

## Free 2019 Summer Fun

This list highlights FREE things to do in the area. Please share photos of your adventures and let us know if there are any great FREE activities we missed. For an online version and printable calendar, as well as a larger list including inexpensive local activities for the summer, go to Deep Run Elementary School's website [dres.hcpss.org](http://dres.hcpss.org) . Be sure to call ahead, or check websites for the most up to date information in regards to weather closings, or schedule changes. We wish your family a safe and enjoyable summer!

Need more ideas? Try <https://www.thepennyhoarder.com/smart-money/100-free-summer-activities/>

<p><b>Anytime Outings</b></p>	<p><b>Visit a Fire Station:</b> <a href="https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Fire-and-Rescue/Fire-Stations">https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Fire-and-Rescue/Fire-Stations</a></p> <p><b>Visit a library:</b> <a href="https://hclibrary.org/classes-events/">https://hclibrary.org/classes-events/</a> Children's programs and summer reading program. The Baltimore County Libraries has hands-on learning for kids birth - age 5. <a href="https://www.bcpl.info/youth/storyville.html">https://www.bcpl.info/youth/storyville.html</a></p> <p><b>Visit a local playground:</b> Howard County Playgrounds: <a href="https://camom.net/playground">https://camom.net/playground</a> or <a href="https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Recreation-and-Parks/Parks-and-Planning/Playgrounds">https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Recreation-and-Parks/Parks-and-Planning/Playgrounds</a></p> <p><b>Visit the Smithsonian National Zoo</b> (3001 Connecticut Ave., NW Washington, DC 20008): General info: 202-633-4888. Hours: Grounds: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. (last admittance 6 p.m.). <a href="https://nationalzoo.si.edu/">https://nationalzoo.si.edu/</a></p>
<p><b>Community and Nature Centers</b></p>	<p><b>HoCo Conservancy:</b> (Mt. Pleasant: 10520 Old Frederick Rd, Woodstock, MD, 21163, 410-465-8877). Trails open dawn to dusk daily. Nature Center Monday – Saturday 9 am – 3 pm (closed on Sat. in the winter). <a href="https://www.hcconservancy.org/">https://www.hcconservancy.org/</a></p> <p><b>North Laurel Community Center</b> (9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd, Laurel, MD 20723): Offers free, drop-in recreation programs. <a href="http://www.howardcountymd.gov/nlcc">http://www.howardcountymd.gov/nlcc</a></p>
<p><b>Concerts (Free)</b></p>	<p><b>Lakefest at the Downtown Columbia Lakefront</b> (10275 Wincopin Cir, Columbia, MD 21044): 3 days of live music, an invitational arts &amp; crafts show, performers, festival food, activities &amp; entertainment for all ages. 6/14/19 (5pm-10:30 pm), 6/15/19 (12pm-10:30pm), and 6/16/19 (12pm-7pm). <a href="https://columbiafestival.org/lakefest-2019/">https://columbiafestival.org/lakefest-2019/</a></p> <p><b>Lurman Theatre:</b> Outdoor community amphitheater with free concerts. Includes many musical styles every weekend in June, July and August. Call 1-877-278-0961 for up-to-date concert information. Located on the grounds of Catonsville High School. There are 2 entrances with parking – 614 Hilltop Road and 425 Bloomsbury Avenue. <a href="http://www.lurman.com/">http://www.lurman.com/</a></p> <p><b>Sunset Serenades at Centennial Park</b> (10000 Rt 108, Ellicott City, 410-313-4700): Schedules subject to change. For a recorded announcement about weather cancellations, call 410-313-4451 after 5pm on the day of the show. Food available for sale. <a href="https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sunsetserenades">https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sunsetserenades</a></p>
<p><b>Fairs and Festivals:</b></p>	<p><b>Books in Bloom festival</b> (Merriweather Post Pavilion, 10475 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia, MD): Free daylong festival celebrating the joy of books &amp; reading. 6/2/19, 11am - 4pm. <a href="http://www.dtcpartnership.com/booksinbloom/">http://www.dtcpartnership.com/booksinbloom/</a></p>
<p><b>Family Events</b></p>	<p><b>Belmont Manor &amp; Historic Park Open House</b> (6555 Belmont Woods Road, Elkridge, MD 21075, 410-313-0200): Explore the 18th century Manor, outbuildings, cemetery, aqua garden, carriage house, and barn. Enjoy a self-guided tour, participate in the scavenger hunt, and meet the animals. August 18, 2019, 1pm-5pm. . <a href="https://belmontmanormd.com/open-house/">https://belmontmanormd.com/open-house/</a></p> <p><b>Columbia Association Events:</b> (Various locations): <a href="https://www.columbiaassociation.org/events/">https://www.columbiaassociation.org/events/</a></p>

