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MARCH 2026

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YOUR GUIDE TO THE *National Cherry Blossom Festival*

**YOUR DMV
CHERRY BLOSSOM
ROUNDUP**

**CHERRY BLOSSOMS,
KITES AND KID-APPROVED
FESTIVAL FUN**

**THE NATIONAL CHERRY
BLOSSOM FESTIVAL:
OF BOOKS AND BLOOMS**

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TESTING, TUTORING & COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

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TLC's clinicians invite caregivers to join our 2026 Caregiver Toolbox Webinar Series, a monthly virtual seminar designed to support children and families. Each free, 60-minute session will focus on **practical, easy-to-use strategies that promote emotional wellbeing, learning, and healthy development**—grounded in TLC's **clinical expertise** and **commitment to child mental health**.

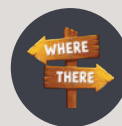
LOGISTICS

When?



Every **third Thursday** of the month, beginning **at 5:00 PM**

Where, Audience



Held **virtually**, via webinars.ttlc.org targeted towards **caregivers**

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

3 THINGS

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

From inspiring local leaders to book-filled adventures and spring's most iconic celebration, this issue is packed with stories that help families connect with their community — and each other.

A local hero leading by example

Meet DC Fire and EMS inspector Krystal Roberts, whose 17-year journey began with an unexpected conversation at a swim meet. What started as a lifeguarding career evolved into a life of service, leadership and mentorship in one of the city's most demanding professions. Roberts opens up about balancing 24-hour shifts with motherhood, breaking barriers as a woman in the fire service and redefining strength for the next generation.

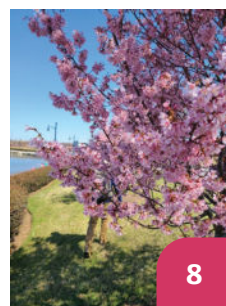


A book lover's guide to DC for all ages

National Reading Month is the perfect excuse to explore the capital through a literary lens — and The DC Book Lover's Guide delivers. From the awe-inspiring halls of the Library of Congress to cozy independent bookstores and interactive museum storytimes, this guide rounds up the best bookish spots for kids, tweens and teens.

Your ultimate 2026 Cherry Blossom season guide

Spring in the DMV wouldn't be complete without cherry blossoms — and Your DMV Cherry Blossom season guide maps out everything families need to know. From iconic National Cherry Blossom Festival events at the Tidal Basin to kite-flying on the Washington Monument grounds, waterfront celebrations at Petalpalooza and quieter blossom-viewing spots in Maryland and Northern Virginia, this guide helps you plan the perfect bloom-filled outing. Whether you're chasing peak bloom dates or seeking less-crowded neighborhood streets, it's your go-to roadmap for one of the region's most magical seasons.



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This month's cover was sponsored by The National Cherry Blossom Festival

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MARCH 18 - APRIL 5

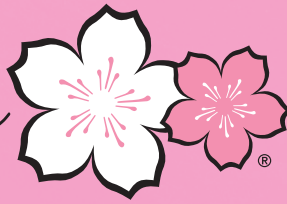
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NATIONAL
Cherry Blossom
FESTIVAL



MARCH 20 - APRIL 12, 2026
WASHINGTON, DC

Signature Events

✿ PINK TIE PARTY

*Presented by Union Station Washington D.C.
and Design Cuisine*

Union Station Washington D.C.
Friday, March 13 | 7 - 11 PM

✿ OPENING CEREMONY

Co-presented with The Japan Foundation

DAR Constitution Hall
Saturday, March 21 | 5 - 6:30 PM

BLOSSOM KITE FESTIVAL

Presented by Amazon

Washington Monument Grounds
Saturday, March 28 | 10 AM - 4 PM | FREE

PETALPALOOZA®

Presented by M&T Bank
Navy Yard

Saturday, April 4 | 1 - 9 PM | FREE

✿ NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL PARADE®

Presented by Events DC

Constitution Avenue NW, between 7th & 17th Streets
Saturday, April 11 | 11 AM - 1 PM

BLOOMFEST AT THE TIDAL BASIN

Featuring the ANA Stage

Hosted with the National Park Service

Dates and times to be announced | FREE



✿ Purchase tickets for these events

For more information, visit
NationalCherryBlossomFestival.org

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ANA
Inspiration of JAPAN

A Local Parent's Insider Tips to the National Cherry Blossom Festival

BY SARAH RABIN SPIRA, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS,
NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Every spring, Washington, DC transforms into a playground of pink petals, energetic events, and unforgettable family moments. I have been bringing my now-teenagers to the National Cherry Blossom Festival for years and am now part of "Team Blossom," so I wanted to share some tried-and-true strategies to help your family "find your bloom" – without the meltdowns. Consider this your inside scoop!

Plan a Full-Day Adventure

For any of the events, consider starting at the event (such as the Blossom Kite Festival at the Washington Monument Grounds), then visiting a museum, and finishing with dinner to create a full, enjoyable day.

Opening Ceremony

With twice as many seats this year, there's a greater chance to enjoy this under-the-radar one-night-only showcase at DAR Constitution Hall on March 21.

Pack a Picnic for the Blossom Kite Festival

The Blossom Kite Festival (March 28) is iconic but busy, with limited food options and long lines. Bringing your own picnic or at least a full snack bag keeps everyone fed and happy.

Bring Your Own Kite

Whether you bring one from home, buy one in advance, or make one at the festival, having a kite ready means instant fun without waiting in line.

Keep an Eye on Your Kids

It's easy to get distracted looking up at the kites and fireworks, but crowds



can be thick—stay focused on your kids to keep them safe. There are family reunification tents at all the outdoor events, so should anything happen, the staff are prepared to help.

Use Public Transportation

Metro, walking, and bike rentals are the easiest ways to navigate busy blossom season crowds, limited parking, and road closures. Check the festival's website for SpotHero discounts help if driving is necessary.

Parade Tips

For the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade® on April 11, grandstand seats offer comfort and great views, but families can also find free spots along Constitution Avenue between 9th and 15th Streets. Note that the new parade start time is 11 AM.

Cherry Picks for Dining

Use Cherry Picks to find restaurants perfect for family meals or date nights, complete with blossom-inspired menus and drinks.

Smaller, Less Overwhelming Events

Explore the Festival website calendar for family-friendly, and low-sensory activities.

Petalpalooza Evening Fun

Bring your kids for music, hands-on activities, dinner, and fireworks in a lively evening setting along the Anacostia River on April 4.

Think Beyond Peak Bloom

The Festival spans a full month and the entire region, so explore events outside the Tidal Basin rush.

Subscribe for Essentials

Sign up for email updates from the Festival to receive key details, reminders, and helpful planning information. You'll also get notice about rain dates or other changes.

Teen Volunteer Opportunities

High school students aged 16+ can volunteer and earn SSL hours while supporting the Festival.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is more than a celebration of spring – it's a chance to make memories as a family. With a little preparation and a few insider tips, you'll enjoy all the charm, culture, and beauty without feeling overwhelmed. Pack your snacks, hop on Metro, and get ready for a magical season under the blossoms.

Learn more at NationalCherryBlossomFestival.org or email me: ncbf@ncbfdc.org

Cherry blossoms, kites and kid-approved festival fun

From kite flying to parades and hands-on activities, here's how to plan a magical spring day the whole family will love.

BY JENNA DOLCH

Each spring, Washington, DC, bursts into bloom as thousands of cherry trees transform the city into a pastel wonderland. What began as a gift from Japan in 1912 has grown into a multi-week celebration filled with events, performances and activities designed for all ages.

From outdoor festivals and cultural performances to parades and interactive activities, this guide highlights the best family-friendly ways to enjoy the festival while keeping things simple, memorable and stress-free.

Blossom views and live performances at the Tidal Basin

The heart of the festival happens at the Tidal Basin, where families can enjoy peak bloom views alongside live entertainment at the Tidal Basin Welcome Area and ANA Stage. Performances celebrate American and Japanese culture with music, dance and interactive shows that kids can enjoy while taking breaks between sightseeing.

Expect a rotating schedule of performances ranging from



jazz and bluegrass to cultural dance and family-friendly demonstrations, all happening steps away from the iconic blossoms.

Good to know:

- **Address:** 20245 National Drive, Washington, DC
- **Hours:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Sunday
- **Performances:** Begin at noon daily
- **Cost:** Free
- **Tip:** Remind kids not to touch or climb the trees, it's against the law and helps protect them for future generations

Tips for taking kids:

- Visit in the morning for fewer crowds.
- Bring a stroller or carrier for younger children.
- Plan short walking loops with rest breaks.
- Take turns exploring while others watch performances.
- Remind kids not to climb or touch trees.



PHOTOS COURTESY NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL



Opening Ceremony: A cultural celebration families can watch together

The Festival's Opening Ceremony is a one-time performance honoring the historic friendship between Japan and the United States. While seating is ticketed, families can also enjoy the experience at home thanks to a free livestream option.

This is a great way to introduce kids to global traditions through music, dance, and storytelling.

Event details:

- **Date:** 5-6:30 p.m. March 21
- **Location:** DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D St NW, Washington, DC
- Cost:** \$5 per ticket

CONTINUED...

PHOTOS COURTESY NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL



Tips for taking kids:

- Preview the livestream or program schedule so kids know what to expect.
- Choose aisle seats if attending in person for easy bathroom breaks.
- Bring quiet activities for younger children (coloring, small notebook).
- Talk about Japanese culture beforehand to build excitement.
- Watch virtually if your kids struggle with longer seated events.

Blossom Kite Festival at the Washington Monument grounds

One of the most kid-loved events of the festival is the Blossom Kite Festival, where the skies above the Washington

Monument Grounds fill with color. Families can bring their own kites or watch expert flyers compete and perform.

This event combines hands-on fun with plenty of open space for kids to move around, making it a perfect daytime outing.

Event details:

- **Date:** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 28 (rain date March 29)
- **Address:** Washington Monument Grounds, Washington, DC
- **Cost:** Free

Tips for taking kids:

- Bring a lightweight kite that's easy for kids to fly.



- Pack sunscreen, hats and sunglasses (little shade available).
- Write your name and phone number on the kite.
- Arrive early to avoid the biggest crowds.
- Bring a picnic blanket for resting and snacks.



Petalpalooza: A full day of music, play and fireworks

Petalpalooza is an all-ages outdoor celebration packed with live music, interactive art, family activities, and an evening fireworks show set to music. Held along the Anacostia River, it's one of the most energetic days of the festival.

Families can come and go throughout the day, making it easy to tailor the experience to younger kids' schedules.

Event details:

- **Date:** 1-9 p.m. April 4
- **Location:** Capitol Riverfront
- **Cost:** Free

Tips for taking kids:

- Visit earlier in the day when crowds are lighter.
- Set a meeting spot in case anyone gets separated.
- Bring noise-reducing headphones for sensitive ears.
- Pack snacks and refillable water bottles.
- Head out before fireworks if bedtime is early.



National Cherry Blossom Festival parade

A can't-miss moment for families is the iconic parade along Constitution Avenue. Kids will love the giant balloons, marching bands, colorful floats and celebrity appearances that make this event feel like springtime magic.

Reserved seating is available, but families can also watch portions of the parade for free along the route.

Event details:

- **Date:** 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. April 11
- **Location:** Constitution Avenue NW, between 7th and 17th Streets
- **Tickets:** \$28-\$45 (children under 2 free if seated on a lap)

Tips for taking kids:

- Bring small stools or a blanket for curbside seating.
- Pack snacks, water and hand wipes.
- Arrive early to claim a good viewing spot.
- Choose a less crowded block along the route.
- Consider free viewing areas to avoid ticket costs.

Art in Bloom: Giant cherry blossom sculptures around the city

Families can extend their blossom adventure beyond the Tidal Basin by exploring Art in Bloom, a citywide outdoor art exhibit featuring giant cherry blossom sculptures designed

by local DC-area artists. Sculptures are located across all eight wards and in surrounding areas, making it easy to turn sightseeing into a creative scavenger hunt.

What you'll find:

- Oversized, colorful cherry blossom sculptures
 - Public art in parks, plazas and neighborhoods
 - Photo-worthy installations kids will love
- Featured sculptures include:
- *Flower Kuties* by Kaila Garcia
 - *Renewal Blossom* by Ameena Fareeda
 - *Sakura+Seasons* by Tracie Griffith Tso
 - *Cherry Tattoo* by Andrew Funk
 - *HOPE* by Aaron Feinstein
 - *Hive Blossom* by Elizabeth Ashe
 - *The Gift* by Patrick Guyton
 - *Refresh, Renew, Rebloom* by Melissa Ragos, Maria Luz Roa, Natalie Cox, Gonzalo Rodriguez and Darrah Wills
 - *Cherry Blossom Picnic* by Rachael Bohlander

Tip: Use the [Art in Bloom map to locate sculptures and plan a few stops near your other festival activities.](#)

Tips for taking kids:

- Turn it into a scavenger hunt using the sculpture map.
- Let kids take photos of their favorite sculptures.
- Pair sculpture stops with playgrounds or snack breaks.
- Visit two or three locations instead of trying to see everything if you know your kiddos won't last all day.
- Bring a notebook for kids to sketch designs they like.

