



## Free and Low-Cost Activities

There are many opportunities in the Twin Cities Metro Area for free and low-cost activities with your family. Below is a listing by categories and for details see the following alphabetical listing.

### Activity & Recreation

- Chanhassen Recreation Center
- Chaska Community Center
- Creative Kidstuff Store
- Eden Prairie Center Indoor Play Area
- Edina Parks
- Home Depot Kid's Workshops
- Jumps and Downs
- Legoland – Mall of America
- Lowe's Build and Grow Clinics
- Mall of America Toddler Tuesdays
- Midtown Global Market
- Pump It Up
- Safari Island
- St. Paul Saints

### Community Activities

- Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)
- Farmer's Markets
- Story Time at your local public library
- Summer Concerts, community celebrations, town baseball

### Landmarks

- Foshay Tower Observation Deck
- Governor's Residence
- Minnesota State Capitol
- Wabasha Street Cave Tours

### Museums

- American Swedish Institute
- The Bakken Museum
- Bell Museum
- Carver County Historical Society
- Mill City Museum
- Minneapolis Institute of Arts
- Minnesota Children's Museum
- Minnesota History Center
- Museum Adventure Pass
- Science Museum of Minnesota
- Walker Art Center
- Weisman Art Museum – U of MN
- Wells Fargo History Museum
- The Works Science and Technology Museum

### Music and Movies

- Lake Harriet Bandstand
- Mall of America Free Family Flicks
- Minnesota Orchestra
- Minnesota Sinfonia
- Movies in the Park

### Parks and Zoos

- Carver County Parks
- Como Zoo and Conservatory
- Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary
- Minneapolis Sculpture Garden
- Minnehaha Park and Falls
- Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
- Minnesota State Parks
- Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center
- Minnesota Zoo
- Normandale Community College Japanese Garden
- Raptor Center
- SEA LIFE Minnesota
- Three Rivers Park District
- Woodlake Nature Center

### Theaters

- Children's Theatre Company
- In the Heart of the Beast Puppet Theatre
- Old Log Theater
- Stages Theatre Company
- Youth Performance Company

### Trains, Streetcars & Trolleys

- Choo Choo Bob's Train Store
- Como-Harriet Streetcar Line
- Excelsior Streetcar Line
- Hennepin Overland Railway Historical Society
- Trains at Bandana – Model Railroad Museum

**American Swedish Institute**

[www.asimn.org](http://www.asimn.org)

Minneapolis - 612-871-4907

Adults \$6, Ages 6-18 \$4, Free Under 6

**The Bakken Museum**

[www.thebakken.org](http://www.thebakken.org)

Minneapolis - 612-926-3878

Adults \$7, Students \$5, Free 3 and Under

**Bell Museum**

[www.bellmuseum.org](http://www.bellmuseum.org)

Minneapolis - 612-624-7083

Adults \$6, Ages 3-16 \$4, Free Under 3

Free on Sundays Noon-5

**Carver County Historical Society**

[www.carvercounthistoricalsociety.org](http://www.carvercounthistoricalsociety.org)

Waconia - 952-442-4234

Free

**Carver County Parks**

<http://www.co.carver.mn.us/parks/>

952-466-5250

\$5 per car

**Chanhassen Recreation Center**

[www.ci.chanhassen.mn.us/parks](http://www.ci.chanhassen.mn.us/parks)

Chanhassen - 952-227-1400

Residents 10/\$30, Non-residents 10/\$35

**Chaska Community Center**

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

Chaska - 952-448-5633

Residents - Adults \$6.75, Youth \$5.50

Non-Residents - Adults \$8.75, Youth \$7.50

Family Free Day 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month

Chaska Resident families: Free

Non- Resident family: one free with one paid

First Thursday of the month

CCC member can bring a friend for free

**Children's Theatre Company**

[www.childrenstheatre.org](http://www.childrenstheatre.org)

Minneapolis - 612-874-0400

Admission varies, call for more information about Pay

What You Can Performances

**Choo Choo Bob's Train Store**

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

St. Paul - 651-646-5252

Free interactive train tables, free story times

**Como Zoo and Conservatory**

[www.comozooconservatory.org](http://www.comozooconservatory.org)

St. Paul - 651-487-8200

Free, voluntary donation

Carousel (summer only) \$1.50

**Como-Harriet Streetcar Line**

[www.trolleyride.org](http://www.trolleyride.org)

Minneapolis - 952-922-1096

Adults \$2, 3 and Under Free

**Creative Kidstuff Store**

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

St. Louis Park - 952-540-0022

Free toddler playtime Wednesday a.m.

