



Things To Do In And Around Wichita

September 2018

Smithsonian Provides Free Admission To Wichita Museums

Museum Day is an annual celebration of boundless curiosity hosted by Smithsonian magazine. Participating museums and cultural institutions across the country provide free entry to anyone presenting a Museum Day ticket. The Museum Day ticket provides free admission for two people on Saturday, September 22, 2018. Tickets are available for the public to download. In Wichita, the following museums are participating: Kansas Aviation Museum, Museum of World Treasures, Old Cowtown Museum, Ulrich Museum of Art (always free), Kansas Sports Hall of Fame (always free), Wichita Art Museum (always free on Saturdays), Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum and The Kansas African-American Museum.

Senior Expo Set For September 27

Grab a friend and plan to spend the day at Senior Expo! There you will find options for valuable information, access to health screenings, new opportunities including volunteer and travel, and local sales that interest adults 55+. Join us at the 33rd annual Senior Expo and experience it for yourself on September 27th, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Wichita. Visit three of Wichita's fantastic locations: Botanica, The Wichita Gardens; The new Advanced Learning Library; and The Wichita Art Museum and experience a fun and educational day at Senior Expo. Entrance to Senior Expo and admission to the museums is complimentary to anyone age 55 and older and to caregivers of all ages. Visit over 120 local and national vendors. Enjoy the Black and White - After Five fashion show, interactive booths, free park and ride transportation between all locations and a delicious lunch at each site for \$7.00. For more information visit www.cpaaa.org.

National Senior Center Month

The four senior centers operated by Senior Services are coming together to celebrate National Senior Center Month with a dance for their members on Thursday, September 20th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Downtown Center. Put on those dancing shoes and come out for a great time. There will also be an open house at the Downtown Center on Thursday, September 13th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity to tour the renovated center, and to visit with representatives from each of the programs provided by Senior Services. Light refreshments will be served. Senior Services encourages you to come by and learn more about all Senior Services has to offer.

Go Fly A Kite!

On October 6, the Wichita Parks and Recreation Department and Wings of the Wind Kites are teaming up to promote the joy of flying kites. Kites of all sizes and shapes will fill the sky from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be stunt kite flying demonstrations from professional kite flyers, kite-flying instruction, and more than enough field space for all skill levels to fly their own kite.

Bring your own kite, or the Wings of the Wind Kite-mobile will be there stocked with kites from \$5 and up.

“Meet The Breeds” A Free Event

Considering getting a dog to add to the family? The Wichita Kennel Club is hosting a FREE “Meet the Breeds” event in the foyer of Century II Concert Hall from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, September 1, 2018. Members of several local dog, kennel and training clubs will be on hand with their dogs to answer questions and help visitors decide which dog breed is right for their individual households.

Labor Day Fireworks At Cheney State Park

The Ninnescah Sailing Association will celebrate the end of the summer season and beginning of fall with its annual fireworks display at Cheney Lake on Sunday, September 2, 2018. The fun starts just after sunset, which is supposed to be at 7:57 p.m. on Sunday.

Beginning at dusk, sailboats leave the dock to anchor just off shore; others find a good spot for their lawn chairs on the beach in front of the Activity Center. Admission to Cheney State Park is just \$5 per carload, unless you have the annual State Parks Passport.

Tree Climbing Championship

The City of Wichita Park & Recreation department will sponsor the 2018 North American Open Masters (NOAM) tree climbing championship Labor Day weekend at Oak Park. NAOM is a modern tree climbing competition that's designed to demonstrate safe work practices in arboriculture as well as the art of tree-climbing. The competition features 40 of the best climbers from Canada, Sweden, France, and the United States, including two climbers from Wichita and last year's defending champion, Bryan Brock.

The competition runs from 3 – 11 p.m. on Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Sunday. It's FREE and open to the public.

Polar Express Tickets Now Available

Tickets to Wichita Park & Recreation's Polar Express are on sale, and the time to get them is now. Last year they sold out in a week.

Hop aboard for a fun trip to visit Santa! The Polar Express miniature train will be running at Watson Park several times during the holiday season. The adventure begins each night with a reading of Chris Van Allsburg's *The Polar Express*, followed by a craft, and then riding the train to see Santa. Stop at the campfire for s'mores and hot chocolate, and then at the end of the evening, kids will get a special present from Santa. Kids are encouraged to wear pajamas. The fee (for both kids and adults) is \$16 per person, and an adult must attend with the kids.

