

MARCH 2021

# COUNTY KIDS

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to Get Kids to Play  
Independently  
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# SUMMER CAMP guide

**Beck Center  
for the Arts**

**Camp Ho Mita Koda  
Fine Arts Association**

**Gilmour**

**Hawken**

**Hospice of WR**

**Lake Erie College**

**Lake Metroparks**

**Lost Nation Sports  
Park**

**Rabbit Run**

**Rescue Village**

**University School**

**YMCA**





Summer Camp Sign Up Time!

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on Facebook



COUNTY KIDS

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# Let's Go Camping



## • COUNTY KIDS' GUIDE TO SUMMER CAMPS •

### *Factors to consider before choosing a summer camp*

Adults often look back fondly on their childhood experiences at summer camp. Camps can provide the opportunity to form lifelong friendships and discover rewarding hobbies that can enrich campers' lives for decades to come.

Choosing a summer camp is no small task, as the options at families' disposal range from overnight camps to weekday afternoon camps to camps that specialize in certain programs, such as music or dance. Cost also is likely to factor into families' decisions, as the American Camp Association notes that cost can vary greatly depending on which camp families choose. For example, the ACA notes that the average daily fee at a resident camp is \$85, while the same fee at a day camp is \$43.

When looking for a summer camp for kids, families should make the decision together. Kids should be involved in the selection process, as they're more likely to have an enjoyable camp experience if they had a say in where they will be spending their summers. The following are some factors families should consider as they look for summer camps, courtesy of the ACA.

#### **KIDS' INTERESTS**

The ACA urges parents to consider the child's interests and personality before choosing a summer camp. Parents might want their children to attend the same summer camp they visited as youngsters, but each child is different. Just because mom and dad liked a particular camp does not mean their children will. The ACA notes that summer camps should align with children's interests and maturity level.

#### **LOCALE**

Locale may only be a consideration for families considering overnight camps. Kids will likely be familiar with the locations of local day camps, but overnight camps might be set in mountain ranges, near the ocean or environ-



ments less familiar to youngsters. Kids who love the ocean might benefit from oceanfront camps that focus on marine biology, boating or other activities involving the water. In the same vein, youngsters who like camping and hiking might be more likely to embrace camps located in mountainous regions.

#### **SESSION LENGTH**

Camps may last as little as one week or up to a couple of months. Session length should be considered by families looking at both local day camps and overnight resident camps. Parents who want their children to enjoy a largely schedule-free summer might not want to commit their children to lengthy camp sessions, even if those sessions are close to home. If parents think their children can benefit from the same structure they're accustomed to during the school year, then an overnight camp that stretches for several weeks might be what they're looking for.

Summer camps give kids a chance to make memories that will last a lifetime. Choosing the right camp is an important decision that parents and kids should make together.



# Explore University School's Summer Camps



University School has a strong tradition in combining fun activities with a truly educational experience! Summer 2021 programs include enrichment camps, along with our popular sports clinics and day camps. Camps will be in-person, on-campus, and led by experienced teachers and varsity coaches. We offer coed and boys camps for preschool-age kids through high school-age students.

**Our Preschool Day Camp** engages pre-kindergarten boys in a creative and stimulating environment. Boys can enjoy 1, 2, or 3 weeks of explorations that will guarantee a unique journey of discovery. The camp is run by dynamic US teachers and group size is limited, so register early for this fun camp!

**US Boys Day Camp**, a six-week program for boys in grades kindergarten to 8, is the place where boys experience teamwork, sportsmanship, athletic and non-athletic skill-building, and pride in a job well done. Group size is limited, and we maintain a 6-to-1 camper-to-staff ratio. Our Coed Day Camp, for children grades kindergarten to 3, is offered at the end of camp season. Extended Day options (before and after camp) are available.

**US Sports Camps** are for beginning athletes looking for an introduction to a sport, or for student-athletes wanting to take their talents to a higher level. Life values of teamwork, respect, effort and sports-



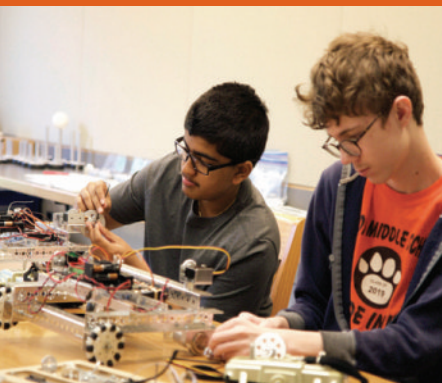
manship are staples of the US athletic program and are incorporated into every session. Camps include baseball, basketball, football, soccer, speed, tennis, and track and cross country.

Summertime is for exploring interests, and US offers many specialized coed camps, including art and design, outdoor adventure, rocketry, aviation, LEGO, and Minecraft. Middle and high school students can get a head start on academics through credit and non-credit class offerings.

Summer programs begin on June 14. Learn more at [www.us.edu/summer](http://www.us.edu/summer).



DAY CAMPS



ENRICHMENT CAMPS

**SUMMER** OF  
*Adventures*  
AT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

**JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED SUMMER  
AT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL!**

Register today at [www.us.edu/summer](http://www.us.edu/summer)

**UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL**



ACADEMIC CAMPS



SPORTS CAMPS

# Dogs and Cats and Pigs...Oh My!

Do your preteen kids love animals and want to participate in a camp where they can learn a lot and make a difference in the lives of homeless animals while having fun? Look no further than our summer animal camps from June through August. Our themed summer camps, for children ages 9-12, is an educational, hands-on experience! Due to COVID-19 we will be taking fewer campers in person but virtual spots (with activity boxes provided) are also available. On-site campers will spend time outside at our shelter in Novelty as weather permits and virtual campers will join us via Zoom. Barn themed camps will be held at our offsite barn in Kirtland.

New this year, campers can choose from four different themes for their camp experience (dogs, cats, barn animals, and special species). Pick one session or attend all four! Attend some in person and others from the safety of your own home. Campers will meet Rescue Village adoptable animals and also special animal special guests like



reptiles, police dogs, skunks, and other animals. Campers will participate in activities and make crafts specific to their chosen camp theme but will also get a peek at our other animals too! Our Summer Animal Camp kids learn all about Rescue Village and help to enrich the lives of shelter animals through a variety of activities including:

- Watching animal demonstrations
- Making animal treats
- Socializing puppies and kittens
- Making toys and blankets
- Assisting with animal care chores
- Helping promote adoptable dogs and cats

Don't miss out on this opportunity for your kids to have fun, learn, and make memories! Summer camp sessions are three days from Tuesday through Thursday, 9am - 12pm. Please

register early, as camps fill quickly! To register, visit [give.rescuevillage.org/summercamps](http://give.rescuevillage.org/summercamps) or call 440.338.4819, extension 20.