Free storytime Thursday a.m.

**Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)**

Eastern Carver County - 952-556-6224

Norwood Young America - 952-467-7390

Waconia - 952-442-0613

Watertown Mayer - 952-955-0280

**Eden Prairie Center Indoor Play Area**

952-941-7650

Free

**Edina Parks**

[www.ci.edina.mn.us](http://www.ci.edina.mn.us)

Centennial Lakes Park - 952-833-9580

Park Free, Paddleboats and mini-golf for a fee

Edinburgh Park - 952-833-9540

Play Park \$6, Pool \$6

**Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary**

[www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org)

Minneapolis - 612-370-4903

Open April - October

Free

**Excelsior Streetcar Line**

[www.trolleyride.org](http://www.trolleyride.org)

Excelsior - 952-922-1096

\$2, 3 and Under Free

**Farmer's Markets**

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

Check out site for markets near you

**Foshay Tower Observation Deck**

Minneapolis - 612-215-3783

Adults \$8, Seniors \$5, 12 and Under Free

**Governor's Residence**

[www.admin.state.mn.us/govres/index.html](http://www.admin.state.mn.us/govres/index.html)

St. Paul - 651-201-3464

Free tours – call for dates

**Hennepin Overland Railway Historical Society**

[www.hennepinoverland.org](http://www.hennepinoverland.org)

Minneapolis - 612-276-9034

\$5 per person, \$10 per family

**Home Depot Kid's Workshops**

[www.homeimproverclub.com/kidsworkshops.aspx](http://www.homeimproverclub.com/kidsworkshops.aspx)

Designed for ages 5-12, first Sat. 9 a.m. -noon

Free

**In the Heart of the Beast Puppet Theatre**

[www.hobt.org](http://www.hobt.org)

Minneapolis - 612-721-2535

Saturday a.m. puppet shows \$4 donation

Workshops \$3-5

Call for Pay What You Can performance info

**Jumps and Downs**

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

Shakopee - 952-405-8354

Child \$7, Parents Free

Toddler Thursdays

**Lake Harriet Bandstand**

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

Minneapolis - 612-230-6400

Free Summer Concerts

**Legoland – Mall of America**

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

Bloomington - 952-858-8949

Free

**Lowe's Build and Grow Clinics**

[lowesbuildandgrow.com/](http://lowesbuildandgrow.com/)

Saturdays 10 a.m.

Free

**Mall of America Free Family Flicks**

[www.theatres.moa.com](http://www.theatres.moa.com)

Bloomington - 952-883-8900

Saturday 10 a.m.

Free

**Mall of America Toddler Tuesdays**

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

Bloomington

Free events, Kids Eat Free

**Midtown Global Market**

[www.midtownglobalmarket.org](http://www.midtownglobalmarket.org)

Minneapolis - 612-872-4041

Free play area, Free art project, entertainment etc.

**Mill City Museum**

[www.millcitymuseum.org](http://www.millcitymuseum.org)

Minneapolis - 612-341-7555

Adults \$11, Ages 6-17 \$6, 5 and Under Free

**Minneapolis Institute of Arts**

[www.artsmia.org](http://www.artsmia.org)

Minneapolis - 612-870-3000

Special arts activities, programming and more 2<sup>nd</sup>

Sunday of the month

Free

**Minneapolis Sculpture Garden**

[www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org)

Minneapolis - 612-230-6400

Free

**Minnehaha Park and Falls**

[www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org)

Minneapolis - 612-230-6400

Free

**Minnesota Children's Museum**

[www.mcm.org](http://www.mcm.org)

St. Paul - 651-225-6000

\$8.95, Under 1 free

Target Free 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month

**Minnesota History Center**

[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)

St. Paul - 651-259-3000

Adults \$11, Children 6-17 \$6, 5 and Under Free

**Minnesota Landscape Arboretum**

[www.arboretum.umn.edu](http://www.arboretum.umn.edu)