City in Bloom: Pretty in pink all across DC

The award-winning City in Bloom® campaign brings the spirit of the festival into neighborhoods throughout the region with special lighting, custom installations and signature cherry blossom decals.

Families may spot:

- Metro Blossom Buses
- Businesses decorated in pink
- Landmark lighting and displays
- It's a fun way to feel the festival atmosphere even when you're not near the Tidal Basin.

Tips for taking kids:

- Spot pink decorations and decals like an "I Spy" game.
- Take photos at decorated storefronts and landmarks.
- Combine with errands or meals nearby.
- Walk or use Metro to make it part of your day.
- Let kids choose their favorite pink display.

Festival event calendar at a glance

- **March 13:** Pink Tie Party – Union Station
- **Tue, March 17:** Blossom Tea Party – Walter E. Washington Convention Center
- **Sat, March 21:** Opening Ceremony – DAR Constitution Hall
- **Sat, March 28:** Blossom Kite Festival – Washington Monument Grounds
- **Sun, March 29:** Oxon Run Pinknic – Valley Avenue SE and Wheeler Road SE
- **Sat, April 4:** Petalpalooza – Capitol Riverfront
- **Sat, April 11:** National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade – Constitution Avenue NW

General planning tips for families

- Visit early in the morning or on weekdays to avoid peak crowds
- Use public transportation, parking is extremely limited during the festival
- Bring snacks, water, and comfortable walking shoes
- Check bloom forecasts before your visit for the best views

Your DMV Cherry Blossom Roundup

Where to enjoy 2026 National Cherry Blossom Festival events

BY MARIAN CABALLO

As winter fades, the DC region slips into its most photogenic season. From the iconic pink canopy at the Tidal Basin to quieter neighborhood streets and garden paths in Maryland and Northern Virginia, cherry blossoms begin popping across the metro area each spring — and 2026 offers plenty of ways to experience them.

Whether you're planning a festival day with the kids, scouting less-crowded viewing spots or building a weekend itinerary around peak bloom, this cherry blossom calendar breaks down the key dates, events and locations to help you make the most of blossom season.



PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL HARBOR



PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL HARBOR

Official National Cherry Blossom Festival Events (DC)

National Cherry Blossom Festival

March 20–April 12

The main festival goes from Friday, March 20, through Sunday, April 12, 2026. The Tidal Basin is the main focus of the festival, but performances, art installations, family activity days and special museum programming pop up across the city.

Blossom Kite Festival

March 28

The Blossom Kite Festival turns the Washington Monument grounds into a kite field on Saturday, March 28. Families can fly their own kites, watch expert fliers in demonstrations and visit kids' areas for interactive activities. The event is free and for all ages. This year's competition programming features a "Red, White and Bloom" theme for America's 250th birthday.

Petalpalooza

1-9 p.m. April 4

Also under the festival umbrella, Petalpalooza is the all-day waterfront celebration at Capitol Riverfront Navy Yard Metro along the banks of the Anacostia River. Petalpalooza will feature multiple live-music stages, interactive art, games and family activities. The Official National Cherry Blossom Festival fireworks show also takes place after dark.

National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade

11 a.m. April 11

The festival's signature parade takes over Constitution Avenue NW on Saturday, April 11. Giant colorful helium balloons, floats, celebrity entertainers and marching bands will travel 10 blocks between 7th and 17th streets. The parade steps off in front of the National Archives and runs until about 1:30 p.m. Families can purchase grandstand seats with Telecast (East End) seating at 7th-9th streets priced at \$45, West End



PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL HARBOR

Performance Zone seating at \$34 and West End seating at \$28. Check out more of the official planned events on the National Cherry Blossom Festival calendar.

Cherry blossom fun beyond the official festival

National Harbor Cherry Blossom Festival - National Harbor, MD

March-April

National Harbor's cherry blossom season typically runs across the same window as the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Families can walk past roughly 200 cherry trees planted around the promenade and plaza, then pop into Sakura Sunday

from noon to 5 p.m. March 29 for cultural events, live performances and restaurant specials throughout the harbor.

"Beyond the Basin" & Glorious Gardens - Fairfax County/Northern Virginia Throughout spring

"Beyond the Basin" and the self-guided Glorious Gardens experiences highlight Fairfax County spots like Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria and River Farm along the Potomac where visitors can see cherry trees, tulip-lined meadows, ponds and walking paths without the busy downtown DC crowds.

Maryland suburbs: Neighborhood streets and garden highlights

Pop over to the cherry-lined streets of the Kenwood neighborhood near Bethesda/Chevy Chase and to Brookside Gardens in Wheaton for a calmer blossom experience. Kenwood's residential streets, including Kennedy Drive and Dorset Avenue, are lined with more than 1,000 Yoshino cherry trees that typically bloom a few days to a week after the Tidal Basin. Brookside Gardens features multiple flowering cherry trees in its Gude Garden and around the pond.



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE GEARY FOR VISIT FAIRFAX

Enjoy something sweet in Tysons

Take your kids to a hands-on candy workshop at Hershey Super Sweet Adventure, with games, photo ops and sweet surprises in Tysons Corner Center.

BY MARIAN CABALLO

If your kids light up at the sight of a Reese's cup or can spot a Hershey's Kiss from across the room, there's an immersive candy experience in Northern Virginia they won't want to miss. The Hershey Super Sweet Adventure transforms familiar chocolate and candy brands into a hands-on, story-driven attraction where families can play, create and snap plenty of sugar-coated selfies. Here's what to know before you go — and why it could turn into a full day out at Tysons.

There's a sweet new outing coming to the DMV! Hershey Super Sweet Adventure will make its East Coast debut on March 6 at Tysons Corner Center. The experience transforms iconic Hershey products like Reese's, Hershey's Kisses, Twizzlers and Jolly Rancher into games and colorful photo opportunities.

Hershey Super Sweet Adventure basics

Hershey Super Sweet Adventure will open on March 6 at Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons, VA. Tickets start at \$19.99 per person.

The experience is coming out of a [successful run in Chicago](#), where families moved through a story-driven “sweet seeker” adventure with interactive rooms themed to different candies. For the Tysons pop-up, designers have added new elements, including a grand finale where you can personalize the wrapper on a Hershey's Milk Chocolate bar with your own selfie.

What kids can do here

Stations invite them to:

- Launch “peanut butter” balls into oversized Reese's cups at the Reese's Combination Station.
- Navigate a Twizzlers-inspired maze and other active play areas born out of the classic red twists.
- Crank up the flavor in a Jolly Rancher zone that taps into bold colors, sounds and motion.
- Get creative making unique Hershey's kisses foil wrappers.

Retail shop and sweet extras

Even if you're not up for the whole attraction, the on-site Hershey Super Sweet Adventure store can be a draw of its own. The shop stocks limited-edition candy-themed merchandise and collectibles tied to brands.



Customizable Hershey's Chocolate Bar Wrapper at Hershey Super Sweet Adventure.



Hershey Super Sweet Adventure Gift Shop

This retail area is open to both ticketed and non-ticketed guests, so locals can pop by for gifts or souvenirs without committing to a full session.

What parents will appreciate

The adventure is indoors and designed to be interactive. Kids can wear off sugar highs running through mazes, pressing buttons and racing between games, while adults can join in the activities or hang back and take photos.

The experience is self-contained inside the mall, so you can pair it with a meal in the food court or some shopping before or after entry.



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Candy Bar at Hershey Super Sweet Adventure.



COPYRIGHT ORIGINAL X PRODUCTIONS

Party Room at Hershey Super Sweet Adventure.



COPYRIGHT KYLE FLUBACKER

The Combination Station at Hershey Super Sweet Adventure.

There is plenty to do around Tysons Corner Center to occupy an entire day before or after your Hershey Super Sweet Adventure time slot. The mall has a free, National Geographic Kids-themed play area. Kids might want to check out [CAMP](#), an interactive toy store, or catch a movie at nearby [CMX CinéBistro](#) in [Tysons Galleria](#).

Admission and policies

- **Opening date:** March 6 at Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons, VA
- **Tickets:** Start at \$19.99 per person. [Purchase now!](#)
- **Extras:** Retail shop with limited-edition merchandise and the My Hershey's Bar custom-wrapper station. This is open to both

[attraction guests and general mall visitors.](#)

Tips for visiting

- It's a smart idea to grab your preferred day and time as soon as sales open, especially for weekends and school breaks.
- Plan to arrive a little early to find parking.
- If your kids are big fans of a particular candy, build in time to repeat their favorite station before you exit through the retail area.
- Planning a birthday or group outing? Check the site for [party packages and bundles](#) so you can combine tickets, a celebration space and those custom chocolate bars in one sweet, themed event.

Walk in Washington's footsteps

Explore George Washington's mansion, the grounds and hands-on history with this family-friendly guide.

BY MAGGIE MCINTYRE



Ready to time-travel without leaving the DMV? Mount Vernon was George Washington's home in the 1700s and could be the perfect day trip for your family. Step back in time and learn more about one of our country's founding fathers with a tour of the house and gardens, or a walk through a Revolutionary War encampment.

- **Location:** 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon
- **Cost:** Children under 5 get in free, \$16 for youth under 11, \$30 for adults. Tickets are required, parking is available on-site for free.
- **Hours:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Sunday

What to expect on your visit

To get the most out of a visit to [Mount Vernon](#), you can expect to spend two to three hours wandering the estate and its grounds. Entry to the historic mansion itself is permitted by guided tour only and requires a ticket. The mansion tour is expected to take just 10 minutes leaving you plenty of time to enjoy the outbuildings, gardens, a working farm, Washington's tomb and a memorial dedicated to those enslaved.

Have any history buffs in the family? They'll love the [Education Center exhibit](#) on George Washington's life which is set to reopen in March 2026 after an extensive rebuild. There, you can watch a short film on Washington's life, walk through a recreation of his

house in Philadelphia, read authentic founding documents and more. Also opening in March is "[Patriots Path: A Revolutionary War Encampment](#)," a hands-on attraction where guests can touch the items inside the tents, wash clothes in the laundry yard and examine cooking utensils used by camp followers.

On Saturdays and Sundays from April to October, you can also visit the distillery where Washington made his whiskey and the gristmill where he made flour, cornmeal and grits, included in the price of your ticket.

Take a tour

There's more than one way to explore Mount Vernon. Choose from guided tours and self-guided experiences that let families tailor their visit to their interests and energy levels.

Mansion Tour (In-Depth Tour): A guided, 75-minute tour of the Mansion and surrounding outbuildings and gardens that highlights more than 250 years of history.



Enslaved People of Mount Vernon

Tour: A guided experience focused on the lives and contributions of the enslaved community at Mount Vernon; offered daily with seasonal time changes.

Self-Guided Grounds Exploration: Walk the estate at your own pace, including gardens, farm, tombs and historic structures (no guide required with general admission).

Specialty or Seasonal Tours & Events: Various limited-time tours and experiences throughout the year, such as behind-the-scenes tours, thematic explorations and Patriots





Path Revolutionary War encampments (availability varies by date).

Note: Mansion entry requires a timed ticket; advanced reservations are recommended for guided tours.

Explore Washington's Library

The George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon is a world-class research center devoted to the life, leadership and legacy of America's first president, housing original papers, manuscripts, books and historical materials related to Washington, colonial America and the founding era. Even those only mildly interested in history or books will find this collection a true

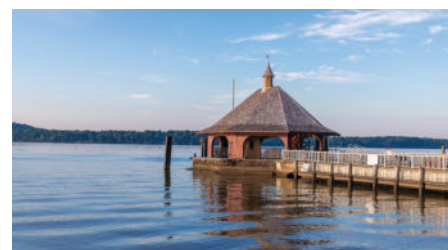
treasure trove.

Open to scholars and researchers by appointment, the library supports study, educational outreach and fellowship programs that deepen understanding of the man behind the legend and the times he lived in.

■ **Hours of operation:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday-Friday

More to explore

Mount Vernon is just a one-hour bike ride from Alexandria along the scenic Mount Vernon Trail. If your family wants to rent bikes or e-bikes and cycle along the Potomac River, there are plenty of options to choose from including [Unlimited Biking](#), [Big Wheel Bikes](#), [Strictly Ebikes](#) and



[Pedego](#).

You can also cruise the Potomac River by boat to get to Mount Vernon.

The [Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant](#) is right next door to the mansion if you'd feel like trying traditional American fare in a historic setting. They serve lunch, dinner and weekend brunch and kids eat free on Tuesday evenings.

Spring break in the DMV

From cherry blossoms and festivals to immersive games, museums and outdoor adventures, DC offers endless ways for families to celebrate spring.

BY CORINNE YOUNG

National Cherry Blossom Festival

The National Cherry Blossom Festival, a hallmark of springtime in the area, offers weeks of free, family-oriented activities. These include kite flying, cultural displays, art shows, parades, and, of course, the chance to admire the blossoms around the Tidal Basin.