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<p><b>Family Events</b></p>	<p><b>Family Friendly Fireworks Display along the Columbia Lakefront</b> (10275 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, MD 21044, 410-715-3161) 7/4/19 - Live bands &amp; kids activities available. Blankets, chairs, and picnics welcome. Food is for sale onsite. Free.</p> <p><b>Family Friendly Fireworks at the Columbia Lakefront</b> (10275 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, MD 21044, 410-715-3161): July 4, 2019. Live bands and children's activities. Blankets, chairs, and picnics are welcome. <a href="https://www.visithowardcounty.com/event/howard-county%E2%80%99s-july-4th-fireworks/9670/">https://www.visithowardcounty.com/event/howard-county%E2%80%99s-july-4th-fireworks/9670/</a></p> <p><b>Family Wellness Day:</b> (Centennial Park, 10000 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City) A FREE fun event for the whole family. June 2, 2019. 10:00 am - 3:00 pm <a href="http://www.wepromotehealth.org/family-wellness-day.aspx">http://www.wepromotehealth.org/family-wellness-day.aspx</a></p> <p><b>KidsDay</b> (Columbia Sports Park, 5453 Harpers Farm Road): Free activities include inflatables, crafts, mini-golf, batting cages, kids Zumba, &amp; more. Free for kids under 12 and certain CA members. All others require a fee. Food &amp; drinks available to buy. June 8, 2019, 10am-2:00 pm <a href="https://www.columbiaassociation.org/event/kidsday/">https://www.columbiaassociation.org/event/kidsday/</a></p> <p><b>Rockburn Open Car Show</b> (Rockburn Branch Park West, Montgomery Road Entrance. 6105 Rockburn Branch Rd., Elkridge, MD 21075): Sat. 8/17/19, 10am-2pm. <a href="https://www.howardcountymd.gov/RockburnOpenCarShow">https://www.howardcountymd.gov/RockburnOpenCarShow</a></p> <p><b>Ranger Walk - Reptiles and Amphibians</b> (Font Hill Wetlands Park, 3520 Font Hill Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043): Learn about the wonderful world of reptiles and amphibians. 8/3/19, 1pm-2pm. Free for all ages. <a href="https://allevents.in/maryland/park-ranger-walk-reptiles-and-amphibians/200017281031101#">https://allevents.in/maryland/park-ranger-walk-reptiles-and-amphibians/200017281031101#</a></p> <p><b>Read with a Ranger</b> (Centennial Park - tables near the playground, south area of the park, 10000 Rt. 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042): Join a park ranger to explore the nature world through books. Bring a bagged lunch to enjoy after the reading. Ideal for pre-school and elem.-aged children. 6/26/19, 7/24/18, 8/21/19, 11:00 am - noon. Free. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/centennial-park/read-with-a-ranger/1256316367852514/">https://www.facebook.com/events/centennial-park/read-with-a-ranger/1256316367852514/</a></p> <p><b>Roger Carter's 6th Anniversary Celebration</b> (Roger Carter Community Center, 3000 Milltowne Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043, 410-313-2764): Music, snowballs, giveaways, and birthday cake. No pre-registration is required. June 15, 2019, Noon-1:30 pm. <a href="https://www.howardcountymd.gov/rccc">https://www.howardcountymd.gov/rccc</a></p> <p><b>Star Parties, all ages:</b> (Alpha Ridge Park, 11685 Old Frederick Rd., Marriottsville, MD 21104): Enjoy the night sky through telescopes set up by the Howard Astronomical League in HAL's Observatory. At this casual family event, view live images projected onto a big screen. Info/weather updates: <a href="http://www.howardastro.org">www.howardastro.org</a>. June 8, 2019, July 7, 2019, August 10, 2019. Dusk until about 11:00 pm. Free.</p>
<p><b>Get Active</b></p>	<p><b>Camping, Fishing, Hiking, Picnicking, Climbing, Boating, Junior Rangers Program:</b> Beautiful Maryland parks are free or have a nominal entrance fee. Our closest state park, Patapsco, is only ten minutes away by car. Plan your trip by visiting the website: <a href="http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/default.aspx">http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/default.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Every Kid in a Park Pass:</b> Every year, beginning September 1, all kids in the 4th grade have access to an <i>Every Kid in a Park</i> pass which provides free access to national parks across the country. This pass is good from September 1 – August 31, so be sure to look into it if you have a child that just completed 4<sup>th</sup> grade (for this summer), or starts 4th grade in the fall. <a href="http://www.everykidinapark.gov">www.everykidinapark.gov</a>.</p> <p><b>Free Fishing:</b> In MD you can fish without a licence on the first two Saturdays in June, and on July 4th. Kids under the age of 16 can always fish licence free. <a href="https://dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/free-fishing.aspx">https://dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/free-fishing.aspx</a></p> <p><b>HoCO Teen Club</b> (Roger Carter Community Center: 3000 Milltowne Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043): Join other teens to represent Howard County youth and promote programs &amp; events at the county's community centers. Bring</p>

