, National Constitution Center, African American Museum in Philadelphia, National Museum of American Jewish History, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts

2. Half price tickets for many events and museums are available at [Phillyfunguide.com](http://Phillyfunguide.com)
3. Discounted tickets to shows and concerts available at [Phillyonthecheap.com](http://Phillyonthecheap.com)
4. [Groupon.com](http://Groupon.com) many discounts available for adult and children activities.