A helpful hint: Peak bloom typically happens in late March, which often coincides with school vacations.

Where to go:

- National Mall – Wander among the famous monuments and the cherry trees.
- Tidal Basin – Perfect for photographs, paddle boating and picnics during the blooming period.
- Wharf and waterfront areas – Seasonal events like Bloomaroo, featuring music and family-friendly fun.

Interactive entertainment and games

Seeking some lively indoor entertainment, or perhaps a change of pace? These interactive entertainment spaces make for a great outing where kids can burn some energy and parents

can relax (if they don't want to join in on the fun!)

- The Escape Game DC (Penn Quarter) offers highly-rated interactive escape rooms, perfect for families and teenagers.
- Great Big Game Show provides trivia and interactive game show fun, ideal for older kids and families.
- Beat The Bomb DC promises a hilarious group adventure, blending physical and digital challenges.
- Immersive Gamebox features virtual reality group experiences, located in Arlington, VA.
- F1 Arcade, for those families who enjoy video games and racing sims.

Museums and mind-expanding fun

If you're looking for a little slower pace indoors during spring break, DC has many options that will challenge your mind and leave you in awe.

- The National Children's Museum offers hands-on exhibits centered around science, art, and, of course, play.
- Planet Word Museum is an interactive language museum that's a hit with kids (and it's free, but reservations are required).
- For those with a taste for adventure, the International Spy Museum features



PHOTO BY JASON DIXON PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO COURTESY PLANET WORD



exhibits and puzzles designed to intrigue.

- [The Museum of Illusions](#) Washington, DC provides whimsical visual illusions, perfect for snapping photos and sparking curiosity.

Keep in mind that many DC museums have special exhibits or extended hours during spring break, and possible free admission days, so it's always a good idea to check their schedules before you head out!

Seasonal and spring break-specific picks

Looking for something a little more seasonal? Lots of spring-centered

activities frequently pop up during spring break.

- Easter egg hunts and chances to meet the Easter Bunny are common, particularly in parks and at community farms.
- For a leisurely outing, consider [renting a paddle boat](#) at the [Tidal Basin](#).
- Local theaters often schedule special springtime performances, such as family-friendly plays or musicals, to coincide with the school holidays.

Meet animals and explore nature

- [Smithsonian National Zoological Park](#) – Get up close with giant pandas, elephants, and a host of other animals,

all without an admission fee (zoo passes are necessary).

- [Glen Echo Park Aquarium](#) – This smaller aquarium showcases the wonders of the Chesapeake Bay, making it a great choice for a quick outing.
- [Capital Crescent Trail](#) – Whether you rent a bike or prefer to walk, this scenic trail stretches from DC into Maryland, offering picnic areas and beautiful views of nature.

Spring is the perfect time to get outside – don't forget to bring sunscreen, snacks and water.

Gardens, parks and playgrounds

Enjoy the season's blossoms and the longer days with these outdoor destinations:

- [The United States Botanic Garden](#) offers a chance to explore floral displays and plant exhibits, both inside and out.
- [Dumbarton Oaks](#) features lovely gardens, ideal for family walks — especially enjoyable for older children and teenagers.
- [Georgetown Waterfront Park](#) presents river views, open lawns and benches, offering a place to unwind while the kids have fun.
- If the weather turns, the [Smithsonian National Museum of American History](#) is a fantastic indoor option, combining education with entertainment.
- Don't forget local playgrounds and recreation centers, such as the [Kennedy Recreation Center](#), which provide free or low-cost play opportunities.

Spring break camps

If your kiddo is looking for something fun to do while the grown-ups are stuck working (yuck!) then check out one of these fun spring break camps to keep them busy!

- [Round House Theater's Spring Break Camp](#) is for young artists in kindergarten through grade four who want to spend their school break exploring drama, movement and design while creating their own theatrical pieces each day.
- Ideal for families looking for engaging spring break options, [DPR's Spring Break Camp](#) provides age-based activities—ranging from games and sports to arts and character education—for children ages 3-12 at recreation centers across the District.



Bowie bound

From parks and museums to baseball, escape rooms and outdoor trails, Bowie offers year-round fun for families.

BY JENNA DOLCH

Many top activities are affordable or free, making Bowie great for budget-friendly family outings.

From nature trails and playgrounds to museums and baseball games, there's something for every age.

Bowie's location makes it an easy day trip from DC, Annapolis and surrounding Maryland communities.

Bowie, Maryland, may feel like a peaceful suburban town, but it's packed with attractions and activities that appeal to kids and grown-ups alike. From scenic parks and outdoor trails to historic sites that bring the past to life, Bowie's mix of nature, culture and entertainment makes it easy to plan a full day out.

Families will find everything from playgrounds and picnics to baseball games and hands-on museums. Whether you're visiting for the weekend or looking for something new close to home, Bowie offers plenty of ways to explore, play and connect.

Here are 10 great family-friendly things to do in Bowie:

Sky Zone Trampoline Park

For high-energy indoor fun, Sky Zone is a go-to favorite. The trampoline park features freestyle jump areas, foam pits, dodgeball courts and obstacle challenges. It's perfect for rainy days, birthday celebrations or just letting kids burn off extra energy. Parents can jump



PHOTO COURTESY SKY ZONE

too, or relax while the kids play.

- **Address:** 1300 Crain Highway, Bowie
- **Hours:** 4-8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; 2-8 p.m. Wednesday; 4-10 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday; 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday
- **Phone:** (301) 683-7997

Allen Pond Park

Allen Pond Park is one of Bowie's most beloved outdoor destinations. The large park features a scenic pond, paved walking trails, playgrounds and wide open green space perfect for running, biking or enjoying a picnic. Families can fish along the shoreline,

rent paddle boats seasonally or attend community concerts and events throughout the year. The playground area offers plenty of space for younger kids to climb and explore. It's an easy, relaxing way to spend a few hours outdoors.

- **Address:** 3330 Northview Drive, Bowie
- **Hours:** 6-8 p.m. daily
- **Phone:** (301) 809-3011
- **Belair Mansion**

Step back in time at Belair Mansion, a beautifully restored historic home that showcases Bowie's colonial roots. Families can explore furnished rooms, learn about local history and



PHOTO COURTESY SKY ZONE



discover exhibits highlighting the area's equestrian heritage. The mansion's elegant grounds make for a peaceful afternoon visit. It's a great option for older kids who enjoy history or architecture and guided tours add extra context and storytelling to the experience.

- **Address:** 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie
- **Hours:** noon-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday
- **Phone:** (301) 809-3089

Bowie Railroad Museum

Train lovers will enjoy the Bowie Railroad Museum, located in the historic train station. Families can see antique railcars, explore exhibits and even step inside a caboose. The museum offers an interactive way to learn about Bowie's railroad history and its role in regional development. It's small enough to explore comfortably with younger children.

- **Address:** 8614 Chestnut Ave., Bowie
- **Hours:** noon-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday
- **Phone:** (240) 216-1104

Belair Stable Museum

Right next to the mansion, the Belair Stable Museum offers a closer look at



Bowie's horse-racing legacy. Exhibits feature historic artifacts, photographs and racing memorabilia. It's a small but engaging stop that pairs perfectly with a mansion tour. Kids who love animals or sports history will especially enjoy this visit.

- **Address:** 2835 Belair Drive, Bowie
- **Hours:** noon-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday
- **Phone:** (301) 809-3089



Prince George's Stadium

Catch a Bowie Baysox minor league baseball game at Prince George's Stadium for classic family entertainment. Games feature affordable tickets, kid-friendly promotions and occasional fireworks nights. The relaxed atmosphere makes it easy for families to enjoy America's pastime together. Grab a hot dog, cheer for the home team and settle in for a fun evening.

- **Address:** 4101 Crain Highway, Bowie
- **Hours:** Game times vary
- **Phone:** (301) 805-6000

All In Adventures Escape Rooms

For families with older kids and teens, All In Adventures offers themed escape room challenges. Teams work together to solve puzzles, uncover clues and beat the clock. It's a fun way to build teamwork and problem-solving skills while enjoying a unique indoor experience. Different difficulty levels make it accessible for beginners and experienced players alike.

- **Address:** 15421 Emerald Way, Bowie
- **Hours:** noon-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-6 p.m. Sunday
- **Phone:** (240) 203-9291

Whitemarsh Park

Whitemarsh Park provides a quieter outdoor escape with wooded trails, open fields and picnic areas. It's ideal for hiking, nature walks and relaxed family outings. The peaceful setting makes it easy to slow down and enjoy fresh air. Bring a picnic or let kids explore the open spaces.

- **Address:** 100 White Marsh Park Drive, Bowie
- **Hours:** 8 a.m.-6 p.m. daily
- **Phone:** (301) 809-3011

Medieval Dragon Playground

This themed playground is a local favorite for younger kids. With imaginative climbing structures and space to run, it encourages creative play. Families love the open layout and fantasy-inspired design. It's a great free stop to add to a park day.

- **Address:** 1717 Pittsfield Lane, Bowie
- **Hours:** 7 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

Governor Bridge Natural Area

Just outside central Bowie, Governor Bridge Natural Area offers scenic trails and wildlife viewing opportunities. It's a great spot for family hikes, birdwatching or photography. The wooded paths provide a peaceful break from busier attractions. Outdoor-loving families will appreciate the natural beauty and quiet atmosphere.

- **Address:** 7600 Governor Bridge Road, Bowie
- **Hours:** Dawn-dusk
- **Phone:** (301) 627-6074



Matzah, memories and meaning

Passover (Pesach) is a springtime Jewish celebration of freedom and community — here's what families and neighbors should know and where to celebrate in Washington, DC.

BY JENNA DOLCH

Passover, also called Pesach in Hebrew, is one of the most meaningful holidays in the Jewish calendar. It commemorates the Biblical story of the Exodus, when the Israelites were freed from slavery in ancient Egypt. Central to the celebration is the Seder, a festive meal filled with symbolic foods, songs and storytelling that reflects on freedom, resilience and community.

For families in the capital region, Passover is both a religious observance and a cultural tradition. It typically takes place over eight days in early spring and includes special rituals like eating matzah (unleavened bread), retelling the Exodus story and gatherings with friends and neighbors.

Whether you're observing Passover for the first time or looking to take part in a community celebration, the DMV offers a range of Seders and events from traditional services to creative and inclusive experiences that help make the holiday meaningful for all ages and backgrounds.

Passover begins at sundown on Wednesday, April 1, and continues through Thursday, April 9.

What Passover celebrates and how it's observed

Passover marks the liberation of the Israelites from slavery under the pharaoh, and its name refers to the "passing over" of the Jewish homes when the final plague struck Egypt. Tradition holds that families gather for a Seder meal on the first (and often

second) nights of the holiday to retell the Exodus story through readings from a Haggadah, share symbolic foods (like bitter herbs and charoset), and drink four cups of wine.

Eating unleavened bread (matzah) throughout the holiday recalls the haste with which the Israelites fled Egypt; they didn't have time to let their bread rise. Many families also avoid chametz (leavened grains) during Passover as part of the observance.



While deeply rooted in Jewish tradition, Passover gatherings in the DMV often embrace community, shared meals and cultural exploration from interfaith Seders to inclusive celebrations focusing on freedom, justice and identity.

Local ways to celebrate Passover near you

Nights at the Seder Table — Capital Jewish Museum

This annual seder experience at the Capital Jewish Museum mixes tradition with community engagement and meaningful conversation. Guests read from a community *Haggadah*, enjoy kosher or kosher-style dinner options and connect over charoset, matzah and the story of freedom.

- **Address:** 575 3rd St. NW, Washington, DC
- **Dates:** 6:30-8:30 p.m. March. 26
- **Phone:** (202) 789-0990

Community Passover Seder — Washington Hebrew Congregation

A centerpiece of Passover in the DMV, this community seder brings together neighbors for storytelling, ritual foods, wine and song that enrich the holiday. It's a warm setting for those new to Passover or looking to celebrate with others.

- **Address:** 3935 Macomb St. NW, Washington, DC
- **Dates:** 6 p.m. April 1-8
- **Phone:** (202) 362-7100

Pesache — Chabad East DC Jewish Center

Celebrate Passover (Pesache) with loved ones, relive the exodus and learn the meaning of Haggadah. Enjoy a community Seder with Shmurah Matzha, wine and a traditional dinner.

- **Address:** 406 8th St. SE, Washington, DC

- **Dates:** April 1-9
- **Phone:** 202-643-5644

Passover Seder Boot Camp — Edlavitch DCJCC

Are you preparing to host or attend your first seder? Looking for a quick Passover refresher? This comprehensive planning session covers the essential flow of the seder, along with meaningful insights, alternative traditions and practical tips to help everything run smoothly.

