

Summer Fun 2018

The students are so excited for summer to begin, but after the first week, you may find that your children are getting restless and needing some structure to their days. Below is a collection of great ideas and resources to keep children busy and engaged all summer long. If you have more ideas or resources to share, please do! Write to Carolyn.Wohnsigl@Hcpss.org. We will keep a tab updated on our school's website. Happy Summer! We can't wait to hear about all your adventures next year.

Camps

When you're looking at a ten-week long summer, you may want at least one week to be planned for you. There are a variety of camps offered each week in our area. Most camps provide before and after care for parents who work outside of the home and many can be half or full-day. Half-day camps cost less and still give your child the benefit of skill-building and socialization with peers.

Although camps can be expensive, [scholarships are available](#). Here are links to scholarship pages for Howard County Parks and Rec, the Columbia Association (discounts of 50-70%) and the YMCA.

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PboY91zYiFI%3d&portalid=0>

https://d2814gcejiq38s.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/FORM_SASIncomeQualifiedApplication5118.pdf

https://ymaryland.cdn.prismic.io/ymaryland%2Fc7bf0b01-81a3-4875-8fb7-05abda372245_ycm+fin+asst+app_2018.pdf

Swimming

1. There are some beautiful swimming facilities in the area, but 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!
2. The Columbia Association offers "Play" memberships that include the pools, tennis, ice skating, and mini golf. There is a sliding scale membership available for income-qualified families. At full fee, the membership for a family costs \$61 for non-Columbia residents and \$37 for Columbia residents. There is a free Sunday swim every month with a Columbia resident ID card. <https://www.columbiaassociation.org/membership/buy-a-membership/#1505999972940-46a373d3-14ea>
3. Howard County Parks and Recreation offers swimming, fitness facilities and indoor rock climbing at the Roger Carter Center for a daily fee of \$5.00 per person.
4. [Camping, Fishing, Hiking, Picnicking, Climbing, Swimming, Boating, Junior Rangers Programs](#) – are all free or have a nominal entrance fee at our beautiful Maryland State

Parks. Our closest state Park, Patapsco, is only ten minutes away by car. Plan your trip by visiting the website. <http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/default.aspx>

5. Maryland is not known for its lakes, but we do have some beautiful ones! Check out the site below for the “Ten Best Swimming Holes” in Maryland.
<http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/maryland/swimming-holes-md/>

Library Activities

1. We are lucky to have some beautiful libraries in our county! Check out the newly renovated Elkridge Branch. You can take a DIY class and then borrow the equipment to do a project at home! Here is the link for classes and events.
<https://hclibrary.org/classes-events/> Encourage your child to join the summer reading program and take a class. Make it a weekly visit!
2. Baltimore County Public Libraries have a hands-on learning area called “Storyville” at their Woodlawn Branch for children birth to age 5. It is definitely worth the trip! Check it out here: <https://www.bcpl.info/youth/storyville.html>

Community Centers

1. The North Laurel Community Center offers free, drop-in recreation programs. Here is the link: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/nlcc>
2. The Roger Carter Recreation Center has swimming, rock climbing and fitness facilities. Drop-in passes are \$5.00 per person for ages 3 and up.
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/rccc>
3. The Robinson Nature Center makes a nice day trip, including interactive exhibits for children and outdoor walking trails. \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Robinson>

Free Concerts, Movies and Family Nights

1. 2018 Lakefront Wednesdays Lunchtime Concert Series noon-2pm • June 27-Aug. 15 <https://www.columbiaassociation.org/events/lakefront-wednesdays-concert-series/>
2. Summer Serenades Summer Concert Series: Wednesdays at 7:00PM June 27-August 15
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sunsetserenades>
3. There are \$4 per child summer movies at AMC Theaters in Howard County that includes a snack, popcorn and a drink. <https://www.amctheatres.com/summer-movie-camp>

4. \$1 per person movies at Cinemark at the Arundel Mills Mall:
<https://www.cinemark.com/summer-movie-clubhouse-theatre>

Free Museums

1. The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore is free to the public and has a children's play area in the basement and free art projects for kids every week. <https://thewalters.org>
2. The Baltimore Museum of Art has "Free Family Sundays" with art projects for kids and families to do together. Here is the summer schedule:
<https://artbma.org/events/family.html>
3. The Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC is the world's largest museum and research complex. All museums are free to the public and increasingly have hands-on learning areas for children.
<https://www.si.edu/>

Looking for Something else? Here are some ideas:

<https://www.thepennyhoarder.com/smart-money/100-free-summer-activities/>