**RESCUE VILLAGE SUMMER CAMP**  
15463 Chillicothe Road, Novelty  
440-338-4819, ext. 20  
[education@rescuevillage.org](mailto:education@rescuevillage.org)  
[www.rescuevillage.org](http://www.rescuevillage.org)



## A WHOLE NEW WORLD: CAMP RELOADED

At the Y, safety is still our number one priority. Last summer, we served over 200 campers at our 3 branch locations with zero COVID cases or any being traced back to our camps.

Here are a few policies and procedures we will continue to follow in 2021 to keep campers safe:

- Pre-screening of all camp staff and campers
- Drive-thru drop off and pick up of campers
- Masks will be worn by all staff and campers
- Smaller group sizes
- Scheduled hand washing breaks
- Frequent sanitizing of spaces & supplies

Online registration and automatic payment plans are available. You can register for camp as well as set up an automatic pay schedule. [www.lakecountymca.org](http://www.lakecountymca.org).

## Imagine summer, think Hawken!

*Summer programs for boys and girls ages 4-18.*

Hawken Summer Programs provide some of the best summer enrichment opportunities in Greater Cleveland. Campers can choose from a broad menu of programs that are specifically designed to be age-appropriate, fun, and worthwhile.

*Day Camps • One-week Passport Camps • Athletic Camps  
Summer Studies for Grades 6-12*

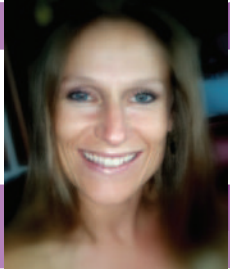
To register and for full camp descriptions visit [summer.hawken.edu](http://summer.hawken.edu) or contact us at 440-423-2940 or [summerprograms@hawken.edu](mailto:summerprograms@hawken.edu).

*Exciting adventures await you.*

[summer.hawken.edu](http://summer.hawken.edu)







# Family Matters

## with Amber

### 3 Proven Strategies to Get Kids to Play Independently

Are your kids on your back all day? Are they constantly at your feet begging for attention? If you are at home learning, it's possible this is happening. And if so, chances are you're finding it pretty impossible to get anything done in life. I mean it is pretty difficult washing dishes, reading the mail or taking a phone call when you have an extra 30-100 lbs on your (or however much your kids weigh all together).

I raised three kids and these are 3 proven (and constructive) strategies that will work to help you not only get something done around the house but might also offer you some peace! The BEST part? It's a way to help your kids feel the bonding they need with you (hence cutting down that clingy feeling).

**1. Sit down with your kids** and play. I know, this sounds impossible. But, you can do it. Put your mind in kid mode (not their brain, your previous childhood brain). PLAY. Don't think you have the time? I understand. Just do 15 minutes. I mean most of us by this day and age are on our phones for at least 10 times that before noon right? So heck, why not give the kids 15 minutes of dragons, Red Light Green Light, a board game, or some singing and dancing.

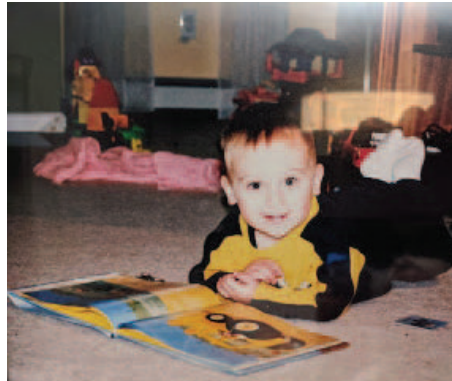
#### What does this do?

Offering your children 15-30 minutes of pretend play or another form of one on one play not only gives them your time but it also helps offer them the tools and skills it requires to use those new toys they got at Christmas. If we model *play*, they will copy us even when we aren't with them. This is like a magical tool so use this one often...it really works!

**2. Read to your children** for 30+ minutes a day. Okay, I'm asking for more time here, but this one is definitely a biggy when it comes to benefits.

#### What does this do?

Reading to kids from a very young age does four main things; 1) teaches them lots of language skills even if you don't think they can understand you, 2) gives



*My son at almost 3 years old 'reading' independently.*

them that bonding they desire by sitting near you still, or in your lap close to you, this is essential for emotional wellbeing from a young age, 3) teaches them about the world (in a positive way) if you choose the right books (there are a lot of crap books out there for kids that I would never suggest reading to them, so ask a librarian for assistance or better yet your child's teacher, 4) they will learn the love of reading (and the words to the book) so they will want to read and we all know that reading is the gateway for education and understanding so why not start when they're small? OH! I almost forgot! There is a sixth thing! They will someday magically walk away from you to read...and voila! You have about 15 mins. to load or unload the dishwasher!

**3. Feed your children** often (but make it healthy food). What do I mean by this? Kids are growing constantly. Their dietary needs and the amount of food doesn't usually stay the same. It changes with their own metabolism and growth spurts, and they can have a jump in those areas before you even know what's happening. So, my other magic trick is to get them a nutritious and fulfilling meal or snack before they act like they need it (and while you are at it, make it a consistent routine). This is how I did it and do it with other

**SEE PAGE 12**

# SUMMER FUN WITH FAA!

## CAMPS, CLASSES, LESSONS, & WORKSHOPS FOR ALL!



**DANCE, MUSIC, THEATRE, VISUAL ARTS, & CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIES!**

**The Fine Arts Association | 38660 Mentor Ave.  
Willoughby, OH 44094  
(440) 951-7500 | fineartsassociation.org**

## CREATIVE CAMPS & CLASSES to BRIGHTEN UP YOUR SUMMER!



**ONLINE  
CLASSES  
AVAILABLE**

**REGISTER NOW AT  
BECKCENTER.ORG**

**DANCE, VISUAL ARTS, THEATER, MUSIC,  
AND CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIES  
@ BECK CENTER FOR THE ARTS**





# Fine art fun at Rabbit Run

It's not too soon to think about plans for kids for the summer. Youth of all ages have tons of fun discovering hidden talents in many different fine arts camps available at Rabbit Run Community Arts Association (RRCAA) in Madison.

