



101

Free Things to Do

The Mayor's Office of Public Engagement wants you to have a Fun Safe Philly Summer! This is your go-to guide to events, activities, and enjoying summer in Philadelphia!



**FUN
SAFE
PHILLY
SUMMER**

PLAY!

1. What's the best way to cool off on a hot summer day? Go for a swim at your neighborhood pool! www.phila.govParksandRecreation
2. Ride your bike along Kelly Drive, but watch out for pedestrians!
3. There is free yoga every day on Race Street Pier www.delawareriverwaterfront.com/
4. Go hiking along the Wissahickon Creek.
5. Organize a relay race with the kids on your block.
6. Visit Parks & Recreation's Philly Pumptrack at 53rd and Parkside Ave. Cyclists of all ages and skill levels are welcome! www.philypumptrack.org/
7. Plan a scavenger hunt with friends around the city. Some ideas for your list: take a picture with the Drexel Dragon or find Philadelphia's oldest standing historic home.
8. Check out [Philly Girls Jump](#). Pull out your old jump ropes and organize a competition!
9. Organize a pick-up soccer, basketball, baseball, or kickball game at your local park.
10. Plan a "take me *in* to the ball game" get-together. Pick a Phillies game and watch at home with friends and family. And here's a great recipe for homemade popcorn: bakedbree.com/perfect-stovetop-popcorn
11. Learn a new sport! Try ping pong, hand ball or ultimate Frisbee.
12. Take your dog to a dog park and play fetch! Don't have a dog? You can try walking a cat or turtle on a leash, but they are terrible at fetch. Instead, volunteer at [Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society](#) (PAWS) and they'll let you walk their dogs!

13. Nothing helps to blow off steam and clear your head like a good run! Take a few laps in your local park.
14. Visit Smith Memorial Playground, a treasure of East Fairmount Park for over 100 years.
smithplayground.org/
15. Sometimes it's just too hot to play outside. Check out one of the city's ice rinks! www.phila.gov/ParksandRecreation
16. Check out what's going on at [The Porch at 30th Street Station!](http://ThePorchat30thStreetStation.com)
17. Find your nearest Playstreet location! It's a great way to meet neighborhood kids and get a free lunch. Bring this guide along for activity ideas! phillysummermeals.org
18. Have an old-school game day: freeze tag, hide-and-seek, red rover, and Mother-May-I.
19. Fairmount Park is one of the largest urban green spaces in the country. Plan a hiking adventure with friends and experience it for yourself!
20. There are tons of drop-in activities at recreation centers across the city, and some even offer free lunch. www.phila.gov/ParksandRecreation
21. Check out Pop-up Play's summer events, especially the [Democratic National Convention event](http://DemocraticNationalConventionEvent.com) on July 27th at City Hall!
22. Crank up the tunes and have a dance-off with your friends. For adventurous souls, try learning a new style of dance like salsa, ballroom, break dancing, or swing!
23. There's a lot of fun to be had with just a pencil, paper, and a friend: <http://www.playworks.org/blog/fun-paper-and-pencil-games-play>
24. Attend Free Fitness Philly boot camp classes in Sister Cities Park, Tuesdays 6-7pm. Register here: <https://freefitnessphilly.wordpress.com/>
25. Build a fort out of pillows and blankets. Then, have some friends over for a sleepover and camp out!



- This is prime time for telling your best jokes and scary stories.
26. Visit the Schuylkill Center to gather delicious wineberries on July 9 from 10am-12pm. Never had a wineberry? They're similar to raspberries but smaller, juicier, and zingier!
 27. Youth 15 and under can bowl free at Erie Lanes, South Bowl, and both Thunderbird Lanes locations. Register here for vouchers: <http://www.kidsbowlfree.com/state.php?state=PA>
 28. Put on a variety show with friends! Choose someone to be the emcee, give tickets to your families and neighbors, and host a night of talent, wit, feats of strength, and more!

VOLUNTEER!

29. Organize a clothing swap in your neighborhood. Have people clean out their closets and bring their gently worn clothes to trade. Donate anything that is left over at the end of the swap to Goodwill, Salvation Army, Purple Heart, or Wardrobe Boutique.
30. Give your neighborhood some love by sweeping your block, planting trees & flowers, and cleaning up vacant lots. loveyourpark.org/volunteer/
31. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve." Volunteer at a soup kitchen or food pantry. <http://www.hungercoalition.org/volunteer-opportunities>
32. Host a canned food drive on your block. Make a certificate or some homemade cookies for the family that donates the most items! You can donate non-perishable items to a local food bank or church. <https://www.philabundance.org/volunteer/>
33. Make bird feeders for your local park.
34. Visit www.SERVEPhiladelphia.com to explore

hundreds of volunteer opportunities around the city!

