

Children's play places, outdoor activities, and special events for kids

- by Carderock's Eric Nothman ericnothman@gmail.com
- over 75 fun places!
- includes specific 2013 event dates where applicable
- last updated Jan 20, 2013

Fellow Carderock parents with young kids, I'd like to share (below) my activities list, all winners, put together over the last few years. If you have young kids please take a look. There are lots of great 'finds' and gems that may bring hours of joy to your kids and family!

Be With Me Playseum
7000 Wisconsin Ave Bethesda
1-888-5PLAYSEUM
Mon.-Sat. 9am-6pm, Sun. 1pm-6pm \$7 each person (including adults)
Activities: arts/crafts; kids cooking; fantasy play. Great place!
www.playseum.com

Glen Echo "Living classroom"
Sat. & Sun. 10am-3pm
\$5 a kid; ages 2-11
Indoor and outdoor play area
and learning center
www.glenechopark.org/living-classrooms

Dynamite Gymnastics
Rockville 301-770-2700
Open Gym - 90 mins \$10 each
Summer- Sat. 1:30pm-3pm
Not Summer
Friday 7pm-8:30pm
Sat. 5:15pm-6:45pm

Rebounderz, a trampoline arena
Sterling, VA
<http://rebounderzsterling.com/>

Pump it Up
1-301-977-1400
Gaither Road, Gaithersburg
Bounce & Slide
Drop kids off 1st Friday each month 6pm- 9pm \$25 1st kid, siblings \$10

BounceU
Clarksburg - 1-301-515-5665
Parents night out - Summer: every other Saturday 6pm - 10pm
\$20 1st kid, \$15 sibling

My Gym - mostly kids under age 7
Cabin John shopping center (next to Kaplan)
Free play - called "practice and play" \$10, siblings 1/2 price
Monday 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Wednesday 6:40pm -7:40pm
and in Bethesda - across from Whole Foods - Ridgefield Rd Thurs. 6:10pm-7:10pm

Germantown Aquatic Center schedule - Indoor Pool w/giant slide & kid area
Summer: Sat. & Sun. 4pm-6pm Open swim

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/rec/pools/giscpooluse.pdf

Earth Treks

Indoor climbing wall - behind Marlo building Rockville Pike

Open climb - \$25 per child

Sat. & Sun. 9am-6pm

Also, kids drop off One Friday a month (must book in advance)

EarthTreksClimbing.com

Cabin John Ice Skating Rink

Public Skate - \$9.75 per child on weekend

Saturdays 12:00-2:00pm 4:00-6:00pm

8:30-10:30pm

Sundays 8:30-10:00am 12:30-2:30pm

4:30-6:30pm

Mon.-Fri. 4:30pm-6:15pm

Imagination Stage

Special events, classes, and performances for kids

(also has a great store!)

imaginationstage.org

National Building Museum

Downtown Wash., DC

Kids areas for hands on activities

www.nbm.org

ShadowLand - indoor laser tag.

Gaithersburg, MD

www.shadowlandadventures.com

Splashdown Waterpark - outdoor water park with four big slides, lazy river and sandy beach.

Manassas, VA

www.splashdownwaterpark.com

Reston Zoo

Safari ride, feed the animals

Reston, VA

www.restonzoo.com

National air and space museum Udvar-Hazy - near Dulles Airport

Space shuttle, remarkable planes.

airandspace.si.edu

National Aquarium, Baltimore

Really wonderful!

www.aqua.org

Port Discovery Children's Museum

Baltimore Harbor, MD

Amazing place - worth the trip.

www.portdiscovery.org

Smithsonian Museums great for young kids:

On the mall - Wash., DC

Air and Space airandspace.si.edu

American Indian nmai.si.edu

Natural History www.mnh.si.edu

several with IMAX theaters

US Botanic Garden www.usbg.gov

National Capitol Trolley Car Museum

Ride a real trolley car.
Colesville, MD
www.dctrolley.org

Special Parks (close by):

Great Falls - w/rocks & river
Hadleys - w/rubber surface (good after rain when other parks are not)
Clemy Jointree (McLean, VA) - w/rubber surface (good after rain)
Adventure - w/castle
Cabin John - w/train
Wheaton - w/train and carousel
Glen Echo - w/carousel & snack bar
Norwood - great climbing equipment, push yourself spinning platter, nice fields for kites
Carderock - picnic, climbing rocks
Black Hill Regional - kayak rental, good fishing near northern boat ramp (Boyd's, MD)
Fletcher's Boat House (Fletcher's Cove) - canoe rentals (on the river), fishing
A bit farther (day trips):
Sugarloaf Mountain
Cunningham Falls State Park (w/beautiful falls)
Old Rag Mountain