Youth Art Camp is for anyone who likes to be creative and maybe make a mess in the process. In these one-week camps, campers, ages seven to 16, get elbow deep in paint, clay, and other mediums as they create original two- and three-dimensional works of art.

Art Camps meets Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Preschool Art Camp meets Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Specific camp dates to be announced.

Pop Star Camp gets youth ages five through 10 up and moving as they learn to sing and dance like their favorite pop star. This one-week day camp is from 9:30 a.m. to noon typically in June.

Campers delve into all areas of the theater arts including drama, music, dance, costumes, make-up, and stage craft in both Junior Theater Camp for ages four through eight and Explorer's Theater Camp for ages eight through 15.

Campers also participate in arts and crafts and age-appropriate games. At the end of each theater camp, actors share their talents with parents



in an end-of-week program.

Explorer's Camp is for those who are new to theater and are looking for a great introduction to the world of drama. The camp meets from 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Just for Juniors Camp runs from 9 a.m. to noon. Just for Juniors is a one-week camp introducing young children to the world of theater through song, dance, and lots of imagination.

Specific dates for all camps to be announced. For more information, call RRCAA at 440-428-5913 or visit [www.rabbitrun.org](http://www.rabbitrun.org).

**SEE PAGE 8**



## GILMOUR DAY CAMPS

Camp Gilmour is back and safer than ever. Join us for Preschool Camp (3-5), Day Camp (5-12), sports and experiential camps such as nature, outdoor adventure, robotics and theater camps. Camps offered June 7-August 6. Optional complimentary enrichment offered each morning for day campers.

Before/After Care available -7:15 a.m.-6 p.m.

34001 Cedar Road, Gates Mills, OH 44040

[www.gilmour.org/summercamp](http://www.gilmour.org/summercamp), (440) 473-8000 ext. 2267  
[summercamp@gilmour.org](http://summercamp@gilmour.org)

## LEARN TO RIDE

### AT LAKE ERIE COLLEGE'S THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER

THE ONLY PATH, INT'L. PREMIER ACCREDITED CENTER IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO!

A unique opportunity for children 8-14 with special needs to experience the fun of learning to ride, groom, and care for horses in a safe, skilled and supportive environment.

**SUMMER LESSONS  
BEGIN IN JUNE AND RUN THROUGH AUGUST!**

TO SIGN-UP OR FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE VISIT  
[LEC.EDU/THERAPEUTICHORSEMANSHIP](http://LEC.EDU/THERAPEUTICHORSEMANSHIP)



**LAKE ERIE**  
COLLEGE



GEORGE M. HUMPHREY EQUESTRIAN CENTER  
8031 MORLEY ROAD | MENTOR, OHIO 44060

**440.375.8052 | [LECTRC@LEC.EDU](mailto:LECTRC@LEC.EDU)**



# Discover Hawken's Summer Programs

**Hawken Day Camps** provide a variety of exciting and challenging activities led by experienced professionals. While your child enjoys up to a six-week session, you'll rest assured knowing he or she is in a safe, nurturing environment that includes daily hot lunches, optional transportation, and pre- and after-care services. Camp offerings include Hawkings (ages 4 – 5), Boys or Girls Day Camps (prekindergarten – grade 5), Boys Sports Camp (grades 4 – 8), and Girls Lifetime Adventure Camp (grades 4 – 8). We are thrilled to offer in-person camps this summer, but please note that because COVID-19 protocols (masking, distancing, will still be in place, we will have fewer available spots for campers this year.

**Passport Camps** offer unique week-long, full and half-day opportunities to learn, create, and explore. Families can piece together a summer of courses or choose a one-week adventure. Camp topics include science; the performing and visual arts; design and

construction; leadership; cooking; world language and culture; games, sports, and fitness; technology and creativity; and mythology, mystery, and adventure.

**Hawken Athletics Camps** offer skill-driven instruction for campers seeking to improve their skills in many sports such as soccer basketball, lacrosse, field hockey, and tennis. **Hawken Summer Studies Program**, open to public and private school students, is a six-week program of credit and enrichment for students entering grades 6 – 12. Subject offerings include courses in

the humanities, science, mathematics, history, health studies, and PSAT/SAT strategies.

Come join the fun! Camps run at varying intervals between June and August. For more information, contact [summerprograms@hawken.edu](mailto:summerprograms@hawken.edu), 440.423.2940, or visit [summer.hawken.edu](http://summer.hawken.edu). Visit [www.hawken.edu/healthy-hawken-restart](http://www.hawken.edu/healthy-hawken-restart) to learn more about Hawken's COVID-19 protocols.

Gates Mills, Lyndhurst, and University Circle (440) 423-2940  
**[summer.hawken.edu](http://summer.hawken.edu)**



## Beck Center for the Arts

Beck Center for the Arts serves the Northeast Ohio community through creating arts experiences. We offer summer classes for all ages, and camps for children interested in visual arts, dance, music, theater, and creative arts therapies, for all skill levels and all abilities.

Ed Gallagher, Director of Education at Beck Center for the Arts says, "Our campus continues to maintain strict masking, distancing, and sanitation protocols." You will love our beautiful and immaculate renovated Education Wing. For a full lineup of the arts education offerings please visit [BeckCenter.org/Education-Programs](http://BeckCenter.org/Education-Programs) or call Beck Center Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**BEST  
SUMMER  
EVER®**

**Lake County YMCA  
Day Camp 2021**



**Go to [lakecountnymca.org](http://lakecountnymca.org)  
for more information**



# Camp Ho Mita Koda!

Ho Mita Koda! That's Sioux for "Welcome my friend!" Founded in 1929 by Dr. Henry and Betty John, pioneers in the use of insulin to treat diabetes, Camp Ho Mita Koda stands as the oldest and longest running summer camp for Type 1 Diabetes in the U.S.

Located on 72 beautiful wooded acres in Newbury, OH (25 miles east of Cleveland), Camp Ho Mita Koda is home to 400 children each summer and over 30 unique activities and programs. Campers learn lifelong diabetes management skills in a fun, interactive, and age-appropriate setting. Our lifestyle enhancing programs empower campers to manage their diabetes, make healthy choices, take personal responsibility, and build self-esteem, friendships, and a life-long support network.

Around-the-clock supervision is provided by experienced, licensed physicians and nurses from northeast Ohio's top-ranked medical institutions; trained counselors - many of whom have diabetes and are camp alumni; registered dietitians attending



to menus and camper nutrition needs; program specialists at each camp activity; certified lifeguards; and a Camp Director in charge of all camp operations. Minimum staff to camper ratio is 1 to 5.