- **Address:** 1529 16th St., NW, Washington, DC
- **Dates:** 10:30-noon April 14
- **Phone:** (202) 240-2114

Observance tips for families and newcomers

Even if you're not attending a group seder, you can observe Passover traditions at home. Many local congregations and community centers offer classes on Passover customs, how to host a seder and explanations of symbolic foods (like matzah, wine, lamb shank and bitter herbs) that help bring the holiday story to life around the table.

Passover lasts for eight days and typically falls in March or April. The first and second nights often include Seders, while weekdays and weekend mornings

may include special worship services or community gatherings.

Essentials for the Seder

- **A Haggadah:** The book that guides you through the seder
- **Seder Plate Items:** You'll need these six symbolic foods:
 - Matzah – Unleavened bread (usually 3 pieces stacked)
 - Maror – Bitter herbs (often horseradish)
 - Charoset – A sweet apple-nut mixture
 - Karpas – A green vegetable (like parsley)
 - Zeroa – A roasted bone (or symbolic substitute)
 - Beitzah – A roasted or hard-boiled egg
- **Drinks**
 - Wine or grape juice (enough for each adult/participant)
 - A special cup for Elijah (optional but traditional)
- **Candles:** Holiday candles (for lighting at the start of the evening)
- **The Meal:** Traditional items often include:
 - Chicken soup with matzah balls
 - Brisket or roasted chicken
 - Kugel or roasted vegetables
 - Flourless desserts (like macarons or flourless chocolate cake)



Hop into these Easter activities

Discover the best egg hunts and holiday classes for families across the region.

BY KENDALL FLOOR

Easter is just around the corner, and the DMV is packed with events to celebrate the holiday. From egg hunts to decorating an easter basket cake, there are plenty of ways to enjoy Easter with the whole family.



Great Country Farms Easter Egg Hunt

Celebrate Easter at Great Country Farms! See baby animals, take a wagon ride and participate in the egg hunt. Tickets start at \$7.99.

- **Location:** Great Country Farms, 34345 Snickersville Turnpike, Bluemont, VA
- **Date:** 9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. March 21, 28 and April 4



Underwater Egg Hunt

Enjoy Easter underwater with this underwater egg hunt. Kids can dive into the fun and search for eggs at the bottom of the pool. Perfect for kids of all ages who love swimming.

- **Location:** Dulles South Rec Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding, VA
- **Date:** 9-10:45 a.m. March 21



Egg Hunt Egg-Stravaganza at Calvert Park

Join the Egg Hunt Egg-Stravaganza for a fun, family-friendly spring celebration where kids up to age 10 can hunt for prize-filled eggs, enjoy live music, hot cocoa and cookies, make crafts, and even snap a photo with Peter Cottontail. The event offers two hunt times to choose from and requires free pre-registration due to limited space.

- **Location:** 4807 Drexel Road, College Park, MD
- **Date:** 10 a.m.- noon March 21

Eggstravaganza at Tudor Place

Take photos with the Easter bunny, collect Easter eggs, create art, enjoy face-painting, Storytime and more at Eggstravaganza at Tudor Place. This outdoor event happens in rain or shine, and tickets start at \$10.

- **Location:** Tudor Place, 1644 31st St., Washington, DC
- **Date:** 10 a.m.-noon March 27

Butler's Orchard's Bunnyland

Join the springtime fun at Butler's Orchard's Bunnyland, a seasonal festival celebrating all things spring with farm animals, hayrides, giant slides, pedal tractors, an egg hunt with goodie baskets for kids, and plenty of open-air fun for the whole family. Bunnyland runs on select days through early spring, offering hours of hands-on activities and country charm in a scenic farm setting.

- **Location:** 22222 Davis Mill Road, Germantown, MD
- **Date:** 9 a.m.-6 p.m. March 28-29, April 2-4, April 6 & April 11-12

Spring Egg Hunt

Celebrate Easter with crafts and an egg hunt. Ages are restricted to 3-10, and tickets start at \$25.

- **Location:** Mount Vernon Rec Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria, VA
- **Date:** 10 a.m.-noon March 28



Lee-Fendall Easter Egg Hunt

Have fun collecting Easter eggs all around the Lee-Fendall garden. This event includes crafts, games, a cupcake walk, gift shop deals and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Reservations must be made in advance, and tickets are \$15 per participating child. Don't forget your basket!

- **Location:** Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria, VA
- **Date:** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. March 28

City of Falls Church Annual Egg Hunt at Cherry Hill Park

Celebrate spring at the City of Falls Church Annual Egg Hunt, a free community event where children ages 1 to 11 can dash for colorful eggs, enjoy games, face-painting, arts and crafts, live music and take photos with Mr. and Mrs. Bunny. Families are encouraged to arrive early for pre-hunt activities beginning before the eggs go out, and the hunt is separated by age groups to make the fun fair for all.

- **Location:** 312 Park Ave., Falls Church, VA
- **Date:** 9:15 a.m. April 4



Easter Basket Buttercream Cake Decorating Class

Learn new skills while decorating an Easter-themed cake at Fran's. Guests will be guided through in-person step by step instruction and participants must be at least 13 years old.

- **Location:** Fran's Cake & Candy Supplies, 10927 Main St., Fairfax, VA
- **Date:** 10 a.m. April 4

Easter Egg Roll

This Easter Egg Roll is based on a lottery system, and tickets must be requested for a chance to attend. Entrants need to specify the number of adults and children on the ticket request and the preferred times. Each household will be limited to one lottery application for a maximum of six tickets.

- **Location:** The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC
- **Date:** April 6

Eggstravaganza

Enjoy free Easter fun for the whole family. Eggstravaganza includes egg hunts, prizes, games, the Easter Bunny and more.

- **Location:** Garfield Elementary, 7101 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA
- **Date:** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. April 12



Easter brunch with the family

From classic buffets to kid-friendly comfort food, these restaurants offer Easter Sunday brunch that DMV families will love.

BY MAGGIE MCINTYRE

WASHINGTON, DC

Founding Farmers

Serving classic southern fare, Founding Farmers offers an excellent brunch every weekend, and Easter Sunday is no exception. Depending on the location, you can expect a buffet brunch or choose your meal a la carte. Need plans for Easter dinner too? Founding Farmers has options for dinner reservations or a special Easter-at-home dinner to-go that you can pick up at select locations and follow clear instructions to reheat at home. In early April, look out for their seasonal Easter chocolates too!

- **Brunch highlights:** Known for their chicken and waffles, Founding Farmers also has decadent french toast on the menu and breakfast street tacos.
- **Location:** Various locations across DC and Northern Virginia
- **Sunday brunch hours:** 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Le Diplomate

A more upscale option, Le Diplomate is known for their authentic French cuisine. The brunch menu is quite extensive and they have plenty

of options for families with dietary restrictions. Be sure to book your reservation early because they fill up fast.

- **Brunch highlights:** Their assorted pastry basket is the perfect way to sample some authentic French goodies and the omelettes come highly recommended.
- **Location:** 1601 14th St. NW, Washington, DC
- **Sunday brunch hours:** 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY LE DIPLOMATE



Unconventional Diner

At the Unconventional Diner, you can find a wide variety of brunch options every day until 3:45 p.m. Their outdoor patio is a family favorite when the sun is shining and although some of their dishes live up to the “unconventional” name, their menu is very kid-friendly.

- **Brunch highlights:** The loaded biscuit is a kid-favorite and their pancakes have a beloved blueberry-lavender sauce.
- **Location:** 1207 9th St. NW, Washington, DC
- **Sunday brunch hours:** 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY UNCONVENTIONAL DINER DC, LIA-ALEXI MANFREDI

VIRGINIA

Ruthie's All Day

Looking for a cozy, neighborhood restaurant to enjoy a special brunch on Easter Sunday? Ruthie's All Day is just that. They emphasize using local ingredients and get quite busy on weekends, so be sure to make a reservation in advance. The building used to be a chocolate factory and ice cream shop so look out for its historic character if you visit.

- **Brunch highlights:** If you're eating family style, everyone should get in on the skillet cornbread and apple donuts.
- **Location:** 3411 5th St. S, Arlington, VA
- **Sunday brunch hours:** 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Matt & Tony's

Matt & Tony's has an all-day brunch menu full of American comfort foods that kids and adults both rave about. On Easter, they normally have springtime brunch specials to ring in the season, and their patio is pet-friendly if you want to bring along a furry friend to celebrate. Don't miss their impressive kids menu!

- **Brunch highlights:** Matt & Tony's does southern comfort food right and their shrimp and grits are always a hit.
- **Location:** 1501 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA
- **Sunday brunch hours:** 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

Tupelo Honey Cafe

With a beloved all-day brunch menu, Tupelo Honey Cafe is always a popular option for families. They source local ingredients and pay homage to their Appalachian roots with an extensive menu of southern fare. Their spacious patio and cozy interior are both great options for Easter Sunday.



PHOTO COURTESY TUPELO HONEY SOUTHERN KITCHEN & BAR

- **Brunch highlights:** The most famous menu item is the chicken and waffles – a southern classic – and the sweet potato pancakes are a favorite from the kids menu.
- **Location:** 1616 N. Troy St., Arlington, VA
- **Sunday brunch hours:** 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

MARYLAND

The Hunter's Hound

A full Irish breakfast, jazz music, incredible hospitality and a rockin' kids menu... what else could you ask for on Easter Sunday? This Irish-American restaurant has an extensive brunch menu that families love.

- **Brunch highlights:** The



PHOTO COURTESY THE HUNTERS HOUND, BAR & RESTAURANT

full Irish breakfast is a crowd favorite, as is the steak and eggs. And don't forget to order sticky toffee pudding for dessert!

- **Location:** 5471 Wisconsin Ave. Suite A, Chevy Chase, MD
- **Sunday brunch hours:** 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Maman

If you want a more laid-back coffee shop vibe, Maman in Bethesda is a great option. Their french-inspired brunch menu and pastries are the perfect way to spend a springtime morning. They are very accommodating of dietary restrictions and have a fantastic kids menu. Don't forget to check out their famous coffee and tea menu!

- **Brunch highlights:** Be sure to take a peek at their daily quiche and grab a pastry assortment for the table.
- **Location:** 7140 Bethesda Lane, Bethesda, MD
- **Sunday brunch hours:** 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Iron Rooster

At this popular Maryland diner, you'll find modern takes on southern classics. Their warm atmosphere and kids menu promise an excellent Easter brunch. If you're hosting and need catering for a crowd, Iron Rooster also offers breakfast party boxes that you can pick up warm and ready to go or cold to reheat when you need.

- **Brunch highlights:** Don't miss the seasonal RoosTarts — a homemade take on PopTarts with different divine fillings throughout the year.
- **Location:** 7777 Baltimore Ave. Suite B, College Park, MD
- **Sunday brunch hours:** 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

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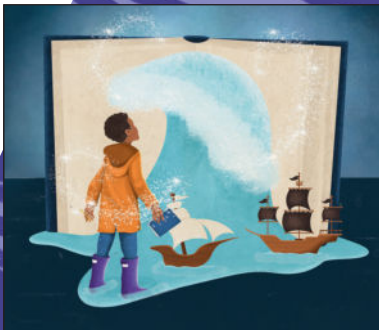
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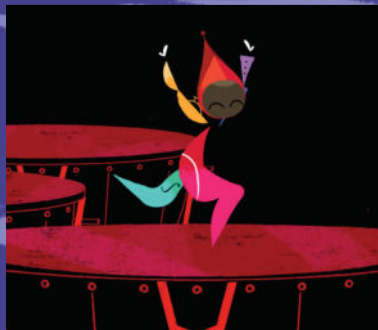


The Sea Beyond the Ocean

A boy named Scooter goes on a quest to find the author and missing ending of his favorite book series in this world premiere play written by **Doug Robinson** and directed by **KenYatta Rogers**.

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We all scream for ice cream!

Discover the most creative and unforgettable ice cream spots in the Washington, DC, area — from boozy scoops to artisanal gelato and loaded sundaes.

BY JENNA DOLCH

Spring is finally in the air in Washington, DC, and it's a great time to start enjoying your favorite frozen treats again! DC is a paradise for ice cream lovers, packed with creative scoops, bold flavors and dessert spots that turn a simple cone into a full experience. From inventive gelato and handcrafted small-batch ice cream to boozy barlours and loaded sundaes, the area delivers treats that go far beyond the ordinary.

Whether you are strolling through historic neighborhoods or hopping between museums and shops, there is always a sweet stop nearby ready to impress. This guide highlights some of the most over-the-top ice cream spots in and around DC, where dessert becomes an experience all its own. These are the places known for wild flavors, fun toppings and creative presentation that make every visit memorable.

Everyday Sundae

This beloved neighborhood shop is known for rich, creamy ice cream and rotating seasonal flavors that keep locals coming back. The menu blends comforting classics with playful twists, making it easy to find something for every taste.

- **Address:** 713 Kennedy St. NW, Washington, DC
- **Hours:** 3-9 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday
- **Phone:** (202) 723-0159

Here's the Scoop

Here's the Scoop serves generous portions of hand-dipped ice cream, milkshakes and creative sundaes in a bright, welcoming space. The shop rotates its flavors regularly, so there is always something new to try alongside favorites like chocolate and vanilla. It also offers dairy-free options, making it easy for everyone in the group to find something they love.