Zip line & ropes course - on dry docked Pirate ship - age 7 or 8 and up. See Calvea at National Harbor (below)
weekends May-Nov. 11am-8pm

Sailing, Kayaks, Canoes - close by

Thompson Boat Center - Georgetown (Wash., DC)
Kayak, canoe, sailboat (Sunfish) rental (call for Sunfish availability)
202-333-9543
www.thompsonboatcenter.com

Washington Sailing Marina (sailing)
Sailing test required.
Near National airport
703-548-9027
www.washingtonsailingmarina.com

Mariner sailing school
Belle Haven Marina
Alexandria, VA
Canoe, kayak, sailboat rental
1-703- 768-0018
Call to reserve sailboats
www.saildc.com

Sailing - Calvea at National Harbor
Sat./Sun. 11am-6pm
Catamaran - 14' & 16'
1-240-793-8268
or 1-240-793-7452
call before - hours of operation may change

Farms:

Cox Farm - Sept 25 to Nov. 3?
Outdoor Fall kids park - \$15 each person (awesome slides, live music, farm animals - milk a real cow, great hay ride) www.coxfarms.com

Butler's Orchard
1-301-972-3299
Germantown, MD

Pick your own - late Spring to Fall
Also - Outdoor Fall Pumpkin Festival Sept/Oct weekends
www.butlersorchard.com

Homestead Farm
Poolesville, MD 1-301-977-3761
Pick your own - late Spring to Fall
Strawberries, blackberries, apples, etc., farm animal petting
www.homestead-farm.net

Rocklands Farm
Poolesville, MD 1-301-825-8075
Farmers Market on Sat. at the farm
includes organically grown produce, meats. Nice working farm to visit.
www.rocklandsfarmmd.com

Claude Moore Farm - McLean, VA
Only privately operated National Park in the U.S. - working colonial era farm
Living History Farm
Wed.-Sun. 10am-4:30pm
\$3 per adult, \$2 kids
April-mid-December
Events here are WEATHER PERMITTING!! In doubt? Call ahead.
website ==> 1771.org

Skiing - within 2 hrs (day trips):
Whitetail - www.skiwhitetail.com
Ski Liberty - www.libertymountainresort.com

Special ANNUAL EVENTS (mostly) that are great for kids:

Some dates for 2013 not yet established.

National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) Teddy Bear Concert (discover various instruments, etc) and other musical events for kids at the Kennedy Center in DC. Registration usually required.
Monthly or more frequently.
<http://www.kennedy-center.org/nso/programs/family/>

Corcoran Gallery - storytelling and art workshops (free) for families
"Once upon a winter's night"
Sat., Jan. 26, 2013 6pm-9pm

Movie Night
Carderock Springs Club
Jan. 26, 2013 (Sat.) 5:30 pm
Movie starts 6:30pm

FSGW Mid-Winter Festival (Annual) storytelling, dance, music, and workshops (4families)
Groundhog Day
Sat., Feb. 2, 2013 noon-10:30pm
Takoma Park Middle School
<http://fsgw.org/myorgnet/public.php?Org=fsgw&ProgramID=11>

Family Potluck (w/DJ)
Carderock Springs Club
Feb. 9, 2013 (Sat.) 5:30 pm tentative date
www.carderockclub.org
(select "calendar" on left)

Corcoran Gallery - Family Day
Annual
Sat., March 2, 2013 10am-4pm

getinvolved.corcoran.org/Family_Day

Egg Hunt (Annual)
Carderock Springs Club
March 17, 2013 (Sun.)
tentative date
www.carderockclub.org
(select "calendar" on left)

Bunnyland at Butler's Orchard (17th annual) Slides, egg hunt, etc.
Late March weekend(s), and 1st April weekend 9am-3pm (closed Easter)
www.butlersorchard.com/events.html

Dairy Day
Learn how butter and cheese were made in colonial times.
Claude Moore Farm
April 20, 2013 1pm-4pm (Sat.)
weather permitting - call ahead
703-442-7557

Family Day - Glen Echo Park
Annual
Family activities, annual carousel opening, magic show, art activities
April 28, 2012 11am-4pm

Carderock Elementary (PTA)
Spring Fling (Annual)
May 17, 2013 5pm-7pm (Fri.)
csespta.org/calendar.php

Spring Colonial Market Fair (Annual)
Claude Moore Farm
Folks in period costume conduct a fair from colonial times for kids.
May 18-19, 2013 11am-4pm (Sat./Sun)
website ==> 1771.org see events
weather permitting - call ahead
703-442-7557

33rd annual Wash. Folk Festival
Glen Echo Park - storytellers, music, crafts, dance performances
Sat./Sun., Jun. 1&2, noon-7pm (2013)
<http://fsgw.org/myorgnet/public.php?Org=fsgw&ProgramID=10&NoTitle=1>