The Polar Express will be running at various times on the following dates: November 23, 24, 30, December 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, and 23. There are either three or four available time slots to choose from, depending on the date.

Half-Price Admission For Grandparents

Klausmeyer Dairy Farm & Pumpkin Patch will celebrate Grandparents Day with half-price admission for grandmas and grandpas all weekend Sept. 29 and 30. This makes admission just \$3.50 for a grandparent. Regular admission is \$7 per person on weekends for either the pumpkin patch or the corn maze.

Frontiers In Flight

Mark your calendars for Saturday and Sunday, September 8 and 9, 2018 for the “Frontiers in Flight” air show in Wichita and McConnell Air Force base open house. As in previous years, admission to the 2018 air show and McConnell open house is FREE.

The show is two days long and will include all of the traditional air-show high-flying fun. The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds are scheduled to perform at the McConnell AFB air show, alongside the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team, and many other professional air show performers.

McConnell Air Force Base will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., both days.

Second Annual Open Streets ICT

Wichita Parks and Recreation, Wichita Festivals, Bike/Walk Wichita and others will sponsor the second annual Open Streets ICT – a FREE event in Wichita. Open Streets ICT 2018 is scheduled for September 23.

Modeled after successful open street events around the country, Open Streets ICT closes four miles of Douglas Avenue from the College Hill neighborhood to the historic Delano District. Traffic will be closed off and the street opened to young and old alike to enjoy biking, walking, running, dancing, yoga, entertainment, food, art, music, and more.

Orpheum Theater 2018 Classic Film Schedule

Wichita's Orpheum Theater shows a classic film on one Thursday night every month for \$7 a ticket. (Only \$6 for military, students, seniors, and groups of 10 or more.) Shows start at 7 p.m. throughout the year. Here's the schedule for the rest of 2018:

Enter the Dragon, September 20

Hocus Pocus, October 11

Coming to America, November 15

A Christmas Story, December 20

2018 Bartlett Arboretum Treehouse Schedule

Tickets to the concerts and activities can be purchased as a season pass for \$75, or individually for just \$10 per person at the gate. The Arboretum is in Belle Plaine. Please leave pets at home. Here are the dates for 2018:

Sunday, September 9 – The Outside Track

Sunday, September 30 – Darol Anger and Mike Marshall

Sunday, October 21 – Dale Watson and His Lone Stars

Sunday, October 28 – Ecofest

Saturday and Sunday, November 10 and 11 – Mosaics

Tuesdays On The Terrace

Enjoy food, cocktails, a live band, and the beautiful gardens at Botanica on Tuesday nights. Tuesdays on the Terrace are from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The cash bar is provided by The Bar's Open, and food is available for purchase. The cover is just \$10 for non-members and \$5 for members. Here's the schedule for the rest of 2018:

September 4: Soul Injection

September 11: Marley's Ghost

September 18: Carrie Nation & The Speakeasy

September 25: Mudbugs

State Fair

The 2018 Kansas State Fair will be held at the fairgrounds in Hutchinson September 7 – 15.

Monday, September 10, 2018, is Dollar Day. Outside gate admission is only \$1 for all ages or you can get in FREE with your Dillons' Plus Card (one admission per card). Note: You do need your actual plastic Dillons card to get free admission to the fair. A mobile app won't work.

In addition to the reduced admission price, most Midway carnival rides are only 1 ticket per ride all day. (The Sky Ride, State Fair Railroad, Lake Talbott Boat Ride, Zip Line, Big Slide and Ye Old Mill are not Midway rides and not included in the 1-ticket promotion.)

Free Archery Club

The Great Plains Nature Center now offers a free archery club for novices and pros alike. There will be a class on September 4th from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for kids and a class on September 5th from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for adults. Registration is not required.

You can join the Archery Club biweekly to learn how to shoot a bow and arrow, hone your skills and visit with other archers. Depending on your experience and skill level, they offer 3 different classes: Novice Kids, Experienced Kids, and Adults.

The Archery Club will also provide the equipment. If you have your own, you are welcome to bring it.