Surrounded by friends and a world-class staff, every camper learns to 'stretch'...spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. Self-assured in these new skills, campers come away with a strong foundation

for living their best life, increased capabilities and newfound independence in managing their own personal T1D journey.

**For more information on current dates, rates, programs, events, and more, please visit us at [www.camphomitakoda.org](http://www.camphomitakoda.org) or reach out at [info@camphomitakoda.org](mailto:info@camphomitakoda.org) or 440-739-4095.**

Camp Ho Mita Koda 14040 Auburn Road Newbury, OH 44065

## RABBIT RUN FROM PAGE 6



RRCAA is a non-profit organization offering year-round instruction in all the major disciplines of the fine and performing arts. RRCAA also operates Rabbit Run Theater, one of the few barn theaters still in operation in Ohio.

RRCAA receives partial funding from the Ohio Arts Council, Dworken & Bernstein Co., LPA, Hearn Plumbing and Heating, Huffman-Mayer Wealth Mgmt. Group and Lighthouse Advisers.

SUMMER CAMP  
**Gilmour**  
GATES MILLS • OHIO  
2021



## The Official Camp of *Safe* Summer Fun!

Travel through summer safely this year at Camp Gilmour.

With nine weeks of new offerings and old favorites for children as young as 3, Camp Gilmour has something for everyone! From our Day Camp to Preschool Camp, sports camps to arts camps - children will be active, entertained and safe all summer long! We will continue to utilize the successful safety protocols outlined in University Hospitals' Healthy Restart Playbook to ensure the safety of everyone.

### ACT FAST

LIMITED ENROLLMENT  
ONLINE REGISTRATION

Visit [gilmour.org/summercamp](http://gilmour.org/summercamp)  
Before and After Care available

Fun with Drones  
Digital Photography  
Nature-Based Camps  
Watercolor Painting: En Plein Air  
Volleyball Camp for Girls  
Lacrosse for Boys and Girls  
Hockey for Boys and Girls  
and more...



# Lake Metroparks Summer Day Camps

Immerse yourself in the great outdoors this summer

Join us as we prepare for another fun-filled and adventure-packed summer camp season! We have summer day camp experiences for children ages 4 to 16! A week of discovery and adventure immersed in nature, experiencing life on the farm or at the beach is a great way for kids to have fun as they explore the natural world around them. It is proven that being outdoors and experiencing nature is beneficial to our health. Children who have direct access to nature are better learners, have increased attention spans and have lower stress levels.

Not only are Lake Metroparks day camps fun, entertaining and educational, they are also affordable! Extended care hours for before and/or after camp hours are offered for certain camps. This is not an extension of camp. During this time, campers can read, play games or enjoy other quiet activities.

All applicable state and local public health guidelines will be followed dur-



ing camps. Please check website for updates.

Registration is required to participate in Lake Metroparks Summer Day Camps and extended care offerings. Registration is anticipated to begin in early March. Please check the website for registration and additional camp information. Register online at [lakemetroparks.com](http://lakemetroparks.com) or call 440-358-7275 or 800-669-9226.

## Come ride with us at the Lake Erie

Come ride with us at the Lake Erie College Therapeutic Riding Center, Lake County's only PATH Int'l Premier Accredited facility!



Children ages 8-14 years old with special needs can experience the joy of riding, grooming, and caring for horses during their horsemanship lessons. Students participate in a variety of fun and creative mounted activities to increase their confidence, improve physical strength, and develop problem-solving skills. Friendships grow with their classmates, volunteer team, and equine partners which foster independence, improved language skills, and better impulse control.

Every student receives a personal evaluation to determine if our program is right for them. Lessons begin in June and run through August.

Learn more about our therapeutic riding program at [lec.edu/therapeutichorsemanship](http://lec.edu/therapeutichorsemanship).

*\*Volunteers ages 14 and up with or without horse experience are also needed to support the riders in our program.*

Go to [lec.edu/therapeutichorsemanship](http://lec.edu/therapeutichorsemanship) to learn how you can help. George M. Humphrey Equestrian Center, 8031 Morley Road in Mentor, Ohio 44060

## Together We Can 2021 Camps



Looking for a summer camp to support a grieving child?

Consider one of our **Together We Can** bereavement day camps for children who have experienced the death of a loved one. Campers will share stories, laugh together, shed some tears and celebrate the life of their special person.

Five-day

### Riding Through Grief Fieldstone Farm

16497 Snyder Road, Chagrin Falls  
June 21 - 25, 9 a.m. - noon

This camp is offered in collaboration with Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center and is for children ages 8-12 who have experienced the death of a loved one. Through riding and working with horses, campers explore grief issues supported by trained counselors.

Three-day

### Red Oak Red Oak Camp

9057 Kirtland Chardon Road,  
Willoughby  
August 10 - 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A three-day bereavement day camp for children ages 6-13 who have experienced the death of a loved one. Transportation available from two locations.



For more information  
and to register,  
visit [hospicewr.org/camps](http://hospicewr.org/camps)  
or call 216.486.6838.



WESTERN  
RESERVE  
GRIEF SERVICES





# CAMP HO MITA KODA

## Summer Camp for Children with Type 1 Diabetes

Founded in 1929, Camp Ho Mita Koda is the very first and oldest operating summer camp in the country for kids with T1D!



Camp Ho Mita Koda is a coed summer camp for kids and teens with Type 1 Diabetes. Located in Newbury, Ohio, our overnight and day camp program welcomes boys and girls in grades K-11 for one-week adventure filled sessions. Activities include canoeing, kayaking, paintball, challenge course, rock climbing, drama, swimming, archery, hiking, and so much more!

14040 Auburn Road, Newbury, OH 44141  
**440-739-4095** \* [www.camphomitakoda.org](http://www.camphomitakoda.org)



## Kids Find Hope and Healing in Nature

**Are you looking for a way to help a grieving child or teen?** Western Reserve Grief Services is hosting grief support camps this summer to help children coping with the death of loved ones.

Led by trained bereavement professionals from Hospice of the Western Reserve, they combine art, music, play and nature exploration to help with the healing process. The camps bring together children, all of whom have experienced the death of a loved one, in a safe, supportive environment. All camps are open to the community and offered at a nominal cost (scholarships available).

"In an atmosphere of comfort and trust, the camps offer children a chance to learn about grief and new ways of expressing feelings, and to honor their special person," said Karen Hatfield, Director of Western Reserve Grief Services. "We start as strangers and leave as friends."