35. Host a community picnic and ask neighbors to bring a blanket and their favorite dish to share. Don't forget dessert!
36. Make a new friend by volunteering at a local retirement home or senior center. It could be the ultimate history lesson. Think about it - someone born in 1925 has lived through the Great Depression, WWII, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, and so much more. Listen and learn!
37. Give the gift that keeps on giving. Help your sibling, cousin, friend, or other family members learn to read. Even a few minutes each day can make a huge difference in their lives!
38. Cards don't have to be reserved for birthdays and Valentine's Day. Send notes to your friends and loved ones to celebrate Independence Day, the new moon on August 2nd, or nothing in particular!
39. Support Philadelphia-area veterans!
www.philadelphia.va.gov/giving/index.asp
40. Can you sing like a bird? Do you dance like there's no tomorrow? Volunteer to teach others and help them to discover their own gifts!
41. Visit your local church, mosque, synagogue, temple, or library and ask if they need a hand. You can help by restocking shelves or organizing food pantries.
42. Want to impact your community and commit to volunteer service? Participate in Global Citizen's MLK365 Service Clubs this summer. <http://>



globalcitizen365.org/mlk365-service-clubs/

LEARN!

43. Get lost in the magical world of Harry Potter or fight for survival with Katniss Everdeen. Apply for a library card and participate in the Free Library's Summer Reading Challenge. www.freelibrary.org
44. Take a free course at your neighborhood KEYSPOt computer lab. <https://www.phillykeyspots.org/keystone-finder>
45. Independence National Historic Park is the country's most historic square mile. Stop by and take a picture with the Liberty Bell.
46. Visit the Wagner Free Institute of Science.
47. Visit the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at 8601 Lindbergh Boulevard.
48. Visit the Deshler-Morris House in Germantown, where George Washington once lived!
49. Take a college tour! PhillyGoes2College can help. <http://phillygoes2college.org/>
50. The American Library Association has put together some great suggested summer reading lists: <http://www.ala.org/alsc/2016-summer-reading-list>
51. Study American Sign Language. Learning another language is useful and fun!
52. Read some tales of terror and woe - such as *The Telltale Heart* or *The Raven* - before visiting the Edgar Allen Poe National Historic Site at 532 N 7th St.
53. Some of the greatest comedians who ever lived got their start in improv. Find games to play with your friends here: improvencyclopedia.org
54. Find your nearest ASAP location and join a Scrabble, debate, drama, or chess club! www.phillyasap.org/
55. Studies show that being able to read music improves

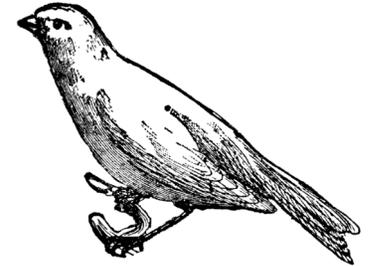
our ability to read words! Learn to play an instrument and rock out all summer: <http://rocktothefuturephilly.org/about/>

56. Teens 14-19 can sign up for a STAMP pass to visit museums around the city for free: phillystamppass.org/get-the-pass/. Also, up to four family members can get into select museums for \$2/person with an EBT ACCESS card: www.art-reach.org/programs/access-admission/museums/
57. Visit the National Museum of American Jewish History & Congregation Mikveh Israel, 101 South Independence Mall East.
58. Explore and learn at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum at 308 Walnut St., Monday-Saturday, 10am-4pm.
59. Learn about the brave women and men who have served as firefighters in Philadelphia. Visit the Fireman's Hall Museum in Old City at 147 N 2nd St.
60. Want to learn more about your city? Take a walking tour around Philadelphia. www.visitphilly.com/tours/philadelphia/free-tours-by-foot/
61. Take a virtual tour of Mother Bethel AME Church, one of the first African-American churches in the United States. www.motherbethel.org/mus_v_tour.php
62. Attend Shakespeare in Clark Park. "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" will run July 27-July 31.
63. Experience The Galleries at Moore College, which include a diverse range of exhibitions, educational programs, and publications. Be sure to check the website for special events. moore.edu/the-galleries-at-moore
64. Go to a neighborhood farmers' market. Learn about healthy fruits and vegetables or ask about