Free Family Board Games For 2018

Need something fun (and free) to do with the kids on a Friday night? Bring them to a Family Board Game Night at the Sedgwick County Extension Center, 7001 W. 21st St. N. The rest of the schedule for 2018:
September 7, 7 to 9 p.m.
December 14, 6:30 to 9 p.m. – Santa is coming!!

Sunset Tours

Take a leisurely tour from Cowtown to the Wichita Boathouse and see the Keeper of the Plains like you've never seen it before! The City of Wichita Park & Recreation office is offering a series of sunrise and sunset tours along the Arkansas River this fall. The fee for the Sunrise & Sunset tours is \$30 and includes transportation, equipment rental, and food and beverages.

Wheeling Wild Tuesdays

Every third Tuesday through October, a guide leads a bike ride around the zoo beginning at 5:30 p.m. Small children are welcome as long as they're either riding a bike, in a bike seat, or in an attached wagon. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Each person who attends must have a ticket. No cancellations, refunds, rain checks or exchanges; tickets will not be replaced if lost, stolen or unused. The one-time option is only \$5 per person (\$4 for members).

Woofstock

Woofstock 2018 will be held on Saturday, Oct. 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sedgwick County Park. Woofstock is the Kansas Humane Society's largest fundraising event and proceeds go directly to help provide care, compassion and a second chance for over 16,000 pets in our community.

Tabletop University

TsunamiCon 2018 is coming October 5th, 6th and 7th to the Wichita Scottish Rite in downtown Wichita. They are excited to host the fifth annual large-scale tabletop gaming convention in America's heartland, once again at the historic Wichita Scottish Rite. There is a huge space for gaming and the marketplace, with access to additional rooms throughout the building.

Tot Tuesdays at the Zoo

Tot Tuesdays at the Sedgwick County Zoo's Cargill Learning Center are the fourth Tuesday of every month. The Wichita WATER Center, Exploration Place, and other Wichita-area museums have teamed up with the zoo to present this free event for preschool-age children.

Each half-hour session is free and designed for children 3-5 years old, although siblings are also welcome. To participate, just go to the Cargill Learning Center before 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is not required. For more information, visit the Sedgwick County Zoo website.

Free Story Time For Children

Every Saturday, Barnes and Noble, 1920 N. Rock Road, has a free story time for kids at 11 a.m. Following the story each week, kids will get to participate in a playtime and/or activities related to the theme. Be sure to check the schedule before you go in case of cancellations or changes.

Free Story Time for Kids

Each Saturday, Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas, hosts a free story time for kids ages 4-8. Story time is from 10:30 to 11 a.m. While kids are listening to the story, parents can stay with them or use the time to browse the shelves and enjoy a treat in the café.

Wichita Art Museum News

Admission to the Wichita Art Museum is always free on Saturdays. Saturday hours are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The Museum also has numerous free or inexpensive kids' activities/programs.

Art Start is a free program for children ages three to five to engage with art, imagine and learn together. The theme changes each month. The event occurs every Tuesday of every month from 10 to 11 a.m. for families; Thursdays are for preschool or daycare center children ages three to five.

Free Story Time at the Great Plains Nature Center

The Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E. 29th St. N., offers four free programs for children each week. Tuesdays at 10 a.m. all activities revolve around a nature theme. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Story Time, featuring stories about nature, wildlife and their friends, is offered on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. It is designed for preschoolers, but all ages are welcome. At 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays, they host Little Nature Lovers for children 3 to 5. On Saturdays at 1 p.m., interactive activities help children learn about animal adaptations, fish, owls, birds and various topics. For more information, visit the Great Plains Nature Center Family Programs page.

Tot Tuesday at Humane Society

The Kansas Humane Society presents story time for children five and under with parent participation on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Children can listen to stories about animals and how important they are, meet pets waiting for adoption and make pet treats. Donations accepted.

Free Bowling

With summer winding to a close, only two bowling alleys are still offering the “kids bowl free” promotion in September.

The Alley Indoor Entertainment, 11413 E. 13th, Wichita, 618-1000, Monday – Thursday, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. and Sunday 1-10 p.m. Standard shoe rental rates apply. Purchased Family Passes are valid for use only during posted Kids Bowl Free times and when bowling with a Kids Bowl Free child from your family. Ages 15 and under.