To register or request an information packet, call 216.486.6838. For a comprehensive list of community bereavement resources, visit [www.hospicewr.org/griefandloss](http://www.hospicewr.org/griefandloss).

**Camp Red Oak (ages 6-13)**  
 9057 Kirtland-Chardon Road  
 Kirtland, Ohio 44094  
 August 10-12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This day camp is for children ages 6-13



who have experienced the death of a loved one.

**Riding Through Grief** (ages 8-12)  
 Fieldstone Farm  
 16497 Snyder Road  
 Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023  
 June 21- 25, 9 a.m. - noon. \$75 per camper. Scholarships available.  
 Through fun horseback riding lessons and un-mounted activities with horses, children campers will explore grief issues.



## Rabbit Run Community Arts Association

**Art Camps** Ages 7 - 16

Campers get elbow deep in paint, pastels & more as they create unique works of art.

**Pop Star Camp** Ages 5 - 10

Learn to sing & dance like your favorite pop star!

**Dance Classes** All ages

Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Creative Movement, Adult Ballet, Adult Tap, Modern, Zumba®

## Summer Fun at Rabbit Run

**Theater Camps** Ages 4 - 15

Have a blast learning all about theater arts in a fun and traditional camp setting.

Camp dates to be announced  
 Hybrid learning available

**Call 440-428-5913**

[www.rabbitrun.org](http://www.rabbitrun.org)  
 Madison, OH







## Summer Fun at FAA

The Fine Arts Association (FAA) located in Willoughby has summer camps for the littlest campers at age 3 through high school grads, ranging from one week to six weeks long. Programming has been offered in a hybrid arts education format with instruction happening both in-person and virtually.

FAA is a place for creative discovery! Classes, private lessons, and workshops will also be available with FAA this summer. Explore programming in dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and creative arts therapies. With over 50 faculty who are committed to providing an enriching arts experience, there is a creative pathway for anyone interested in the arts recreation-ally or professionally!

“No matter what program we have been involved in, my children rave about it. They continually ask to participate in more activities offered by FAA. There really is something for everyone to enjoy!” says Jayme N., a parent of an FAA student.

Jaime M., also an FAA parent says “I highly recommend FAA’s acting classes. First and foremost, they rolled with the punches of COVID. They started in the theatre and when our family went into quarantine, they provided a Zoom option for Bryce. Not the same as the stage, but better for a large audience!

He was proud of himself. We were all thankful for what his teacher had done to create that moment.”

FAA is located at 38660 Mentor Avenue, Willoughby, Ohio 44094. To learn more about their offerings, visit [fineartsassociation.org](http://fineartsassociation.org) or call (440) 951-7500

CEO, Paul Holm says “We are adhering to all health mandates and protocols to help ensure a safe and welcoming place for all.”

**COVID-19:** Over the last year, FAA has remained a safe and sanitary place for all students. For more information on FAA’s COVID-19 protocol and guidelines, please visit: [fineartsassociation.org/faq-arts-ed/](http://fineartsassociation.org/faq-arts-ed/)



# LAKE METROPARKS SUMMER DAY CAMPS

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or call 440-358-7275**





## PLAY INDEPENDENTLY FROM PAGE 5

people's children also: Breakfast by about an hour after waking, Snack by 10 am, Lunch by noon, Snack after nap and healthier veggie/fruit type of snack in the interim of dinner. This is just a time outline based on what can work for some families, you might need to alter this. For more on this [www.aboutkidshealth.ca/Article?contentid=1464&language=English](http://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/Article?contentid=1464&language=English) and [www.parents.com/recipes/nutrition/how-much-does-my-kid-need-to-eat/](http://www.parents.com/recipes/nutrition/how-much-does-my-kid-need-to-eat/). (I am not a doctor or dietician. These links are just base ideas I think parallel what I've done in the past. Please refer to your child's pediatrician or your primary health-care giver.)

### What does this do?

Feeding your kids a healthy snack or meal before they feel like they need it promotes some clear brain activity and mood (you know how you feel when you're hungry? Yes, don't wait for that). This also keeps them from following you around the kitchen.

So I'm sure you noticed from my hint, and after reading through this whole post, I never mentioned a device to occupy your kids. That's because that should only be used sparingly, the back pocket trick, the clutch. It's THE one that used correctly will work every time and you will appreciate it (and

so will they) but when you are in a doctor's office or on the phone sitting in the car and they're screaming. It's the one that will work every time, in dycer need and works only if used sparingly (kind of like TV back in the day lol). Using screens too much will do what any TV program will do, eventually, it loses it's cool. It's no longer exciting. Either that, or the child is just mindlessly scrolling or watching. That dazed look? Yeah, their brain probably isn't engaged. Why is this a bad thing? Because growing brains need stimulation (the right kind of stimulation) and that should be active, not passive so they can grow at the different cognitive and emotional levels they need to.

In Growing Up Social (a book I can appreciate and you should read which doesn't get nearly enough attention) there is a lot about the changes in society, parenting, and child's play (need some more back up or how and why to pull the kids away from the phone or tablet...I'd check it out). You might also read and understand why I regret allowing my adult daughter to gift my 13 y/o son with an X-Box (and why I'm annoyed all school connections are almost all online).

The moral of this story is if you want better kids, it's going to take a little of our time and less screen time.

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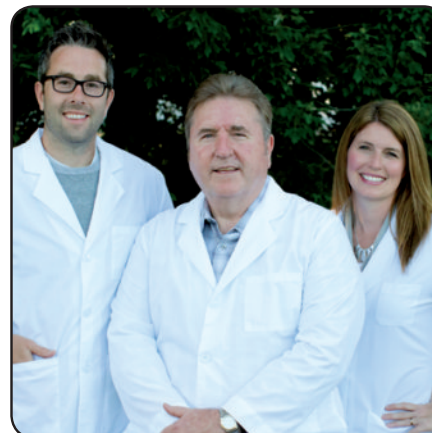
- For ages 9 - 12
- Camps run June - August
- Camps are Tues. through Thurs.
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- Virtual or in-person options
- Socialize young animals
- Help adoptable animals find homes
- Make treats, toys, and blankets
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or call 440.338.4819 x20



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**FAIRPORT HARBOR LIBRARY**

335 Vine Street  
Fairport Harbor, OH 44077  
(440) 354-8191  
fairportlibrary.com

Spring is just around the corner and Fairport Harbor Public Library has a bouquet of March activities and events planned for kids, teens, and adults. Stop in and pick up a take-home craft kit or borrow something from our growing collection of jigsaw puzzles, cake pans, kids' Edukits, movies and more! We now have hotspots and tablets to borrow as well.

