

Exploring Local Activities on a Budget

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With spring and summer breaks rapidly approaching, many families are scratching their heads, wondering, “How am I going to maintain my sanity AND keep my kids entertained while they aren’t in school?” Luckily, the Denver Metro area has plenty of free activities, prime for exploring to break up the tedium of school breaks. Some popular sites, with free days and accessibility resources, are listed below.

[Aurora History Museum](#)

- The History Museum offers free admission daily.
- For information regarding accessibility, call the museum at 303.739.6660.

[Children's Museum of Denver](#)

- The Children's Museum of Denver offers free admission on the first Tuesday night of each month from 4PM – 8PM, thanks to Target.
- Basic accessibility information can be found [here](#). If you have additional questions, contact the museum at 303.433.7444.

[Clyfford Still Museum](#)

- The Clyfford Still Museum offers free admission every Friday from 5PM – 8PM. The museum is free all day on the last Friday of every month: February 24, March 31, April 28, May 26, June 30, July 28, August 25, September 29, October 27, November 24 & December 29. The museum will also offer free admission on the first Saturday of the month in May–July: May 6, June 3, July 1, 2017.
- For questions about accessibility issues, contact the museum at 720.354.4880.

[Denver Art Museum](#)

- The Denver Art Museum offers free general admission on the first Saturday each month: March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 2. General admission does not include special ticketed exhibitions. Learn more on the [Denver Art Museum's website](#).

-Accessibility information such as custom tours, sensory friendly days, parking, and social stories can be found [here](#).

[Denver Botanic Gardens](#)

-Visit the Denver Botanic Gardens for free on Feb. 20, March 22, April 2, June 14, July 17, Aug. 29, Nov. 10 and Nov. 11. No tickets are needed for admission to Free Days. Free Days are for regular gardens hours only and do not include ticketed events.

-Basic accessibility information can be found [here](#). If you have additional questions, contact the gardens at 720.865.3500.

[Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield Farms](#)

-Explore the Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield Farms for free on March 7, April 4, June 6, July 15, August 1 and November 7. Free Days are for regular Gardens hours only and do not include ticketed events. Butterflies at Chatfield will be open during Free Days in June, July and August, but there is a fee for the butterfly house.

-Basic accessibility information can be found [here](#). If you have additional questions, contact the gardens at 720.865.3500.

[Denver Museum of Nature & Science](#)

-The Denver Museum of Nature & Science will offer free general admission nearly once a month in 2017 on Feb. 27, March 13, April 10, April 30, June 4, Aug. 6, Aug. 28, Sept. 17, Oct. 16, Nov. 13 and Dec. 10. While admission is free on these days, there is still a fee for IMAX films, Planetarium shows, and temporary exhibitions.

-Accessibility information such as parking, accessibility, adult changing table locations, sensory kits, listening devices, and MUCH more can be found [here](#).

[Denver Mint](#)

-Tours at the Denver Mint are always free.

-Contact the Mint for information regarding accessibility at 303.405.4761.

[Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys](#)

-The Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys offers a Community Day on the first Sunday of every month, which drops the price of admission and just asks a \$1 donation per person.

-Contact the Museum for information regarding accessibility at 303.322.1053.

Denver Zoo

-Visit the Denver Zoo for free on Feb. 12, Feb. 13, Nov. 3., Nov. 6 and Nov. 16. Plan your visit [here](#).
-Basic accessibility information can be found [here](#). If you have additional questions, contact them at 720.337.1400.

Hudson Gardens

-Hudson Gardens in Littleton offer free admission every day.
-Contact the Gardens for information regarding accessibility at 303.797.8565.

Plains Conservation Center

-There is no fee to explore the trails at the Conservation Center.
-Contact the Center for information regarding accessibility at 303.693.3621.

Another access point: If you have a Bank of America or Merrill Lynch credit or debit card, you get free admission at museums across the country on the first weekend of each month. In Colorado, the offer is valid at the Denver Zoo, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Clyfford Still Museum and the Denver Art Museum. However, the Denver Art Museum is Sunday only, because they already offer free admission to everyone on the first Saturday of the month. This list does change, so check the "Museums on Us" website, before you go [here](#).

Also, consider reaching out to your local library to see if it offers a culture, exploration or museum pass OR your local Community Centered Board who likely collects information on additional activities and events. Of course, if you need any assistance navigating your community or a particular location, feel free to contact your Individual Advocate at The Arc of Aurora!