Chanhassen - 952-443-1400

Adults \$9, Children 15 and Under Free

November-April - Free Thursdays all day

May-October - Free 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday after 4:30

April-September 2 for 1 admission after 4:30 on all other

Thursdays

**Minnesota Orchestra**

[www.minnesotaorchestra.org](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org)

Minneapolis - 612-371-5656

Kinder Konzerts \$5, Young People Concerts \$6

Target Free Family Concerts

**Minnesota Sinfonia**

[www.mnsinfonia.org](http://www.mnsinfonia.org)

Concerts around the metro area - 612-871-1701

Free

**Minnesota State Capitol**

[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)

St. Paul - 651-296-2881

Free tours

**Minnesota State Parks**

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/index.html)

651-296-6157

\$5 per car

**Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center**

[www.fws.gov/midwest/MinnesotaValley](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MinnesotaValley)

Bloomington - 952-854-5900

Free

**Minnesota Zoo**

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

Apple Valley - 952-431-9500

Adults \$18, Ages 3-12 \$12, 2 and Under Free

Parking \$5

**Movies in the Park**

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

Minneapolis

Free family-oriented movies during the summer

**Museum Adventure Pass**

Available at metro area libraries for free admission for 2 people. Check your local library for more information. Program ends September 3, 2012

**Normandale Community College Japanese Garden**

[www.normandale.edu/japanesegarden](http://www.normandale.edu/japanesegarden)

Bloomington - 952-358-8145

Free

**Old Log Theater**

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

Excelsior - 952-474-5951

Children's shows summers and holidays

**Pump It Up**

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

Eden Prairie - 952-943-0052

Admission \$6

**Raptor Center**

[www.raptor.cvm.umn.edu](http://www.raptor.cvm.umn.edu)

U of MN St. Paul - 612-624-4745

Free

**Safari Island**

[www.waconia.org](http://www.waconia.org)

Waconia - 952-442-0695

Resident - Adults \$7.50, Youth \$6.50

Non-resident - Adults \$9, Youth \$8

**Science Museum of Minnesota**

[www.smm.org](http://www.smm.org)

St. Paul - 651-221-9444

Adults \$13, Youth \$10

Check website for special discounts

**SEA LIFE Minnesota**

[www.visitsealife.com/Minnesota](http://www.visitsealife.com/Minnesota)

Mall of America Bloomington - 952-883-0202

Online ticket price \$9.99

**Stages Theatre Company**

[www.stagestheatre.org](http://www.stagestheatre.org)

Hopkins - 952-979-1111

**Story Time at your local public library**

[www.carverlib.org](http://www.carverlib.org)

Call for schedule

Chanhassen - 952-227-1500

Chaska - 952-448-3886

Norwood Young America - 952-467-2665

Waconia - 952-442-4714

Watertown - 952-955-2939

**St. Paul Saints**

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

St. Paul - 651-644-6659

Admission \$4-20

**Summer concerts, community celebrations and town baseball**

Call your local chamber of commerce

**Three Rivers Park District**

[www.threeriversparks.org](http://www.threeriversparks.org)

Metro area - 763-559-9000

Creative play areas, nature centers, etc.

Admission and parking Free, Fee for some events

**Trains at Bandana – Model Railroad Museum**

[www.tcmrm.org](http://www.tcmrm.org)

St. Paul - 651-647-9628

Admission \$6, under 5 free

**Wabasha Street Cave Tours**

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

St. Paul - 651-292-1220

Admission \$6, Under 5 Free

**Walker Art Center**

[www.walkerart.org](http://www.walkerart.org)

Minneapolis - 612-375-7600

Free Thursday evenings 5-9 p.m.

Free first Saturday of each month

**Weisman Art Museum – U of MN**

[www.weisman.umn.edu](http://www.weisman.umn.edu)

Minneapolis - 612-625-9494

Free

**Wells Fargo History Museum**

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

Minneapolis - 612-667-4210

Free

**Woodlake Nature Center**

[www.woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://www.woodlakenaturecenter.org)

Richfield - 612-861-9365

Free, some activities have fee

**The Works Science and Technology Museum**

[www.theworks.org](http://www.theworks.org)

Bloomington - 952-888-4262

Adults/Children \$6, Design Lab \$8, 2 and Under Free

**Youth Performance Company**

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

Minneapolis - 612-623-9080