**Join Miss Gigi online for a St. Patrick's Day Zoom Party** at 3:15 on March 17. There is a separate craft participants may pick up starting March 1st. We will do it together online. Please register in advance.

**Weekly Storytime** for young children will be held via live stream from the Fairport Harbor Public Library's Facebook page Fridays at 9:30 am. No registration is needed, and all ages are welcome.

**Once a week, children may also pick up a free craft kit** at the library and watch online to make a fun item at home. No registration is needed.

**All Around This World** with Jay Sand live streams from the Fairport Harbor Public Library's Facebook page, every Saturday morning at 10:00 am. Families of children ages 0-9 are invited to join us online for music, dance, and geography fun! No registration is needed.

**Teens and tweens** can get creative by joining the Writing in Circles club or picking up a Koala-Tea craft kit each week. Contact our youth department to register.

**Teen Anime and manga fanatics** are invited to join us as we all catch up on everyone's latest anime obsessions & favorite manga series. Join us virtually every Friday at 3:15 pm. Open to all tweens and teens from anywhere on the globe! Contact our youth department to register.

**Join the H.E.R.O Club via Zoom** Thursday, March 4 at 3:15 pm to celebrate our vibrant community. H.E.R.O. (Helping to Educate Regarding Orientation) is a club made for and by LGBTQA+ members and their allies. Come meet other LGBTQA+ members and join us for games, movies, and discussions! This will be a safe, positive, and friendly space. You do not need to be in the LGBTQA+ community to join in on the discussion. Registration and kindness required. For more information or to register, call or email the library.

**MENTOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES**  
**Main Library**

8215 Mentor Ave. Mentor, OH 44060



(440) 255-8811

**Mentor-on-the-Lake**

5642 Andrews Rd.

Mentor-on-the-Lake 44060

(440) 257-2512

**Headlands**

4669 Corduroy Rd. Mentor, OH 44060

(440) 257-2000

[www.mentor.lib.oh.us](http://www.mentor.lib.oh.us)

*Fun for the whole family! All of these programs are being offered online. Some will be hosted live via Zoom and require registration. You can sign up by calling the library or at [www.mentorpl.org](http://www.mentorpl.org). Others will be broadcast on the library's:*

- Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/mentorpubliclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/mentorpubliclibrary)
- YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/mentorpubliclib](http://www.youtube.com/mentorpubliclib)

and website: [www.mentorpl.org](http://www.mentorpl.org).

**Headlands Spring Cleaning Help** Clean up your community! Mentor Public Library is teaming with the City of Mentor and the national Keep America Beautiful campaign to encourage you to clean up litter in your area. Walk down the sidewalks of your neighborhood or visit one of the community's beautiful parks and safely dispose of the litter you find there. Register with the library's Headlands Branch – though the whole community is invited to participate – to get safety guidelines and suggestions for areas that need the most attention. You'll also be entered into a raffle for a \$25 gift card from Barnes & Noble.

**March Reading Challenge All Month** Kids can win prizes for reading or being read to! Visit the Children's Department at Mentor Public Library's Main Branch for a reading log. For children, newborn to 12.

**Grab & Go Crafts** Families can pick up supplies for crafts that they can make at home from MPL's Main, Lake and Headlands Branches. Get different crafts

throughout the month. Call branches for details.

**Leprechaun Scavenger Hunt**

Headlands Branch How many leprechauns can you find living in the Headlands Branch of Mentor Public Library? Each time you visit the branch and check out at least two books, you receive a raffle ticket for a guess and a chance to win a \$10 gift card.

**I SPY with Cat in the Hat & Friends**

Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch Celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday by playing I SPY with his characters all month at the newly renovated Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch. See how many Seuss-pendous characters you can find to win a prize.

**I SPY: Harry Potter**

From March 3 to March 28 Main Branch Play the I SPY: Harry Potter game in Mentor Public Library's Main Branch. First, pick up a game sheet from the Children's Department. Then, see how many items you can spot inside the display case in the branch's entryway. Kids can win a small prize for locating all the items. Come back for a new challenge each week.

**Online Family Story Time**

Mondays at 10 a.m. Enjoy pre-recorded story times at your convenience on the library's website ([www.mentorpl.org](http://www.mentorpl.org)), Facebook page, and YouTube channel. Each story time will have a different theme and will be filled with stories, songs, and rhymes. No registration required and perfect for kids from birth to six years old.

**Interactive Family Story Time Room on Zoom** Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Children of all ages and their families can spend some time together while enjoying stories and songs in our online story time room. The story time will be a live Zoom event. Registration is required.

**Artpocalypse** Tuesdays at 12 p.m.

Get fun and colorful craft ideas with Mr. Josh from Mentor Public Library's Headlands Branch. Can be viewed on the library's Facebook page, YouTube channel, or at [www.mentorpl.org/artpocalypse](http://www.mentorpl.org/artpocalypse).

**Storytime Stars on Zoom**

Thursdays at 10 a.m. Children and their families can enjoy an interactive online story time with Ms. Lisa from the library's Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch. She'll share a half hour filled with stories, songs and fun. The story time will be a live Zoom event. Registration is required. Sign up at [www.mentorpl.org](http://www.mentorpl.org).

**Read Across America with Dr. Seuss**

Tuesday, March 2 Main Branch Celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with a scavenger hunt for the Cat in the Hat and his other characters throughout the Children's Department of the library's Main Branch. Families can also pick up an activity packet filled with Seuss-themed crafts, beginning Feb. 25 and while supplies last. Additionally, both the library's Lake and Headlands Branches will have Seuss-themed take-and-make crafts available, while supplies last. Pick up a craft kit at the library and make it at home with your family.

**Paint By Sticker** Wednesday, March 10, at 6 p.m. Kids from kindergarten to fifth grade can craft lovely pictures using stickers. The library will provide the supplies, which can be picked up after families register. This program will be a live Zoom event. Families can sign up online at [www.mentorpl.org](http://www.mentorpl.org) or by calling the library at (440) 255-8811 ext. 220.

**Virtual Chips & Chapters** Tuesday, March 16, at 4 p.m. Kids (kindergarten through second grade) can enjoy a snack and a story with Ms. Lisa from Mentor Public Library. Ms. Lisa will read from a chapter book while the children enjoy some chips and follow along. The library even provides the treat. Families can pick up their chips from the library after they register for the read-along. This program will be a live Zoom event. Families can sign up online at [www.mentorpl.org](http://www.mentorpl.org) or by calling the library at (440) 255-8811 ext. 220.