- **Address:** 2824 Georgia Ave. NW, Washington, DC
- **Hours:** 1-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday and Sunday, 1-8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
- **Phone:** (202) 629-4040

Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams

Jeni's is famous for pushing flavor boundaries with combinations like goat cheese with cherries, brambleberry crisp and seasonal fruit sorbets. The shop also offers several dairy-free options, perfect for anyone with dietary needs.

- **Address:** 1925 14th St. NW and 526 8th St. SE, Washington, DC
- **Hours:** 1 p.m.-midnight Monday-Thursday, noon-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday, noon-midnight Sunday
- **Phone:** (202) 621-8625

Mount Desert Island Ice Cream

This small-batch ice cream shop brings bold, inventive flavors to DC, like Vietnamese coffee and berry-swirl creations. The cozy shop in Mount Pleasant gives it a neighborhood feel that pairs perfectly with its creative menu. It is a great place to step outside your usual order and try something unexpected. Locals love it for both its flavor, originality and friendly atmosphere.

- **Address:** 3110 Mt. Pleasant St. NW, Washington, DC
- **Hours:** 2-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 1-10 p.m. Friday, noon-10 p.m. Saturday, noon-9:30 p.m. Sunday
- **Phone:** (240) 804-7038

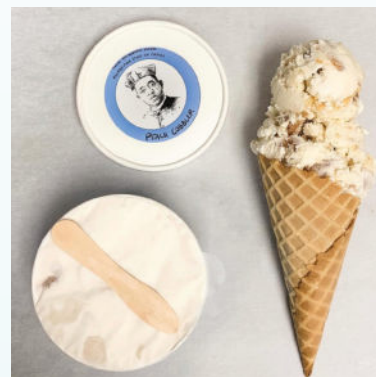


PHOTO COURTESY MOUNT DESERT ISLAND ICE CREAM



Ice Cream Jubilee

Ice Cream Jubilee is known for its ever-changing lineup of playful, seasonal flavors inspired by everything from childhood treats to global desserts. You can even pair your scoop with hot mini donuts for an extra-indulgent experience.

- **Address:** 3333 M St. NW, Washington, DC
- **Hours:** 2-9 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday
- **Phone:** (202) 299-9042



PHOTO COURTESY ICE CREAM JUBILEE

Van Leeuwen Ice Cream

Van Leeuwen serves rich, premium ice cream with flavors that range from classic vanilla to wildly creative combinations like churros and fudge or praline butter cake. The shop is especially known for its smooth texture and indulgent toppings. There are also vegan options, making it easy to bring a group with varying preferences.

- **Address:** 3245 Prospect St. NW, Washington, DC
- **Hours:** 1-11 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon-midnight Saturday, noon-11 p.m. Sunday
- **Phone:** (202) 464-0310

Happy Ice Cream

Happy Ice Cream is a walk-up style shop that serves dense, creamy scoops with a rotating selection of flavors. Its simple setup and high-quality ice cream have made it a favorite among locals. The changing menu keeps things exciting, especially for repeat visitors.

- **Address:** 1509 17th St. NW, Washington, DC
- **Hours:** 12:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and Saturday, noon-8:30 p.m. Friday

D/Lai Ice Cream

This newer boutique ice cream shop has quickly earned a loyal following for its rich, well-balanced flavors. Located near major DC attractions, it is an easy stop for a treat after sightseeing.

- **Address:** 2000 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC
- **Hours:** Noon-9:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon-10 p.m. Saturday, noon-7:30 p.m. Sunday
- **Phone:** (786) 218-8616



PHOTO COURTESY D/LAI ICE CREAM

Don't miss these Washington Parent Picks

Each year, Washington Parent asks readers to vote on their favorite businesses throughout the city. These are the top readers' choices!

Sarah's Handmade Ice Cream - Washington Parent Picks winner

A longtime local favorite and just a short drive from DC, Sarah's Handmade Ice Cream is beloved for its ultra-creamy texture and nostalgic, small-batch flavors. The River Road location is especially popular with families and regulars who appreciate the cozy atmosphere and consistently high quality.

- **Address:** 5241 River Road, Bethesda, MD
- **Hours:** 11-9 p.m. daily
- **Phone:** (301) 652-6823



PHOTO COURTESY SARAH'S HANDMADE ICE CREAM



PHOTO COURTESY GREG COMOLLO VIA BEN & JERRY'S

Ben & Jerry's - Washington Parent Picks finalist

Ben & Jerry's may be a nationally known brand, but the Wharf location makes it a standout stop for an over-the-top ice cream break in DC. The shop serves the iconic, cleverly named flavors fans love, along with generous scoops and indulgent mix-ins. Located along the waterfront, it's an easy dessert stop while exploring the Wharf or enjoying a stroll by the water.

- **Address:** 705 Wharf St. SW, Washington, DC
- **Hours:** 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday
- **Phone:** (202) 290-1277

The DC book lover's guide

Celebrate National Reading Month at any or all of these DC bookish places

BY BRANDI CALHOUN

Washington, DC, is packed with world-famous museums, iconic monuments and historic neighborhoods—but it's also an amazing place for young book lovers. Whether your child is into picture books, graphic novels, fantasy series, poetry or nonfiction, the nation's capital is full of places where stories come to life.

From interactive museums dedicated to language to legendary bookstores and beautiful libraries that feel straight out of a novel, DC offers plenty of ways to inspire kids to read, write and explore. If you're looking for fun, family-friendly things to do that encourage literacy and creativity, this guide is for you.

In honor of National Reading Month, here are some of the best bookish places in Washington, DC, for kids of all ages.



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Best libraries in Washington, DC, for families



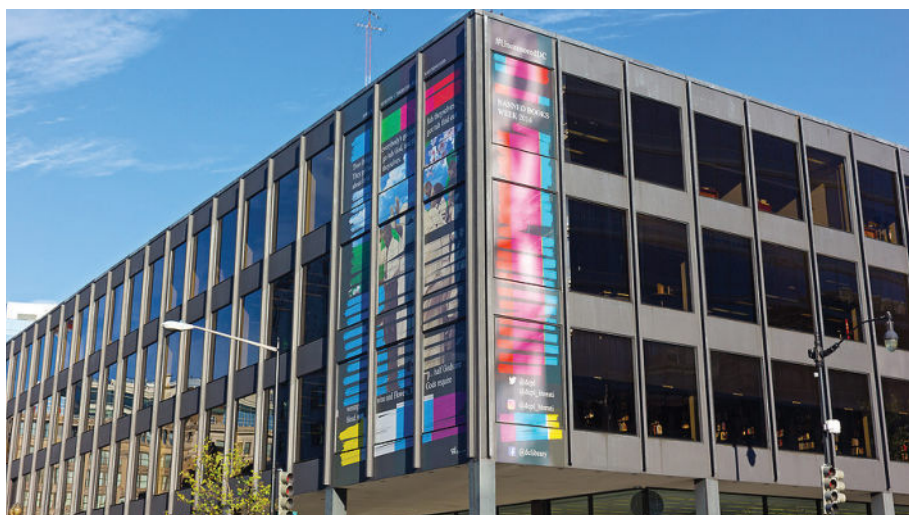
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Library of Congress: The Library of Congress is one of the most impressive book-related destinations in the world. Kids will love the grand architecture,

and families can explore exhibits featuring rare books and historic documents. Even a short visit feels unforgettable.

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library: DC's main public library is modern, welcoming, and a great place for families. It frequently hosts children's programs and community events, and it's a fun stop for kids who love exploring shelves and discovering new books.

DC Public Library: DC's neighborhood libraries are worth visiting if you want a quieter, kid-friendly outing. Many branches offer free storytimes, crafts and literacy activities for toddlers, young readers and teens.



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Best bookstores in Washington, DC, for kids and teens

Politics and Prose: A DC classic, Politics and Prose has a fantastic children's section and regularly hosts author events. It's a great place to browse for new releases, find recommended reads and introduce kids to the fun of independent bookstores.

Loyalty Bookstore: This cozy independent bookstore is known for its curated selection and community feel. It's a great spot to find diverse children's books and discover new titles that reflect a wide range of voices and stories.

Kramerbooks & Afterwords: Located in Dupont Circle, Kramerbooks is a fun bookstore stop for families with older kids and teens. It's also a great place to pair book shopping with a meal, making it ideal for a relaxed afternoon outing.

Capitol Hill Books: This used bookstore is a fun "treasure hunt" experience. Kids can explore shelves, discover unexpected finds and leave with a book that feels like a hidden gem.

Second Story Books: A great stop for families who love used books and rare finds. Second Story Books is especially fun for older kids who enjoy history, collectibles or browsing through unique titles.

Best places to read in Washington, DC, with kids

National Mall: Few reading spots are as iconic as the National Mall. Bring a blanket and a few books, then enjoy a family reading picnic with famous monuments and museums nearby.

Smithsonian Gardens: These peaceful gardens near the Smithsonian Castle offer a quiet escape right in the middle of DC. It's a beautiful place to slow down, read together and enjoy the outdoors.

Meridian Hill Park: This scenic park is a great spot for families looking for open space and a calm place to relax. It's perfect for kids who want to run around and then settle in with a book.



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National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden: A fun place for kids who enjoy art and creativity. Families can explore outdoor sculptures, then sit nearby with a book or sketchpad. Kid-friendly bookish places to eat in DC

Kramerbooks & Afterwords Café: One of DC's most iconic bookstore cafés. Families can browse books and enjoy breakfast, lunch or dessert on-site. Great for older kids and teens who love a cozy vibe.

- **Best for:** Tweens, teens and parents who want a relaxed outing
- **Location:** 1517 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC



COPYRIGHT POLITICS AND PROSE

Politics and Prose + The Den: A favorite for families who love independent bookstores. The children's section is excellent, and The Den café makes it easy to turn book shopping into a full afternoon hangout.

- **Best for:** Kids who love new releases, book lovers and family browsing
- **Location:** 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC

Busboys and Poets: Part bookstore, part café, part restaurant. It's a fun spot for families with older kids who enjoy storytelling, poetry and creative spaces. Great for a bookish lunch or early dinner.

- **Best for:** Older kids and teens
 - **Location:** Multiple locations around DC
- Fun literary activities for kids in Washington, DC

Create a Monument Story Walk

Turn sightseeing into a creative challenge by having kids write a short story inspired by what they see. A trip to the Lincoln Memorial could spark a superhero story, while a museum visit could inspire a mystery adventure.

Shop museum gift stores for books

Many Smithsonian and DC museum gift shops carry incredible children's books tied to exhibits, history, science and art. It's a fun way to bring the day home with a new read.

Start a DC Family Reading Challenge

After visiting DC, encourage kids to read books based on what they explored—space books after Air and Space, animal books after the zoo or historical biographies after the American History Museum.



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Storytimes for kids to join in Washington, DC

National Postal Museum: The National Postal Museum's Story Time events (voted as a Washington Parent Pick finalist) invite children and their

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caregivers to enjoy fun, interactive reading experiences that bring the world of mail and communication to life. Whether in-person or virtual, each session features a carefully chosen story followed by engaging activities that connect the tale to postal history and exploration — all hosted by museum educators in a welcoming setting.

■ **Dates:** 10-11:30 a.m. every Friday

■ **Location:** 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, DC

DC Public Library: DC Public Library offers regular storytime programs for families and young children at branches across Washington, DC. These sessions — including Baby Lap Time, Toddler and Preschool Story Time, Family Story Time and themed events — feature books, songs, rhymes and interactive activities designed to build early literacy skills and foster a love of reading. Programs are typically free, welcoming to all ages and a great way to connect with books and the community in a fun, engaging setting.

■ **Dates:** Times and dates vary by location and storytime

■ **Locations:** Multiple locations around DC

The Hirshhorn Museum: The Hirshhorn Museum's Storytime Studio is a weekly, drop-in program that blends playful art exploration with educator-led read-alouds for little ones and their caregivers. Held every Wednesday morning with sessions at 10 AM and 11 AM, this free experience invites kids (recommended ages 0-6) to enjoy open play, story readings and art activities inspired by the museum's collection — all in a welcoming, creative space designed to spark imagination.

■ **Dates:** 10 and 11 a.m. Wednesdays

■ **Locations:** Independence Avenue SW and 7th Street SW, Washington, DC



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National Children's Museum: At the National Children's Museum's STEAM Story Time, little learners and their caregivers are invited to gather for interactive read-alouds that blend storytelling with playful science, technology, engineering, art and math exploration. Designed for ages roughly 1-4, these multi-sensory sessions encourage curiosity and help build early language, motor and social skills through books and hands-on engagement in a welcoming museum setting.

■ **Dates:** 2:30-3 p.m. Wednesdays

■ **Location:** 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC

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More cherry blossom fun!

From picture books to poetry and history, these cherry blossom-inspired reads help families explore the beauty, symbolism and stories behind Washington, DC's most famous spring blooms.