Dulles air&space young pilots day
Annual
June 16, 2012 10-3pm
(Eighth Annual) Free. \$15 parking

Heritage Days Montgomery
Last weekend in June - noon-4pm
June 23&24, 2012 (15th annual)
Numerous sites including Glen Echo
www.heritagemontgomery.org

Smithsonian Folklife Festival
(on the mall - Wash. DC) - Annual
June 26-30, 2013
July 3-7, 2013
International and U.S. folklife, performances and villages etc.
www.festival.si.edu

18th Century Fair (Annual)

Claude Moore Colonial Farm
July 20-21, 2013 11am-4pm Sat./Sun. (McLean VA)
Colonial activities, food, stories
by people in U.S. colonial era garb
on a farm restored to colonial times
Events are WEATHER PERMITTING!! In doubt? Call ahead. 703-442-7557
website => 1771.org see events

Farm Tour & Harvest Sale (23rd annual)
Last Sat./Sun. in July 10am-4pm
Several Farms in Montgomery County
<http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/agstmpl.asp?url=/content/DED/AgServices/agfarmtour.asp>

Montgomery County Fair
August 9th-17th, 2013
Gaithersburg, MD
www.mcagfair.com

Maryland State Fair
August 23-Sept. 2, 2013
Timonium, MD
www.marylandstatefair.com

Glen Echo Art show (42nd annual)
Labor day weekend

Fenton Street Arts Market
Sept and Oct - Saturdays 9am-3pm - arts, crafts, live music on Fenton Street and Silver Spring Avei. Downtown
Silver Spring

Maryland Renaissance Festival
(best for older kids)
Sept.-Oct. weekends
Annapolis, MD
www.rennfest.com

Bluegrass On The Farm
Annual
Agricultural History Farm Park
Sat. Sept. 8, 2012 noon-6pm
www.bluegrassonthefarm.com

Cabin John crab fest (43rd annual)
Saturday, Sept 8, 2012 2pm-6pm
www.cabinjohn.org see events

Takoma Park Folk Festival (36th annual)
Sun., Sept. 9, 2012 10:30am-6:30pm
Takoma Park Middle school
www.tpff.org

Carderock Elementary (PTA)
Back to school picnic (annual)
Sept. 21, 2012 5pm-7pm (Fri.)
csespta.org/calendar.php

Pickling Day
Learn and help pickling vegetables.
Sept. 21, 2013 1pm-4pm (Sat.)
Claude Moore Farm
weather permitting - call ahead
703-442-7557

Late Sept. thru all October:

Cox Farm Fall Fest is like low tech farm Disneyland (see entry under "Farms" above) - really great for kids!

And

Butler's Orchard Pumpkin Fest

Also, good, but not quite as elaborate as Cox Farm (still good though!)

See entry above under "Farms"

Takoma Park Street Festival (32nd annual)

Music, artisans, children's activities

Oct. 6, 2013- 10am-5pm

www.takomafestival.com

Harvest Festival (Annual)

Agricultural History Farm Park

family activities, saw mill demo, wagon ride, steam tractor demo, barn with historic farm tools

Sat. Oct. 6, 2012

1-301-924-4141

www.friendsofthefarmpark.org

(then select calendar)

Fall Fest (Annual)

Carderock Springs Club

Oct. 7, 2012 2pm-5pm Sun.

www.carderockclub.org

(select "calendar" on left)

Oktoberfest at Kentlands (21st annual)

Wagon rides, pony rides, paint pumpkins, moon bounce,

arts/crafts for kids, music

Sun., Oct. 14, 2012 noon-4pm

Kentlands, MD

www.gaithersburgmd.gov/oktoberfest

Colonial fair at Claude Moore Farm

Oct. 19-20, 2013 11am-4pm

website => 1771.org see events

weather permitting - call ahead

703-442-7557

Christmas Caroling in Carderock

Annual

Meet at the club to go house to house. All are invited!

Dec. 21, 2013 Sat. 6:30pm

(tentative date - contact the Nothman Family to confirm date!)

FSGW Family dance

Folklore Society Greater Wash.

Monthly - Glen Echo

Bumper car pavilion - summer

Glen Echo Town Hall - winter

fsgw.org

(website homepage on left under "Dances" select "Family dance")

Bowling

Duck Pin - White Oak Duck Pin Lanes - \$4 a game! (per person)

11207 New Hampshire Ave

Silver Spring, MD

300 Bowl - Shady Grove Rd & 270

Next to Bugaboo Creek

Bowlmor - Westbard Ave
Kenmore Club - Duckpin (for Birthday parties only)