**Zoom Firehouse Friends** Thursday, March 18, at 10:30 a.m. Families with kids of all ages can join fireman Jerry from the Mentor Fire Department for a half hour of stories and fire safety tips. The story time will be a live Zoom event. Registration is required. Sign up at [www.mentorpl.org](http://www.mentorpl.org).

**Grow Your Own Story: Garden Party** Thursday, March 18, at 4 p.m. Kids (ages four to eight) can enjoy a garden-themed online story time that will conclude with them planting their own little starter



gardens. Register for the program, visit up the garden kit from the Children's Department at the library's Main Branch beforehand, and then join the library for this special story time on Zoom.

**Virtual Crafternoon** Monday, March 22, at 4 p.m. Kids (ages eight to 12) can learn how to make a God's Eye with sticks and yarn during the library's crafternoon via Zoom. To participate, first, RSVP online at [www.mentorpl.org](http://www.mentorpl.org) or by calling the library. Then, pick up the supplies beforehand from the library's Lake Branch. Finally, log on via Zoom, craft with other kids, and show everyone what you made.

**Journal Night** Tuesday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m. Teens and tweens (ages 11 to 18) can unwind and find an outlet for their creativity during a journaling session. The library will offer fun writing prompts and a supportive, nonjudgmental atmosphere where thoughts (and ink!) may flow freely. The program will be hosted via Zoom. Registration – either online at [www.mentorpl.org](http://www.mentorpl.org) or by calling the library – is necessary to get the Zoom link.

#### **MORLEY LIBRARY**

184 Phelps St. Painesville, OH 44077  
(440) 352-3383

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

Check website for events and updates.

#### **WICKLIFFE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

1713 Lincoln Road, Wickliffe, Oh 44092  
(440) 944-6010

[www.wickliffe.lib.oh.us](http://www.wickliffe.lib.oh.us)

Check website for events and updates.

#### **WILLOUGHBY-EASTLAKE PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

##### **Eastlake Public Library**

36706 Lake Shore Blvd. Eastlake 44095  
(440) 942-7880 x. 105

##### **Willoughby Public Library**

30 Public Sq. Willoughby, OH 44094  
(440) 942-3200 x. 104

##### **Willowick Public Library**

263 E. 305 St. Willowick, OH 44095  
(440) 943-4151 x. 116  
(440) 516-0843 TTY

##### **Willoughby Hills Public Library**

35400 Chardon Rd.  
Willoughby Hills, OH 44094  
(440) 942-3362  
[www.welibrary.info](http://www.welibrary.info)

**Take and Make Art Club Kits for Teens and Adults** Willoughby Library will have a variety of Take and Make crafts for teens and adults available during the month of March. Call the Library at 440-942-3200 to find out what we've got and schedule a pickup!

**Diggerdoo Down Under** Have a blast experiencing Australia through music, culture, comedy and audience participation! Tuesday, March 2, 6:30 pm

#### **Bedtime Storytime**

Put on your PJs, grab a blanket and snuggle with your family as we prepare for bed. We will read stories, sign songs and unwind through simple calming activities. Thursday, March 11, 7 pm

**Zoom LEGO Club** Join us on Zoom to discuss the amazing LEGO creations you have been working on. The Wednesday before the program, Miss Sarah will send you a video about what the theme is and an example of something she has been working on, as well as the Zoom link for the next day. At 2 pm on Saturday, you'll be able to join a Zoom call and show off your amazing creation. Be sure to have a name for the creation and a little story that explains it. Saturday, March 13, 2 pm

#### **Take and Make Craft: Fandom Fairy Jars**

Visit Willowick Library the week of March 15th to get a take-home fandom jar kit. Take your kit home, decorate it with your favorite fandoms, light it up with the included electric candle and share pictures of your creations. Kits available while supplies last. Grades 6-12 (Ages 12-18). Week of March 15

#### **Sensory Family Storytime**

Children of all ages & abilities are welcomed to this interactive, inclusive storytime specifically designed to support the developmental needs of those with sensory challenges.

Tuesday, March 16, 6:30 pm

#### **Baby-Sitters Club Book Club**

For this session of our weekly club, we'll read Claudia and the Phantom Phone Calls. Contact the Willoughby Library to reserve your copy or read along with the digital version each week.

Wednesday, March 17-April 21, 5-6 pm

**Teen Finger Knitting** Finger knit a scarf using looped yarn. We will supply the yarn and tapestry needle. Supplies available for pick-up at Willoughby Hills Library. Limit 6 per class.

Wednesday, March 17, 5:30-7:30 pm

#### **Miss Sam & Sarah's S.T.E.A.M. Spotlight**

Follow along with Miss Sam & Miss Sarah as they take you through the steps of a fun activity highlighting concepts from Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math! (Registrants will be informed of necessary supplies in advance of this LIVE demonstration).

Wednesday, March 17, 3:30 pm

**Homeschool Monthly Program** Children ages 6-12 will enjoy a variety of fun educational virtual programs!

Thursday, March 18, 2 pm

#### **Book Buddies**

Students entering second, third, and fourth grades are invited to team up with a staff member to work on building better reading skills through reading aloud, activities, and games. Books can be downloaded beforehand via Hoopla, or feel free to pick them up in person or via curbside. Program runs Thursdays, March 18-April 22, 6:30 pm.

## Library makes triple play with board, online, video games

To push back against COVID-19's social isolation, Madison Public Library is uniting people with fun — tabletop and video games for home use and games to connect online using Discord, a digital community server.

Madison library is unique locally in its wealth of tabletop games for checkout and its weekly online gaming opportunities for young people, said Dee Culbertson, director.

The library applied for and received digital content from Hasbro for D&D Beyond, an online service that enhances play of Dungeons and Dragons online. In the game, players create their own characters, and library staff member Joe Phommavichit(CQ) leads them through adventures together.

On Thursdays, the library offers Dungeons and Dragons for groups of middle and high school students, plus young adults via Discord, Phommavichit said.

"Playing Dungeons and Dragons over the internet has been a great opportunity for the kids and I to continue using our problem-solving and imagination skills," he said. "This generation is comfortable communicating over the internet, and they often do a little character acting while also meeting some new friends. Also, I've really missed them hanging out here at the library, and this is helping fill that void."