BY MARY QUATTLEBAUM

Want to learn more about the flowers celebrated during Washington's 2026 National Cherry Blossom Festival (March 20–April 12)? These books explore the blossom as a symbol and as a lovely, tangible object. Who knows whether peak viewing will occur during the festival's run, but your family will have a great time regardless. Enjoy kite flying, the festival parade, themed restaurant items and museum events across the region. And try pairing pink cookies with one of these books for a springtime read at home.

TOTS TO AGE 7

"When Cherry Blossoms Fall"

By Katrina Goldsaito
Illustrated by Yas Imamura
Little, Brown, 2026,
\$18.99

Yuna loves climbing the gnarled cherry tree in her great-grandmother's yard. She eagerly awaits the *sakura*, or cherry blossoms, each spring and describes them to her almost blind great-grandmother. The old lady explains that these blossoms "become more beautiful because you know they will soon be gone," a concept known as "mono-no-aware." Yuna does not understand, until she visits the tree the spring after her great-grandmother passes away. She sees the tree in full bloom—and then the sudden release of blossoms when the wind swirls through. Yuna witnesses "the beauty disappearing" and thinks of her beloved great-grandmother, now gone. This tender story touches upon the transience of beauty and life at a level appropriate for young children.

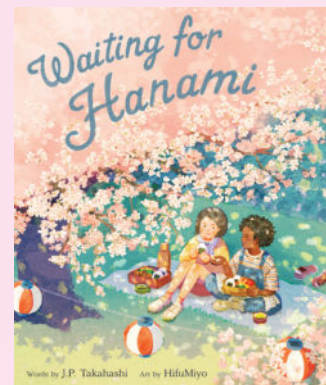


BIGSTOCK/TOMASIKOVA

"Waiting for Hanami"

By J.P. Takahashi
Illustrated by HifuMiyo
HarperCollins, 2025, \$19.99

Sai and her parents join a big family reunion for Hanami, or cherry blossom viewing. This tradition began years ago in Japan, where people gather under the trees and look up. As the author's note explains: The "brief lives [of the blossoms] remind us to appreciate what we have, every day, while we have it." In the story, Sai and her newly met cousin are overwhelmed by family members, known and unknown. But the two find connection by asking questions, making art and relishing the ephemeral blossoms around them.

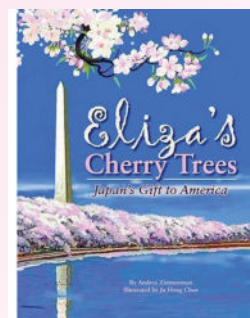


PRETEENS

"Eliza's Cherry Trees: Japan's Gift to America"

By Andrea Zimmerman
Illustrated by Ju Hong Chen
Pelican Publishing, 2011, \$16.99

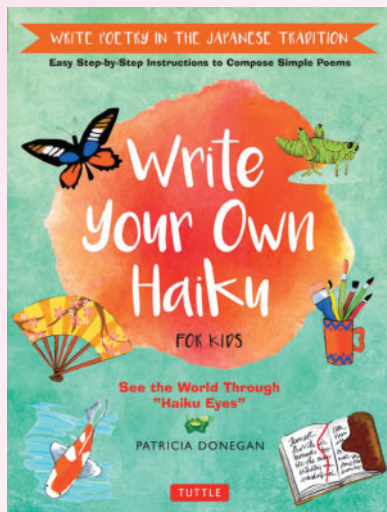
We have Eliza Scidmore to thank for the cherry trees that grace Washington's Tidal Basin. But who was Eliza and how did she engineer the generous gift of 3,700 trees from Japan? This illustrated biography opens with Eliza as a youngster in the late 1800s in the nation's capital. Curious about the world, she travels extensively as an adult and writes about and photographs the countries she visits. Eliza also works for the National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution. While in Japan, Eliza becomes enthralled with the cherry trees there and approaches American officials about planting some in Washington, DC. The book describes Eliza's persistence through decades of setbacks—and ends with a celebratory tree planting in 1912.



"Write Your Own Haiku"

By Patricia Donegan
Tuttle, 2018, \$10.99

Haiku is a type of Japanese poetry known worldwide. As this book makes clear, though, it is much more than its familiar syllabic, three-line form. Patricia Donegan explores Asian history and heritage and provides the seven keys to writing haiku. Poems by masters Basho and Issa and by talented youngsters model haiku both elegant and simple. Want to get started? Though marketed to preteens, this book is a great resource for teens and adults, and it can be adapted for the early elementary crowd. Your whole family may enjoy writing haiku inspired by the DMV area's cherry blossoms.

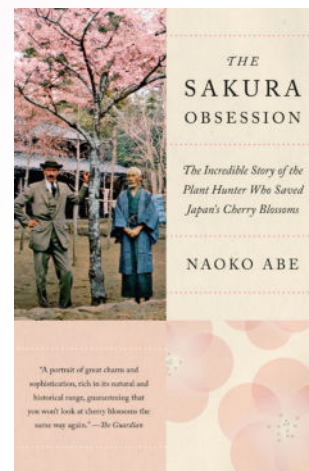


TEENS

"The Sakura Obsession"

By Naoko Abe
Knopf, 2019, \$21

Most Americans acquaint cherry blossoms with spring festivals and their presence in the nation's capital. This compelling work of nonfiction widens that very limited perspective. Journalist Naoko Abe's history of these blossoms includes their importance to the Japanese imperial court and their impact as symbols during World War II and worldwide in the decades that follow. A prominent figure in this narrative is Collingwood Ingram, an English horticulturalist and authority on Japanese cherries. As a plant collector, he helped save several varieties from extinction during the 20th century. Teens interested in the natural world and history will be fascinated by how the *sakura* has evolved over this past century and Ingram's role in those changes.



Mary Quattlebaum lives in Washington, DC, and is the author of 30 award-winning children's books, most recently "Queen Elizabeth II," an early reader biography. She teaches in the graduate program in writing for children at the Vermont College of Fine Arts, writes frequently for the *Washington Post* and is a popular school and conference speaker. For more information, visit maryquattlebaum.com.

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CAMPS & SUMMER PROGRAMS GUIDE



MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Camp Shakespeare

Shakespeare Theatre Company invites students ages 6–18 to explore the works of William Shakespeare through hands-on theatre training. Two-week sessions are available for youth ages 6–11 and teens ages 12–18, with returning teens able to audition for a three-week intensive. Locations in Washington, DC, and McLean, Va.

Steve & Kate's Camp

Campers design their day by choosing activities in real time, including sewing, coding, maker crafts, sports and more. Families can purchase flexible day passes, with unused days automatically refunded at summer's end. Lunch, snacks and full-day care from 8 a.m.–6 p.m. are included. Ages 4–12. Locations in Washington, DC, Maryland and Alexandria, Va. 415-389-5437.

VIRGINIA

Beginner Fencing Camp

Beginner Fencing Camp introduces students to the Olympic sport of fencing in a supportive, skill-building environment. Instruction emphasizes caring, inclusion and competence while helping campers build confidence, discipline and athletic ability. Sterling, Va. 240-424-0749.

Camp Griffin at Westminster School

Camp Griffin offers a summer filled with discovery and hands-on fun through a wide range of specialty programs, including Adventure, STEAM, water activities, French, art and sports. Flexible scheduling with early and extended care is available. Camps are led by certified counselors, with military and sibling discounts offered. 3819 Gallows Road, Annandale, Va. 03-340-7268.

Congressional Camp

Set on a scenic 40-acre campus, Congressional Camp offers an unforgettable summer filled with outdoor adventures, creative arts, swimming, sports and hands-on exploration. Programs are designed to inspire curiosity and confidence in a joyful, supportive community. Falls Church, Va. 703-533-0931.

MedStar Capitals Iceplex Summer Ice Skating Camps

We have on ice full and half day summer camps for ages 4–12. MedStar Capitals Iceplex – Arlington, Va.

Natural Leaders Ultimate Explorer Day Program

Each day brings a new outdoor adventure as campers explore local woods and creeks through games, fishing, whittling and wilderness survival skills. Immersed in nature, children build confidence, resilience and a strong connection to the outdoors. Northern Virginia. 571-244-3793.

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The St. James

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MARYLAND

AFF Summer Adventure Camp

Give your child a screen-free summer where nature becomes the classroom. Summer Adventure Camps blend hands-on environmental learning with outdoor exploration, helping kids build confidence, curiosity and friendships through discovery, play and fun on a historic riverside campus. Accokeek, Md. 301-292-5665.

Barrie Camp

Barrie Camp focuses on nurturing each camper's strengths while creating an engaging and memorable summer experience. Since the 1950s, its self-contained 45-acre campus has provided an ideal setting for campers to explore with confidence and enjoy favorite activities alongside new and familiar friends. Silver Spring, Md. 301-576-2818.

Camp Woodend

Located on a 40-acre nature sanctuary, Camp Woodend offers day, travel and overnight camps that combine outdoor adventure with nature and science education for students in kindergarten through high school. Camps are led by experienced environmental educators and maintain an 8:1 child-to-teacher ratio. Chevy Chase, Md. 301-652-9188.

C-Unit Studio

The perfect summer dance experience for kids who love to move! Dancers explore jazz, hip-hop, ballet, and contemporary dance to fun, high-energy music, and wrap up each session with a special performance. 5521 Landy Lane, Bethesda, Md. 301-664-7900.

NatPhil Summer String Institute

String students in grades 2-12 take part in an immersive music experience featuring private lessons, chamber music, and three levels of orchestra performance. Guided by National Philharmonic teaching artists and Montgomery County Public Schools educators, students explore music theory, technique and engaging enrichment activities. Bethesda, Md. 301-493-9283, ext. 4209.

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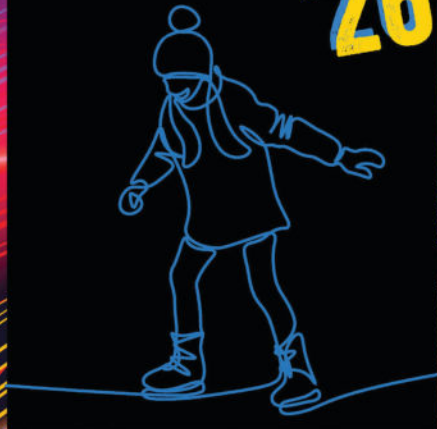
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CAMPS & SUMMER PROGRAMS GUIDE

Round House Theatre Summer Camp

Students of all ages and backgrounds experience the joy of creating and sharing theatre through programs that inspire creativity, stretch imaginations and encourage artistic risk-taking. Camp locations include Bethesda and Silver Spring, Md. 301-585-1225.

Summer Musical Theatre with ATMTC Academy

Summer Musical Theatre Camp for rising grades 1-6 is a two-week, full-day, in-person camp that culminates in a delightful ensemble performance! Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, Md. Summer Musical Theatre Training Program for rising grades 7-12 provides students with a foundational and expanded understanding of technique in ballet, jazz, music and acting. Wintergreen Plaza, Rockville, Md.

Woodland Horse Center

Woodland Horse Center offers horseback riding summer camps for horse-loving kids ages 5-16. Pony Pals Summer Camp serves ages 5-7, while Horsemanship Summer Camp for ages 8-16 focuses on riding skills, horse care

and confidence-building. 16301 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, Md. 301-421-9156.

WASHINGTON, DC

Capitol Debate Public Speaking & Debate Summer Camp

Students strengthen public speaking, debate, and leadership skills in an engaging, supportive environment. With personalized coaching and dynamic workshops, campers gain confidence, think critically, and form lasting friendships — preparing them for success in school and beyond. American University, Washington, DC. 800-450-5012.

National Children's Theatre Summer Camp

Campers explore creative drama exercises, theatre games, art projects and performance fundamentals through one- and two-week sessions, including "The Jungle Book" and "The Odyssey." Full-day camp runs 9 a.m.-3 p.m., with aftercare until 5 p.m. July 13-Aug. 21 for ages 6-15. Financial assistance available. Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, 201 4th St. SE, Washington, DC.

The Theatre Lab

For more than three decades, The Theatre Lab has offered award-winning summer programs for youth and teens in the Washington area. Each summer, more than 550 young people participate in acting camps and theatre training institutes in a collaborative, creative environment. 900 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC. 202-824-0449.

SLEEPAWAY CAMP

Camp Accomplish

Camp Accomplish is an inclusive summer camp for children ages 5-18 with or without disabilities and chronic health conditions, along with siblings, friends and peers from the local community. Campers can choose from day and overnight options and enjoy activities such as horseback riding, swimming, arts and outdoor adventures in a safe, supportive environment. Melwood Recreation Center, 9035 Ironsides Road, Nanjemoy, Md. 20662.