homemade cheese. <http://thefoodtrust.org/farmers-markets>

65. Visit the storytelling benches in historic Philadelphia to learn about U.S. History! <http://historicphiladelphia.org/once-upon-a-nation/storytelling-benches/>
66. Sister Cities Park is offering a number of [activities for kids](#) throughout the summer: Nature in the Park, Art in the Park, Children & Nature: Grow Up Green, Story Art and more!
67. Impress your friends with card tricks, riddles, and more! Pick up a book at your local library.
68. Are you the next Da Vinci? O'Keefe? Picasso? Take a free class at PAFA Family Arts Academy. www.pafa.org/faa
69. Hard to believe but winter is coming! Learn to knit and make a hat or a scarf for yourself or a friend.
70. Find a few spare pieces of paper and try out your origami skills! <http://www.origami-fun.com/origami-for-kids.html>
71. Organize a poetry slam with your friends: www.literacytrust.org.uk/assets/0001/6013/
72. Explore the Children's Discovery Garden at Sister Cities Park.
73. Visit the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania.
74. Visit the University City Arts League Gallery in West Philly.
75. Get artsy in the park with Artsee in the Park, run by the Barnes Foundation. First Sunday of the month June-August from 10:30-11:30am in Sister Cities Park. Work on projects that blend nature and art.
76. Identify the trees in your neighborhood or local park



using this tool: <http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/veg/treekey/treestart.htm>

77. If you really get into identifying things, grab your hiking shoes and go on a nature walk with the Schuylkill Center every Saturday starting June 4 10:30-11:30am.
78. Enjoy the summer night sky and do some star-gazing with the help of these guides: <http://liebacklookup.com/printables/>
79. Love to sing? Get together with friends and learn some new songs. You might even try singing songs in multiple-part rounds: <http://bussongs.com/round-songs.php>.

CELEBRATE!

80. Check out the Schuylkill Banks Movie Nights at Walnut Street and Grays Ferry. https://www.schuylkillbanks.org/events?event_type=10&event_activity=All
81. Also, be sure to attend this year's July Political Moviefest in honor of the Democratic National Convention taking place in Philadelphia. Free outdoor movies will play in Dilworth Park July 20-23. You can vote for the movies before June 15 online.
82. While we're on the subject of movies, don't miss the annual showing of *Rocky* on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on July 1!
83. Do you use Twitter or Instagram? Let us know what you're up to this summer! @PhillySummer #phillysummer.
84. Attend ARTspiration! at Fleisher Art Memorial. 719 Catharine St., June 11th, 10am-3pm.
85. Celebrate the West African New Year by attending the Odunde Festival! 10am-8pm on June 12th at 23rd and South Sts.

86. Attend the Wanamaker Grand Court Organ Music Festival and Open House at the Wanamaker Building on June 4th 10am-6pm for a free tour.
87. Check out ART Splash at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Always free for youth 12 and under! www.philamuseum.org/artsplash
88. You can be your own tour guide for the Mural Mile by downloading a free podcast from the Mural Arts Program. <http://www.muralarts.org/tour/mural-mile-walking-tours>
89. Watch the sky light up with fireworks over the Philadelphia Museum of Art on July 4th.
90. Mark your calendars for the Wawa Welcome America Philly 4th of July Jam! It's basically a giant block party to celebrate the birth of America. Past Jams have included artists like Nicki Minaj, Ariana Grande, Ed Sheeran, and, of course, Philadelphia's own The Roots!
91. Attend the APM Sugar Cane Festival at 5th and Berks on June 11th.
92. Radio 104.5 Summer Block Party concerts at Festival Pier at Penn's Landing are a great way to hear new music. Get free tickets starting May 26th at 11am: <http://radio1045.iheart.com/features/summer-block-parties-1986/>
93. Vive la France! Don your best beret and celebrate Bastille Day - France's Independence Day - at Eastern State Penitentiary on July 16th.
94. Attend the Dance Exhibition at Temple University's



Conwell Dance Theater at Broad Street and Montgomery Avenue on June 11th at 2pm.

95. Check out [Spruce Street Harbor Park](#) now through September where you can lay in a hammock on the waterfront or take a picture in the giant Philly chair!
96. Attend 'Free at the Kimmel' events hosted throughout the summer. You can listen to world-class live music at the home of the Philadelphia Orchestra.
97. Visit [Eakins Oval](#), right in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, for family fun starting July 16!
98. Mark your calendars for Jazz on the Ave! Cecil B. Moore Avenue, July 30, 12pm-8pm.
99. The 40th Street Summer Series will host concerts and performances for the public on the third Saturday of each month.
www.universitycity.org/40th-street-summer-series
100. Check out the Young Performers Theater Camp Performance- time and location will be announced on this website: <http://www.performingartspdpr.org/young-performers-theater-camp.html>

And, of course, #101:

This is your summer, so make the most of it! Start a conversation, perform random acts of kindness, reach for the stars, and stay true to you!

Best wishes for a



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