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<p><b>Get Active</b></p>	<p>your creative ideas &amp; help develop new activities for teens. Monthly meetings focus on developing leadership, social networking, &amp; marketing skills. Earn service-learning hours. Attend four or more meetings &amp; receive a free center membership. Free for kids aged 11-16. <a href="https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Teens">https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Teens</a></p>
<p><b>Get Creative</b></p>	<p><b>Baltimore Museum of Art</b> (10 Art Museum Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218): “Free Family Sundays” with art projects for kids and families to do together. Hands-on fun is every Sunday from 2pm-5pm. Here is the summer schedule: <a href="https://artbma.org/events/family.html">https://artbma.org/events/family.html</a>.</p> <p><b>The Book Thing of Baltimore</b> (3001 Vineyard Lane, Baltimore, MD 21218.): A place to pick up FREE books, donate books, or volunteer time. Hours to pick up books: Sat. and Sun. (9:00am -5:00pm), Volunteer hours: Mon. - Fri. (10:00 am–4:00 pm), Sat. and Sun. (9:00 am – 5:00 pm). Donations can be made 24/7. <a href="https://bookthing.org/#our_location">https://bookthing.org/#our_location</a>.</p> <p><b>Crafts at Lakeshore</b> (Lakeshore Store (&amp; outlet), 1620 E. Joppa Rd., Towson, MD 21286, 410-296-5888): Lakeshore hosts a free craft or event every Saturday from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm for kids aged 3 and up. <a href="https://www.lakeshorelearning.com/stores/free-crafts">https://www.lakeshorelearning.com/stores/free-crafts</a></p> <p><b>Home Depot Kids Workshops</b> (9051 Snowden River Parkway, Columbia, MD): A free class for kids held every month at all the Home Depot stores across the country. Must be accompanied by a parent. June 1, 2019, July 6, 2019, August 3, 2019. 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. <a href="https://www.thespruce.com/free-building-classes-for-kids-at-home-depot-1356791">https://www.thespruce.com/free-building-classes-for-kids-at-home-depot-1356791</a></p>
<p><b>Historical Locations</b></p>	<p><b>Ellicott City Colored School</b> (8683 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD,410-313-5131): Tours are offered Saturday and Sunday at 3pm, April through October. Private and group tours are available year-round, weather permitting. <a href="http://ellicottcity.net/tourism/attractions/ellicott_city_colored_school/">http://ellicottcity.net/tourism/attractions/ellicott_city_colored_school/</a></p> <p><b>The Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park</b> (3655 Church Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043): Saturday and Sundays (starting May 4, 2019), 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Docent-led tours or self-guided visits are available. <a href="https://www.howardcountymd.gov/patapscofemaleinstitute">https://www.howardcountymd.gov/patapscofemaleinstitute</a></p> <p><b>Thomas Isaac Log Cabin</b> (8394 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043, 410-313-0420): Saturday and Sundays (Starting 5/4/19), 1pm – 4pm. Docent-led or self-guided tours are available. Currently closed until further notice. <a href="https://www.howardcountymd.gov/HistoricSites#Tab_ModuleID_11674_TabID_1029">https://www.howardcountymd.gov/HistoricSites#Tab_ModuleID_11674_TabID_1029</a></p>
<p><b>Movies</b></p>	<p><b>Belmont Blockbusters</b> (6555 Belmont Woods Road, Elkridge, MD - behind the Manor): Bring a picnic and a blanket to enjoy a movie in the Belmont Manor &amp; Historic Park. Popcorn available. Movie starts shortly after dusk. Arrive early to enjoy the gardens. 6/27/19 (Wreck It Ralph - Ralph Breaks the Internet, PG), 7/18/19 (Disney’s The Lion King, G), 8/1/19 (The Goonies, PG), 8/15/19 (Princess Bride, PG), 8/29/19 (Captain Marvel, PG 13). Check <a href="http://www.belmontmanormd.org">www.belmontmanormd.org</a> or call 410-313-0200 for inclement weather.</p> <p><b>Centennial Park Lakeside Movies</b> (Centennial Park South lawn area in front of the concert stage. 10000 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042): Start time is around 8:15 pm (or when it gets dark). Schedules subject to change. For a recorded announcement about cancellations due to weather, call 410-313-4451 after 5pm on the day of the show. Concessions sold from 3pm until the end of the movie. Space is limited. Arrive early and carpool if possible. Park gates will close once capacity is reached. Bring a flashlight to help navigate to your seats and your car after the movie. For more info., call 410-313-4700. June 26, 2019 (The Sandlot, PG, 1993), August 26, 2019 (People’s Choice). <a href="https://www.howardcountymd.gov/adventureshack">https://www.howardcountymd.gov/adventureshack</a></p> <p><b>Columbia Lakefront Movies:</b> <a href="https://www.columbiaassociation.org/events/lakefront-summer-festival/">https://www.columbiaassociation.org/events/lakefront-summer-festival/</a></p>