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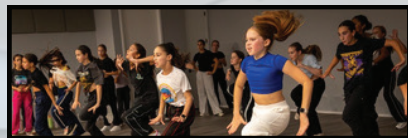
Session 1: July 20-24
Session 2: July 27-32

Location
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Visit nationalphilharmonic.org/ssi/ for more information



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CAMPS & SUMMER PROGRAMS GUIDE

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Gettysburg College Academic Camps

At Gettysburg College, we're here, all of us, to do great work. Summer camp participants will join our community of passionate achievers, on a campus where history and innovation meet to shape the future and enjoy a glimpse into life as a Gettysburgian. From enriching academic programming to meaningful social connections, the week-long experience is unforgettable! Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pa. 717-337-6924.

Woodberry Summer Camp

Woodberry Summer Camp offers boys the opportunity to grow through athletic challenge, intellectual exploration and a supportive community across a 1,200-acre campus. Guided by faculty, students and alumni, campers build character, confidence and lasting friendships. Woodberry Forest, Va. 540-672-3900.

camp
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GRADES
K-9

BY NATURE FORWARD

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Left to Right:
FF Monique Collier
FF Alexis Smallwood
Krystal Roberts

From pool deck to firehouse

DC Fire and EMS's Krystal Roberts' journey from lifeguard to firefighting is rooted in service, resilience and leading by example for the next generation.

BY JENNA DOLCH

For Krystal Roberts, firefighting was never part of the plan. Her early career was rooted in aquatics, working as a lifeguard, swim instructor and pool operator. Everything changed in 2005 when a female firefighter approached her at a Black History Swim Meet and mentioned that the department was hiring.

At the time, Roberts was a single mother to a 2-year-old and dismissed the idea immediately. Running into burning buildings felt unrealistic and unsafe. But the firefighter challenged her



Krystal Roberts

perspective, pointing out that Roberts was already risking her life to save others as a lifeguard. When she learned about the 24-hours-on, 72-hours-off schedule and the opportunity to spend more time with her daughter, the idea began to take hold.

"The balance, benefits and purpose drew me in," Roberts says. That same sense of service has kept her passionate for nearly two decades.

Growing through service and leadership

Over the years, Roberts has worn many hats within the DC Fire and EMS Department. She has served as an adjunct instructor, CPAT instructor, recruitment team member, technician and participant in the Empowering Women to Lead program. Today, she holds the role of fire inspector.

Each position, she says, has allowed her to give back and help others grow. "Helping people has always been my driving force," Roberts explains. Her career has evolved, but her purpose has remained the same.



Top left FF (firefighter) Jimmy Carter; Top right Sgt. Kenny Yang; Bottom is Krystal Roberts



Krystal Roberts and Retired Lt. Ralph Thompson

Raising future leaders and everyday heroes

Roberts is the mother of a 22-year-old daughter and two sons, ages 13 and 6. Her daughter has witnessed her entire journey, from academy days to career

milestones, and now hopes to become a firefighter herself.

“She’s seen the sacrifices and the triumphs,” Roberts says. “That tells me she truly sees me as a role model.” Her sons, who have only ever known this career, proudly watch her visit schools in uniform and talk about fire safety. Her youngest calls her his hero, a title she treasures most.

Redefining strength and leadership in the fire service

Being a woman in the fire service, Roberts says, often means proving strength both physically and mentally. Early in her career, that pressure motivated her to grow into a confident, capable leader.

Through teaching and mentorship, she helps newer firefighters, especially women, understand that there is no single right way to do the job. Men and women often rely on different techniques, whether using upper-body strength or balance and lower-body leverage. Roberts focuses on teaching adaptability so women can thrive, not just survive.

“Leadership means lifting others up,” she says. “And showing them what’s possible, no matter who doubts them.”

When the job becomes physically or emotionally heavy, Roberts turns to the gym. Exercise keeps her strong for the demands of firefighting and provides a mental reset. She also prioritizes therapy, recognizing that the emotional weight of the job can spill into everyday life.

Mental health, she says, is just as vital as physical strength. Peer support teams, meditation and open conversations help her stay grounded and present for both her family and her crew. “Having space to process matters,” she explains.

Advice for women considering the fire service

Roberts encourages women, especially single mothers, to seriously consider a career in firefighting. While demanding, it offers stability, growth and purpose. The profession allowed her to buy her first home at a young age, build financial security and spend meaningful time with her children.

She emphasizes the importance of building strong support systems and being mentally prepared for the realities of the job. PTSD and burnout are real, she says, but with resilience and healthy coping strategies, the career can be deeply rewarding.

“If you’re driven and passionate, this career can open endless doors,” Roberts says. After 17 years of service and with retirement on the horizon, she reflects with pride. “It’s been one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.”

Training for moments that matter most

Safety is everything in a truck company, where responsibilities include search, rescue, ventilation and ensuring access and egress during emergencies. Ladders, Roberts explains, are lifelines.

As a lead technician, she ensures her crew can safely raise and operate a 24-foot Duo Safety ladder, which weighs about 72 pounds. When combined with full protective gear, firefighters manage close to 150 pounds during training and real emergencies.

“We train like lives depend on it,” she says. “Because ultimately, they do.” Ladder drills build muscle memory, coordination and confidence, all essential when protecting civilians and fellow firefighters.

Balancing motherhood and the firehouse

The schedule offers valuable family time, but it also presents challenges. As a mother of three, Roberts says balancing 24-hour shifts requires a village. With no true 24-hour childcare options, she has relied on family, friends and her firehouse family, where shift trades and mutual support are the norm.

There were periods of little to no sleep, especially during her breastfeeding years, but she credits the department for offering parental leave, lactation rooms and flexible accommodations. “Being a firefighter mom isn’t simple,” she says, “but it’s taught my kids resilience and the power of teamwork.”



BIGSTOCK/NATALIA K

What vaccines are required for your kids?

From required shots to exclusion deadlines, here's how school vaccine rules work in DC, Maryland and Virginia.

BY MARIAN CABALLO

In [Washington, DC](#), [Maryland](#) and [Virginia](#), kids cannot legally attend public and most private schools unless the school has documented proof that they are up to date on all vaccines required by that jurisdiction's health department.

This guide shows parents how school vaccine requirements work in the DMV and where families can actually go to get their kids' shots.

How school vaccine rules work in the DMV

All three jurisdictions treat immunizations as a condition of school attendance. That means that schools must have an official immunization certificate or health form signed by a licensed provider, or an electronic record from an immunization registry. Across the DMV, the bottom line for families is the same:

- Schools must review immunization

records and flag missing doses.

- Families get notices if something is missing or not documented.
- If nothing changes by the deadline and there's no exemption on file, schools can [temporarily exclude](#) the student until vaccines or forms are updated.

Here's what each area needs to know:

Washington, DC

Which DC schools are covered

DC law requires written immunization certification for each student attending a DC public school or public charter school, documenting that they've been immunized according to DC Health's schedule. DC's Immunization of School Students law [also applies](#) to private, parochial and independent schools.

DC Public Schools' [health](#)

[requirements](#) page summarizes the core vaccines that students must have.

Required vaccinations:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Poliomyelitis
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chickenpox).

For older students:

Students 11 or older must receive a Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine or submit an [HPV opt-out form](#) each school year.

DC Health guidance also highlights Tdap and meningococcal (MenACWY) as required adolescent boosters in middle and high school.

Who can be excluded in DC, and when

Staying up to date is required in all grades. Once a student is due for a vaccine, that student is considered non-compliant with DC's mandate until the shot is given and documented. In practice, exclusion is limited to four grades. For 2025–26, students who are not compliant may be excluded only if they are in Pre-K-3, kindergarten, seventh grade or 11th grade. For the 2025–26 year, DC set Dec. 8, 2025 as the [citywide deadline](#).

Students with medical or religious exemptions, students with an annual HPV opt-out and students identified as homeless are not supposed to be excluded. Visit [DC Health](#) for additional information about requesting exemptions.

Maryland

[Maryland State Law](#) mandates all students enrolled in both public and nonpublic schools to receive required immunizations. Preschool programs, child-care centers and private schools must follow the same minimum vaccine requirements as public districts.

Required vaccinations:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Hib and pneumococcal (for younger children)
- Meningococcal (for older students)

For older students

Students in middle school must receive a Tdap booster and

meningococcal vaccine. [HPV is not compulsory](#) for school entry in Maryland.

Who can be excluded in Maryland, and when

Maryland uses a 20-day “temporary admission” rule rather than a single statewide exclusion date.

Students without proof of required vaccines may be temporarily admitted if families show evidence of a scheduled appointment to obtain vaccines, reconstruct records or obtain lab evidence of immunity.

This temporary status may not exceed 20 calendar days from the date of admission or retention.

Students with approved medical or religious exemptions are not excluded for missing doses. Visit [Maryland Department of Health](#) for additional information about requesting exemptions,

Virginia

Which Virginia schools are covered

Virginia's immunization law applies to public and private schools as well as licensed child-care centers, nursery schools, family day homes and developmental centers.

Required vaccinations:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Hepatitis A
- Hib, pneumococcal and rotavirus (for younger children in child-care)

For older students

Students entering seventh grade must receive Tdap booster and meningococcal and a second MenACWY is required before 12th grade. HPV is required before seventh grade but parents can decline.

Who can be excluded in Virginia, and when

Staying up to date is required for admission to all covered schools. Students must have proof of immunizations or an [exemption](#), or be admitted conditionally if they've started each series with a plan to [finish within 90 calendar days](#) (180 for hepatitis B). If they don't complete vaccines on schedule and no exemption is filed, the school must exclude them until documentation is updated.

What this means for DMV families

For families in the DMV, have your child's pediatrician review their record against your jurisdiction's school requirements. If you're behind or don't have a regular provider for your children, check out [DC Health's clinic locator](#), [Maryland Department of Health Center for Immunization](#) and [Virginia vaccine provider locator](#).

Looking for somewhere to get your children vaccinated? Check out Washington Parent's 2025 pediatrician picks:

Washington, DC

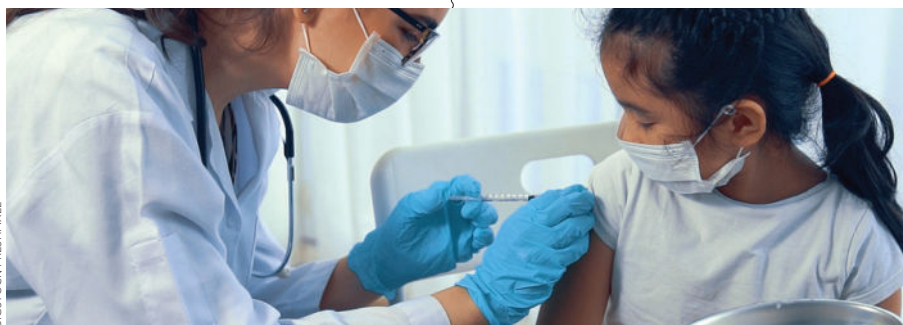
- WPP winner: [Healthy Home Pediatrics](#) - (202) 930-9669
- WPP finalist: [Children's National Hospital](#) - (202) 476-5000

Maryland

- WPP winner: [Nana Adu-Amankwa, MD](#) - (240) 499-8664
- WPP finalist: [Potomac Pediatrics](#) - (301) 279-6750
- WPP finalist: [Hirsch Pediatrics](#) - (301) 990-3030

Virginia

- WPP winner: [Capital Area Pediatrics](#) - (703) 359-5100
- WPP finalist: [Northern Virginia Pediatric Associates](#) - (703) 532-4446



BIGSTOCK/FRESHPIXEL

PARENTING
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Helping your child regulate strong emotions

Melt downs happen. Learn expert-backed strategies to help kids regulate big feelings

BY PAIGE TREVOR



BIGSTOCK/SHAROWKA

What do you do when your child is melting down, throwing a tantrum or in tears? Most parents try to stop the distress immediately. We capitulate and serve snacks for dinner to stop them complaining about the slow cooker meal. We zip the coats of capable 7-year-olds. When siblings fight, we slide an iPad into the room for instant quiet.

At the moment, this response feels gentler. However, what is the cost of quieting big feelings for our child instead of problem-solving with them?

One unexpected cost is that children miss learning how to regulate their strong emotions. Life is full of frustration and anger, and our children will soon be adults. We want them to have a foundation of skills to take responsibility for their own “emotional weather.”

What the experts see

Parenting expert [Alyson Schafer](#) sees that parents have become overly sensitive to distress. Some even panic at any sign of a child’s struggle.

Then, when they go to school, children often arrive unable to respect a teacher’s “no.” They demand special services for tasks they can do themselves. Teachers end up spending time helping kids regulate themselves instead of instructing them to learn, explore and socialize.

The “instant gratification” trap

Why are meltdowns increasing? Dr. Vanessa LoBue, a professor of psychology at Rutgers University-Newark, points to a loss of the “[waiting muscle](#).” DC public school pre-K teacher Hannah Hill agrees, noting that digital life provides instant responses, relief and entertainment. Apps and streaming remove the need for patience.

“Screens are used to quiet the child and give instant gratification,” Hill notes. “When they don’t get what they want, they don’t know how to wait.”

