

Here are some fun (*and mostly free*) activities to do in RI and nearby CT and MA with the kiddos (or not) for the summer. It helps make life a little easier when you hear “I’m bored, there’s nothing to do”.

2017 Summer Library Reading Programs include lots of entertainment options. If you miss one at your local library you can just go to another library.

<http://www.olis.ri.gov/services/srp/index.php>

Be sure to check out your **local library for free or discounted passes to local museums and attractions** that can be loaned to you with your library card.

The 2017 info is not posted yet, but Showcase Cinema’s offers free **Bookworm Wednesday’s**, a fun and rewarding summer reading program developed to encourage young children to read during the summer months, Bookworm Wednesdays entitles kids to free admission to a select children's film when they present a book report at a participating Cinema de Lux, Showcase, or Multiplex Cinemas box office. Accompanying parents or guardians and children under six years of age receive free admission and do not need to submit a book report. Bookworm Wednesdays will resume in summer 2017.

<https://www.showcasecinemas.com/programs/kids-and-families/bookwormwed>

RI DEM Great Outdoor Pursuit Begins this weekend!

Participating is easy! Sign up your children under 18, print out a game passport, and collect stickers at our participating events and activities. Last year our family participated in fishing, archery, clam digging (we got to keep what we caught), boating, and other outdoor events all free.

The 2017 adventure begins Saturday, May 20, 2017 on Kids to Parks Day and continues all summer long.

<http://www.riparks.com/RIOutdoorsPursuit/>

RI Salt Pond Safari's and Kayak/Canoe Paddles – None scheduled yet, but check in to see updated schedules.

Each year, our Salt Pond Safaris introduce dozens of kids to the wonders of the salt ponds. Using a 30' seine net, we will do our best to catch a variety of aquatic creatures to introduce to the children. The kids get hands-on experience with salt pond ecology--plan on them getting wet! Click here to see a Tidal Page article about safaris; click here to experience our interactive online safari without getting wet. They require pre-registration for safaris as we can only comfortably accommodate about 15 children.

<http://www.saltpondscoalition.org/Calendar.html>

RI Free Summer Concerts are happening all over the state!

This blog has free summer events for kids and adults all year long and all over the states. Check out the calendar as it is always being updated.

<https://riblogger.com/your-guide-to-free-summer-concerts-in-rhode-island/>

<https://riblogger.com/things-to-do-in-rhode-island/>

RI Fruit Growers Association Farm Scavenger Hunt

Explore the beauty and bounty of farms across our diverse Ocean State landscape while solving picture clues along the way in exchange for prizes. The Farm Scavenger Hunt began in 2011 with players setting out to sample the state's apple orchards and has now grown to 32 participating farms including pick-your-own, nurseries, family-friendly vineyards, Wright's Dairy Farm, and the ever-surprising The Fantastic Umbrella Factory. So get picking, sipping and tasting the best around the state: Ready, GO!

<http://www.rifruitgrowers.org/2017-ScavengerHunt.pdf>

Providence Children's Museum

Admission is free on "MetLife Family Friday - Free at Five!," sponsored by MetLife Foundation. Check the [calendar](#) for details. Admission is free for Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cardholders, as part of the Museums for All programs.

<http://www.childrenmuseum.org/hours.asp>

Rhode Island School of Design Art Museum – Want to see a real Mummy? Or a Monet, DaVinci, Manet?

Admission is free every Sunday (10 am–5 pm) and on the third Thursday evening of each month (5–9 pm).

<http://risdmuseum.org/visit/>

Connecticut Events

Eastern CT is also known as the “Last Green Valley”. There lots of outdoor events listed on the National Heritage Corridor website that are constantly being updated. As with many of the previous weblinks, “like”ing their Facebook page will keep you up to date.

<http://thelastgreenvalley.org/>

USS Nautilus Submarine Museum is free!

It’s a beautiful new museum building with free parking and easy access on and off I 95.

<http://www.usснаutilus.org/>

Massachusetts Free Museum Fun Fridays

Our Free Fun Fridays offer visitors no-cost admission to many of the most treasured cultural venues in Massachusetts. This program was created to increase access and enrichment opportunities for children and families throughout Massachusetts during the summer months. Every Friday, from the end of June through the end of August, multiple sites are open for free. We reach out to schools, veterans groups, libraries, senior’s centers, and many other community organizations to ensure that everyone knows that they are also welcome.

<http://highlandstreet.org/programs/free-fun-fridays>

Visit one of **Rhode Island’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuges** for Free Summer programs

https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Region_5/NWRS/North_Zone/Rhode_Island_Complex/ProgramCalendar.pdf

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret/>

Be sure to check with your own towns or other towns **Parks and Recreation Departments** for other opportunities for Free family events such as Narragansett’s free movies on Wednesday nights at the town beach!

<http://www.narragansettri.gov/333/Upcoming-Events>