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<p><b>Movies</b></p>	<p><b>Outdoor Summer Movies in Ellicott City</b> (Wine Bin parking lot: 8390 Main street, Ellicott City, MD 21043, 410-465-7802): Every Saturday from the end of May through September. Movie starts at 9 pm though August and at 8 pm in September. Be sure to check their Facebook page for weather updates or cancellations. Here is a link to the movie showings: <a href="https://winebinec.com/event/movie-night-wine-bin/">https://winebinec.com/event/movie-night-wine-bin/</a>. Free parking on Ellicott Mills Dr, Lot F, or at the Courthouse (you can walk down Court Ave to this part of Main St.)</p>
<p><b>Museums</b></p>	<p><b>African American Art Museum of Maryland</b> (11711 East Market Place, Maple Lawn Community, Fulton, MD 20759, 301-490-6070): Small Museum with over 400 items on display. Open Wednesday-Saturday, 10am-3pm. Other times are available by appointment for groups of 10 or more. Entrance to museum and a mini tour (if requested) is free. African American Experience Tour (by appointment only) is \$5/person. <a href="http://www.africanartmuseum.org/">http://www.africanartmuseum.org/</a></p> <p><b>Baltimore Museum of Art</b> (10 Art Museum Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218): Has “Free Family Sundays” with art projects for kids and families to do together. Here is the summer schedule: <a href="https://artbma.org/events/family.html">https://artbma.org/events/family.html</a>. Hands-on fun is every Sunday from 2pm-5pm.</p> <p><b>Benjamin Banneker Historical Park &amp; Museum</b> (300 Oella Ave, Catonsville, MD 21228, 410-887-1081). Museum (Tues. – Sat. 10 am – 4 pm). Park (Sunrise – Sunset). <a href="https://friendsofbenjaminbanneker.com/">https://friendsofbenjaminbanneker.com/</a></p> <p><b>B&amp;O Railroad Station</b> (3711 Maryland Avenue, Ellicott City, MD 21043, 410-313-1945): Be sure to follow the B&amp;O Ellicott City Station Museum Facebook page for upcoming exhibits, events, and general museum information. Closed on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday (10am-2pm), Thursday (10am-2pm), Friday (10am-5pm), Saturday (10am-5pm), and Sunday (noon-5pm). <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ecborail/?ref=bookmarks">https://www.facebook.com/ecborail/?ref=bookmarks</a></p> <p><b>Firehouse Museum</b> (3829 Church Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043): Saturday and Sunday, 1pm-4pm. Docent-led or self-guided tours available. <a href="https://www.howardcountymd.gov/HistoricSites#Tab_ModuleID_11674_TableID_1029">https://www.howardcountymd.gov/HistoricSites#Tab_ModuleID_11674_TableID_1029</a></p> <p><b>Howard County Living Farm Heritage Museum</b> (12985 Frederick Road, West Friendship, Maryland 21794.): Hiking, nature walk, horse, and bike trails are open 7 days week during daylight hours. Museum tours are available by request. Go to <a href="http://www.farmheritage.org/contact.html">http://www.farmheritage.org/contact.html</a> to schedule a tour.</p> <p><b>Howard County Police Museum</b> (8267 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043, 410-313-1447): Temporarily closed. Located in the Howard County Welcome Center. <a href="https://www.hcpdmuseum.com/">https://www.hcpdmuseum.com/</a></p> <p><b>Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC</b> is the world’s largest museum and research complex. All museums are free and increasingly have hands-on learning areas for children. <a href="https://www.si.edu/">https://www.si.edu/</a></p> <p><b>Walters Art Museum in Baltimore</b> (600 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21201, 410-547-9000): Free to the public, features a children’s play area in the basement and free kids art projects every week. Check the website for a list of free or very low cost events coming up: <a href="https://thewalters.org">https://thewalters.org</a>. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Open Wed., Fri., Sat., and Sun. (10:00 am – 5:00 pm), Thursday (10:00 am – 9:00 pm).</p>
<p><b>Swimming</b></p>	<p><b>Best Swimming Holes:</b> Check out this site for the “Ten Best Swimming Holes” in Maryland: <a href="http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/maryland/swimming-holes-md/">http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/maryland/swimming-holes-md/</a></p> <p><b>Water Play at Home:</b> If you want to stay home and enjoy some free fun, try having the kids wash the car, play in the sprinkler, draw with sidewalk chalk and erase it with water, or have a water balloon fight. Kid can also “paint” with a bucket of water and a paintbrush.</p>