West Acres Bowl – Kids Bowl Free, 749 North Ridge Rd., Wichita, 722-5211. Monday – Friday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Shoe rental is \$2.75 plus tax. Purchased Family Passes are good only during the Kids Bowl Free times and when bowling with a registered Kids Bowl Free participant in your family. Ages 15 and under.

Fish Tales Storytime

On the second Tuesday of every month the Wichita Water Center hosts Fish Tales Storytime. The program is free and designed for pre-kindergarten-age kids, but everyone is welcome to attend. Fish Tales Storytime begins at 10 a.m. at the Water Center in Herman Hill Park, 101 E. Pawnee. Admission to the WATER Center is always free. Both children and adults will learn something from the hands-on displays, and you can also schedule a tour of the facility if you call in advance. The center is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Three Dollar Thursdays

Enjoy Botanica, including the Downing Children’s Garden, for only \$3 on Thursdays. Children under 3 and members always get in free. Wichita’s botanical gardens are open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday April through September. The gardens are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. other months of the year.

Skate Days at Wichita Ice Center

Enjoy a respite from summer’s heat with \$2 skate days every Tuesday at the Wichita Ice Center, 505 W. Maple. Skate rentals are \$3, so in total you will be paying \$5 for the experience. Skate sessions are noon to 3 p.m. and 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Build And Grow At Lowe’s

Lowe’s home improvement stores in Wichita offer free Build and Grow clinics featuring make-it/take-it projects for children in grades 1-5. Clinics begin at 10 a.m. on select Saturdays. To participate, register at the Lowes Build and Grow site. The first fifty kids registered and in attendance will receive a free project kit, work goggles, and apron. Check the schedule to see upcoming free kids’ workshops in Wichita.

Free Kids' Workshops At Home Depot

On the first Saturday of the month, Home Depot stores in Wichita offer free kids' workshops for kids ages 5-12. Kids will get to build/assemble a new project each month. They'll also take home a Home Depot workshop apron, a commemorative pin, and a certificate of achievement. The workshops are available between 9 a.m. and noon.

“Discovery Day” At The Museum Of World Treasures

The last Saturday of every month is “Discovery Day” at the Museum of World Treasures, 835 E. First Street. Children in first through fifth grades can visit the museum any time between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and participate in treasure hunts, make take-home crafts and win prizes. Admission to Discovery Day is free with regular museum admission: \$8.95 for adults, \$7.95 for those 60+ and \$6.95 for children ages four to 12.

Reading To Rover

The Kansas Humane Society and the Wichita Public Library have partnered to provide children with the opportunity to read aloud to a supportive, non-judgmental registered therapy dog. Each child will have an individual reading session. The sessions began Jan. 18 and will continue from 10 to 11:30 a.m. the third Saturday of each month at the Kansas Humane Society, 3313 N. Hillside. The cost is a suggested donation of \$3 per week.

Little Explorers And Homeschool Edventures

Exploration Place, 300 N. McLean Blvd., hosts an hour-long preschool play group at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. It is included with general museum admission or membership. Homeschool Edventures, also on Tuesdays at 1 p.m., allows students and their parents to discover science, technology, engineering and math in a whole new way. The cost for Edventures is \$10 for member students and \$12.50 for non-member students; parents are free. For more information, call 660-0600.

Free Event For Teens

The Wichita South YMCA now has a free late night program every Saturday after the Y closes from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. All that is required to get in is a current high school ID. There are a variety of activities available for teens including basketball, swimming, Zumba and soccer. Food is also provided. This is a free event for all high school students – you do not need to be a YMCA member to go to the free teen late-night program at the South YMCA.

Coming Events At Cowtown

Mark your calendars for two special events coming soon to Old Cowtown.

Celebrate the Roaring 20s Sept. 7 from 7 p.m. to midnight. Admission \$10 per person. Adults only (21 and up). There will be live music and food trucks.

Explore the County Fair for a memorable time! Old Cowtown Museum recreates the atmosphere of an 1870s county fair where one met with neighbors, came to see what was new, engaged in a little friendly competition and games of chance. Come try your hand at the pie eating and tug of war. Find out who is the strongest man and who has the cutest baby. Listen to some music and watch some magic. It's all happening from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 6. Regular admission rates apply.