Schafer adds that tech issues often stem from a lack of structure. It isn’t just about the screen. It is about the [difficult emotional transitions](#) that children must navigate. We can look at these moments as the perfect time to practice emotional regulation.

Boundaries create inner peace

“The more constraints one imposes, the more one frees oneself.” — Igor Stravinsky

Many parents embrace “gentle parenting.” However, Schafer warns this can easily slide into permissive parenting. Lack of boundaries is psychologically disruptive and confusing for children.

Veteran Montessori School teacher Sarah Hill observes that children feel anxious without limits. “They develop inner peace when they know what the expectations are,” she explains. Predictability reduces stress for everyone. Our job is to set limits and experiences that reflect the world they will face.

Prevention strategies to diminish tantrums

Marjie Longshore, of the [Family Leadership Center](#), suggests two paths: prevention and “in-the-moment” tools. Here is how to prevent some storms.

1. Create collaborative rules: Make family rules together. Children (and adults) are more likely to uphold rules they helped create.
2. Use visual routines: Use a laminated chart with pictures. Let children move stickers for completed tasks. This gives them a sense of control and purpose.
3. Keep a behavior journal: Track triggers. Is the meltdown always at 5 p.m.? It might be low blood sugar. Tracking patterns helps you remain a calm “detective.”

In-the-moment strategies

When a tantrum hits, the logical brain goes offline. You cannot reason with a child in this state. Try these steps instead:

- Wait for regulation: No learning happens during a meltdown. Use a calm voice or a hug. Some children may simply need space until they calm down.
- The choice pivot: Offer a clear choice. “Either stop playing with your fork or lunch is over.” Follow through, without anger.

- Active listening: Acknowledge the feeling without changing the boundary. “I see you are angry because you want the phone.” [Labeling emotions](#) helps children move from the “feeling” brain to the “thinking” brain.

The power of mutual respect

Children are people. Schafer reminds us that anger and anxiety are survival mechanisms, not problems to “fix.” Treat children with the same respect you desire.

If you lose your temper, apologize. This models emotional maturity. Say, “I got frustrated this morning. Next time, I will pack my bag early so I am not rushing.”

The good news about big emotions

Negative emotions are not bad. They are a flag alerting us to notice a problem. When we help a child through a big emotion, it shows them that their voice matters.

Practice at home might be noisy. However, solving these problems together builds a deep connection. Little by little, you will both grow that “patience muscle.” You will find the windows of dysregulation get smaller every day.



Paige Trevor is a certified parent educator with the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) and a professional organizer and time management coach ([paigetrevor.com](#)) who offers a free download on Screens and Teens. For information about PEP’s online programs for parents and organizations, see [pepparent.org](#).

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BY GRACE SCHWARTZ

Sometimes, the most impactful learning occurs outside of the classroom. Whether a student needs additional support in their coursework or is training for an advanced academic competition, these organizations maintain expert resources designed to help every learner thrive. Find the best extracurricular education services across Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia, and watch as students transform from passive learners to active champions of their own education.

Art of Problem Solving Academy AOPS

Based on the Art of Problem Solving curriculum developed by former math and science Olympians, locations in Vienna and Gaithersburg offer after-school and weekend courses for advanced learners. With an emphasis on critical thinking, live collaboration and resilience, students train to perform in national academic competitions and excel at prestigious universities upon graduation. Students in grades one through 12 are eligible for enrollment and can explore summer courses for year-round learning.

■ **Contact:** Visit the website to request information

Avatar Learning Center

Focusing on math, science and coding, this online learning center promotes STEM education for motivated students. With courses available after school and on weekends for grades kindergarten through 12, the center places students in small-group classes of four to eight students. Ranging from academic courses to math competition preparation, students are encouraged to combine knowledge with applied problem-solving. In-person classes are available for select math curriculum at the Rockville Science Center, 36C Maryland Ave., Rockville.

■ **Contact:** (515) 428 2827



Georgetown Learning Centers

Offering tutoring and test-prep courses, elementary through high school students can benefit from GLC's services. Through three Virginia locations, students can receive private, online or small group tutoring.

■ **Contact:** (703) 288-2808

Illuminos Academic Coaching and Tutoring

Specializing in working with students with ADHD, ASD, Dyslexia and Processing Disorders, Illuminos uses a holistic approach designed to improve executive function skills. At its core, the organization strives to create lifelong learning habits by promoting organization, time management and study skills. Outside of executive function skill development, Illuminos offers one-on-one academic coaching and mental health consulting to ensure students thrive both in and out of the classroom.

■ **Contact:** (571) 313-5163

Mathnasium of Reston

Operating with a math-only curriculum, this center provides one-on-one tutoring to kindergarten through 12th-grade students, both in-center and online. Using the Mathnasium Method™, students learn through personalized learning plans centered on mental, verbal, visual, tactile and written techniques. Around 90% of students reported an improvement in grades upon completion.

■ **Contact:** (571) 401-1056

No Anxiety Prep

This regionally recognized organization teaches students to approach testing with confidence and develop creative strategies for overcoming academic challenges. Expanding past the needs of the classroom, No Anxiety Prep offers resume review, interview coaching and admissions counseling for college applicants.

■ **Contact:** Visit their website to request more information

Sylvan Learning Center of Sterling Heights

Specializing in personalized tutoring, Sylvan strives not only to improve grades but to promote an enjoyment of learning. Aside from small group tutoring environments, students can partake in year-round academic camps and study skills classes. On average, Sylvan students display three times more growth in math and reading scores than their peers. By partnering with each student's teacher, open communication ensures growth is displayed in the classroom.

■ **Contact:** (888) 338-2283

The Treatment and Learning Centers

Through the mission of expanding possibilities for individuals with disabilities, TLC serves 2,000 students of different abilities each year. Offering a variety of pathways, preschool through high school students can attend day

school, tutoring and summer programs for regular enrichment and progression. In addition to academic support, students receive language therapy and occupational therapy.

■ **Contact:** (301) 424-5200

Top Score Education

Ranging from traditional academic tutoring to skill-based learning programs that extend beyond the classroom, Top Score Education provides one-on-one services both in-home and online. Turning away from traditional test-tip approaches and simple memorization strategies, Top Score educators focus on active problem-solving and reinventing the way students approach new information.

■ **Contact:** (202) 798-2133

Tutoring for Success

With tutoring available both online and in-home for families in the DC metro, students from kindergarten to college are eligible for academic coaching. All tutors possess at minimum a four-year degree, prior teaching/tutoring experience and have undergone extensive background checks. Unlike standardized programs, Tutoring for Success builds highly personalized academic plans based on each student's learning style, cognitive profile and goals. Tutors provide support in over 25 subjects and are equipped to help with special needs students of all abilities.

■ **Contact:** (703) 390-9220



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KIDS EVENTS CALENDAR **MARCH 2026**

COURTESY OMNIUM CIRCUS



Omniium Circus

- **March 1.** Omniium Circus delivers an amazing performance for the whole family, combining thrilling circus arts with a strong focus on inclusivity and accessibility.
- **Location:** 513 13th St. NW, Washington, DC

Dead Letter Office: Gallery Experience

- **March 4.** Families step into the role of postal clerks to sort undeliverable mail and learn what happens behind the scenes.
- **Location:** National Postal Museum, Washington, DC

COURTESY THE HERSHEY CO.



Hershey Super Sweet Adventure

- **March 6-23.** The interactive, family-friendly experience created with The Hershey Company opens its first East Coast location, featuring games, challenges and sweet surprises.
- **Location:** Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons, VA

On Time: Giving Form to the Fleeting

- **March 7.** This exhibition explores how humans have measured time through ornate clocks and watches from the 18th century to today.
- **Location:** Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Ave. NW, Washington, DC

"The Princess and The Pea"

- **March 7.** Prince John must find a princess to claim the throne, and a masked ball sparks mistaken identities, royal tests and hilarious mischief led by the Queen and her jester.
- **Location:** ARTfactory, 9419 Battle St., Manassas, VA

Youth Art Month Open House

- **March 8.** In celebration of National Youth Art Month, Reston public elementary schools showcase colorful and creative student artwork from every grade level.
- **Location:** RCC Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza N, Reston, V



Awesome Con

- **March 13-15.** Awesome Con is Washington, DC's premier pop culture convention! An action-packed, star-studded bonanza, Awesome Con attracts more than 60,000 fans to celebrate their favorite comics, movies, TV shows, books, toys, games, cosplay and more.
- **Location:** Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Allen Y. Lew Place NW, Washington, DC

Persian New Year - Nowruz Festival

- **March 15.** Join a vibrant celebration of Nowruz, the Persian New Year, and the arrival of spring.
- **Location:** Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon, VA



"Beauty and the Beast"

- **March 18-April 5.** Be a guest at "Beauty and the Beast," Disney's first North American touring production of the beloved musical in over 25 years. Members of the original creative team have reunited to bring this enchanting and timeless tale to life in a breathtaking musical filled with the romance and spectacle audiences know and love.
- **Location:** The National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC

National Cherry Blossom Festival - Opening Ceremony

- **March 21.** This unique, one-time-only performance will feature special



COURTESY BROADWAY AT THE NATIONAL

performances from acclaimed artists with ties to both countries.

- **Location:** DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D St., NW, Washington, DC

The Story of Chocolate

- **March 21.** Families enjoy a full day of chocolate-themed cultural activities, demonstrations and hands-on experiences.
- **Location:** National Museum of the American Indian, 4th Street and Independence Avenue, Washington, DC



COURTESY BROADWAY AT THE NATIONAL

Blossom Kite Festival

- **March 28.** Enjoy free soaring activities, music, competitions and performances. Kite enthusiasts, beginners, families and friends are all welcome.
- **Location:** Washington Monument Grounds, 2 15th St. NW, Washington, DC



COURTESY ADVENTURE THEATRE

“Freckleface Strawberry” The Musical

- **March 29.** Based on Julianne Moore’s bestselling book, this musical celebrates self-acceptance with catchy songs and a warm message for families.
- **Location:** Adventure Theatre MTC, 7300 Macarthur Blvd., Glen Echo, MD

Oxon Run Pinknic & Kite Fly

- **March 29.** Soar into spring at the Oxon Run Pinknic & Kite Fly at Oxon Run Park in Ward 8. Enjoy a day of kites, culture, exciting activities and community crafts for all ages. Explore the Ward 8 vendor market, connect with neighbors and experience the joy of spring in a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere.
- **Location:** Valley Avenue SE & Wheeler Road SE, Washington, DC by Basketball Courts



COURTESY WASHINGTON WIZARDS

Washington Wizards Mascot Day

- **April 1.** Bring the whole family out for Mascot Day at Capital One Arena! Watch as the Wizards take on the Philadelphia 76ers for a night packed with family fun. Come hang with G-Wiz and his mascot friends, enjoy the game-day excitement, and don’t miss the special giveaway—the first 10,000 fans receive a G-Wiz Fuzzy Friend.
- **Location:** Capital One Arena, 601 F St. NW, Washington, DC



COURTESY CAPITOL ONE HALL

Dog Man: The Musical

- **April 3-4.** Based on Dav Pilkey’s worldwide bestselling series, “Dog Man: The Musical” is a hilarious, heartwarming family adventure bursting with action and laughs. With the head of a dog and the body of a police officer, Dog Man battles Petey the evil cat, Flippy the cyborg fish and an army of Beastly Buildings to save the city. Featuring beloved characters from the creator of “Captain Underpants,” this epic musical comes to Capital One Hall in Tysons.
- **Location:** Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons, VA



COURTESY NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Petalpalooza

- **April 4.** Celebrate spring at Petalpalooza, for a full day of live music and engaging activities. This day-long all-ages celebration brings art, music and play to multiple outdoor stages, interactive art installations, a cashless beverage garden, family-friendly hands-on activities, roaming entertainers and more, all along the banks of the Anacostia River. The evening is capped by the dazzling choreographed Official National Cherry Blossom Festival Fireworks show set to music starting at 8:30 p.m. This event is free.
- **Location:** Capital Riverfront, Navy Yard Metro, Washington, DC — Use west entrance at Half Street SE (The Dept. of Transportation Exit has no escalator.)

Parent & Me Class: Easter Bunny Fondant Cake Decorating Class

- **April 4.** Parent and child teams will receive a crumb-coated cake and learn how to apply buttercream, practice piping techniques, cover the cake with fondant, create fondant accessories and much more.

- **Location:** Fran’s Cake & Candy Supplies, 10927 Main St., Fairfax, VA



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www.rockcreekmontessori.com

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Chevy Chase, MD 20815
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Ages 2 yrs.-Grade 12
OnenessFamily.org

THE BETHESDA MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Bethesda, MD 20814
301-986-1260,
Ages 2-6, Pre-K & K
bethesdamontessori.com

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BROOKSFIELD SCHOOL

McLean, VA 22101
703-356-5437
Ages 2-6 yrs.
brooksfieldschool.org

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF MCLEAN

McLean, VA 22101
703-790-1049
Ages 2-12 yrs.
mcleanmontessori.org

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Annandale & Falls Church, VA
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