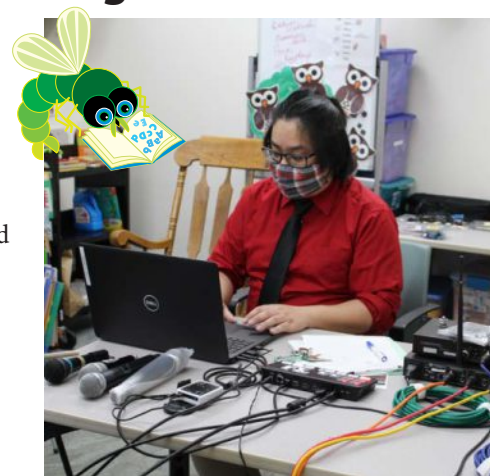
Anecdotal evidence from nonprofits involved in bringing role-playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons to low-income families shows these games help people who struggle to connect socially. And during the pandemic, there is evidence that playing via online servers such as Discord is a healthy way to connect with others and feel less isolated.

The library also recently expanded its board and tabletop game collection to meet the needs of families who are spending more time at home together because

#### **Xhin's Craft Corner Recordings**

Follow along with Miss Xhin as she gets creative with materials you have around the house! A new, pre-recorded video will be available every week. Links available Fridays, March 19–April 23.

**Homeschool Travelers** Take a trip around the world without leaving your house! Each month features a different location, complete with facts & fun activities! Wednesday, March 24, 2 pm



*Library staff member Joe Library makes triple play with board, online, video games*

of COVID, Culbertson said.

"Families are looking for things to do together," she added. "It's fun to bring out an old favorite board game or for everyone to learn how to play a new one together. We have games for people of all ages."

"Our library also lends tablets stocked with games for young children, video games for many systems, board games for young and old, plus we host online games," Culbertson said. "We also have an extensive puzzle collection for children and adults. It's hard to get bored with all that we have for people to check out!"

The library recently added games for the Playstation 5 and Xbox Series X.

"All our games and puzzles can be checked out with a library card in good standing," Culbertson said. "Library cards are free as always."

To sign up to play Dungeons and Dragons online, go to [madison-library.libcal.com/events](http://madison-library.libcal.com/events). Click on the Thursday program called "Experience Points" that fits the right age group or call 440-428-2189.

Madison Public Library is at 6111 Middle Ridge Road in Madison Township.



# Mother and Daughter Co-Author a Children's Guidebook Series Sharing Their Love for National Parks

*A great way for children to learn about the national parks in a fun interactive way.*



Inspired by her love for national parks and the lack of a children's passport book to record visits, Emily Matheny, a Columbus, Ohio resident, took her inspiration and became an author, creating a five-book national parks guidebook series for children.

After visiting Joshua Tree National Park in 2017 with her nine-month-old daughter and husband, Emily realized the lack of a children's passport to record park visits and stamps. Her strong desire to instill her love of the parks in her children, encouraged Emily to change that. Discussing the idea with her mom, Mary O'Hare, who herself instilled her own love of the national parks in Emily, the two decided to co-author Stamp Your Way Through The U.S.A.

The co-authors set out to create a children's book series covering all of the national parks by region with space to collect stamps, interview rangers, and learn about the parks in a fun, interactive way. To keep the children interested, the books needed to be attractive to provide enjoyment while learning about the parks. Enter, Rose Storey, an award-winning graphic designer who is also Emily's aunt and Mary's sister. Rose took the vision and brought it to life.

There are five books in the Stamp Your Way Through The U.S.A. series, divided by region. The Pacific Northwest and Alaska, Western, Rocky Mountain, Midwest & Central and Eastern Regions all highlight their national parks alphabetically by state. Each book contains a regional map of parks, a map with each park's location, information on what to look for, interesting facts and a page for children to document their visit and interview with the Park Ranger on duty with a place for their cancellation and regional stamp. As a 7"x7", soft-covered and spiral bound book, the books were designed for easy writing and backpack travel.

The co-authors have received numerous comments from Rangers all over who are delighted with the series,



noting that the books are "just right for kids to carry in their backpacks" and that "these books are the perfect way to engage kids in the park and get them introduced to the stamp program." "We're especially proud that each book gives kids an opportunity to interview a park ranger, which means they are also learning about the amazing people who help protect and preserve these special places," states Mary.

"A love for the national parks was the inspiration for the series but the motivation was the collecting of the national parks stamps," states Emily. After their first family park visit with her young daughter, they were looking for a more kid-centered way for children to connect with the park rangers and a special place for them to collect stamps that focused exclusively on just the national parks. With no avail, when Emily got home, she decided to create her own.

Now, two years on the market and recently receiving the Gold Medal from Moonbeam Awards, Category: Activity Book—Educational, Science and History, the mother-daughter-aunt team realize the wonderful gift and resource they have put in the hands of families. The gift of time and enjoyment together while exploring and recording wildlife and the unique geographical features of America's national parks.

Books can be purchased separately or as a complete set and are available



**Emily Matheny and Mary O'Hare at Dry Tortugas**

at [www.stampyourwayusa.com](http://www.stampyourwayusa.com). Individual books are \$14.99 with the set of five selling for \$64.99. The complete Stamp Your Way Through the U.S.A. series contains pages for collecting stamps at all 63 official national parks in the National Park Service, including the most recent addition of New River Gorge.

About the Authors

Emily Matheny, a Columbus, Ohio resident conceived the idea for the Stamp Your Way series after visiting a national park in 2017 with her nine-month-old

daughter and husband. Mary O'Hare, Emily's mom, loved the idea, and she and Emily decided to collaborate. They had a vision but needed someone to bring it to life. Rose Storey, Emily's aunt and Mary's sister, an award-winning graphic designer, was the perfect fit. All three women love the national parks and are pleased to highlight their landscape and history in this unique interactive series. It is their hope that children will have fun discovering the wonder and beauty of the parks while creating a lifetime of memories.



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Lil Sluggers contact: Ed Strauss,  
EStrauss@LNSportspark.com



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Lil Kickers contact: Sarah Bals,  
Sarah@LNSportspark.com



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Soccer 101 contact: Ali Kazemaini, Kaz@LNSportspark.com



**SUMMER CAMP DATES  
COMING SOON!**

Follow along with us on social media  
for upcoming dates and programs!



**440-602-4000**  
**www.lnsportspark.com**

**38630 Jet Center Drive, Willoughby**  
North of Route 2 off Lost Nation Rd.