

CCS PreK Winter Fun Guide

Free Holiday Programs in Columbus OH and Franklin County – 2022

Free Activities to Do in Columbus

Pathway Express

<https://www.ccssoh.us/Page/11810>

December 10, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Columbus Zoo & Aquarium - 4850 Powell Rd, Powell, OH, 43065

Pathway Express arrives at the [Columbus Zoo & Aquarium](#) in December with **FREE admission every weekend** throughout the month for a celebration of holiday magic.

Families are also invited to join CCS and partners for our monthly Family & Community Resources Day on December 10, from 6 to 8 p.m., and the event will feature: Free admission to Wildlights; Free Winter Coats for Students; Holiday-Themed Giveaways; New Book Bundles; And More!

Second Saturday Kids Day

<https://wosu.org/kidsdays/>

Saturday, December 10

9:00-11:00am

WOSU Ross Community Studio - 1800 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, Ohio 43201

Follow your curiosity at the next Second Saturday Kids Day! Meet Buddy the dinosaur from Dinosaur Train on PBS KIDS, and enjoy a range of activities to satisfy your little learner's curiosity and love of dinosaurs, trains, and the world around them! Materials may be limited and activities are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ohio Statehouse Tree Lighting and Holiday Festival

<https://www.columbusonthecheap.com/ohio-statehouse-tree-lighting-and-holiday-festival/>

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Capitol Square complex - 75 E State St, Columbus, OH 43215

Bring the family downtown on Thursday, December 1, 2022 for the Ohio Statehouse Tree Lighting and Holiday Festival, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Capitol Square complex.

WinterFest

<https://www.sciotomile.com/winterfest/>

SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 2022 | 11 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Bicentennial Park - 233 S Civic Center Dr, Columbus, OH 43215

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department is proud to announce the return of the fifth annual WinterFest to Bicentennial Park. Kick off the holiday season on Sat., Dec. 3 in Columbus with live music, seasonal craft beers, and some of the best fare from local food trucks.

Wexner Center for the Arts

<https://wexarts.org/>

Ohio State University campus - 1871 N High St, Columbus, OH 43210

[Wexner Center for the Arts](#) is a multidisciplinary research laboratory for the arts with programming featuring performing arts, exhibitions, and media arts.

FREE admission Thursdays for everyone from 4 -8 p.m.

FREE admission every Sunday

Always FREE for Wexner Center members, college students with ID, anyone under 18, and active military and veterans.

Wexner Family Film and Book Festival

<https://www.wexarts.org/artist-talks/zoom-family-film-and-book-festival>

Fri, Dec 9 | 7 PM & Sat, Dec 10 | 10 AM - 2 PM

This all-ages weekend of free films and activities now includes a celebration of reading—featuring a kid-friendly artist talk with children’s book illustrator Keturah A. Bobo.

Fun Locations in Columbus

Columbus Museum of Art

<https://www.columbusmuseum.org/>

480 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215

FREE on Sundays! The Center for Creativity offers hands on imaginative and creative play in several areas for all ages. Some hands-on activities have been removed for the time being, but there is still plenty to do!

Admission is free on Sundays for all, Kids under 5 are always free, and Thursdays from 5-9 pm are “pay what you want”.

Swimming at the Columbus Aquatic Center (\$1)

<https://columbusrecparks.com/facilities/aquatics/columbus-aquatics-center/>

1160 Hunter Ave. Columbus, OH 43201

(614) 645-3129 Must also get a \$1 leisure card; good for 3 years.

Hours: See schedule here. Pre-registration required to reserve a 90 minute slot.

Book Loft in German Village

<https://www.bookloft.com/>

631 South Third Street, Columbus, OH 43206

It has 32 different rooms; you’ll love getting lost together while you explore.

King Arts Complex

<https://kingartscomplex.com/>

The King Arts Complex offers performing, cultural and educational programs that provide high artistic merit, varied and diverse experiences, and which increase and disseminate knowledge regarding the vast and significant contributions of African-Americans to the culture and history of America and the world. [See what’s happening here.](#)

Ohio Statehouse

<https://www.ohiostatehouse.org/visit/public-tours>

[Capitol Square](#) includes the Ohio Statehouse, Senate Building and Atrium. The buildings are not only working government offices but magnificent monuments to the people and the period during which Ohio’s democracy was founded and formed. Guided tours are currently suspended. Self-guided and audio tours are available.

The Ohio Statehouse is open to the public, weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and weekends, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Grange Audubon Center

<https://www.columbusonthecheap.com/grange-insurance-audubon-center/>

505 W. Whittier Street, Columbus OH 43215

Small indoor play room with books, bird watching, costumes, climbing structure and cave.

Reserve your playtime! Have an adventure while engaging in imaginative play in the Grange Insurance Audubon Center Forest Room Playroom and Climbing Area! Families and playgroup pods can schedule together.

Franklin Park Conservatory

<https://www.fpconservatory.org/>

1777 E Broad St, Columbus, OH 43203

Community Days at the Conservatory are on the first Sunday of each month. December 4, January 1, February 5, 10am to 5pm. The Conservatory will be free for residents of Franklin County and the City of Columbus during regular operating hours of 10am to 5pm. Proof of residence and/or valid ID are required. Community Days aim to make the gardens more accessible to all. Warm up with the stunning Conservatory Aglow and Holiday Blooms, plus the Paul Busse Garden Railway through January 10.

COSI

<https://cosi.org>

Offers so much fun for all ages, and Little Kidspace keeps kids 6 and under contained and entertained. COSI is proud to be a member of Museums for All Columbus. Through this program, COSI will offer \$3 per tickets for up to eight visitors for those who qualify (photo ID and proof of participation in WIC, Ohio Directions or Ohio Medicaid is required). <https://cosi.org/m4a>

Online Resources

PreK On My Way - FAMILY EXCHANGE

<http://www.scholastic.com/prekonmywayfamily>

Visit the PreK On My Way Family Exchange every week for music, ebooks, and activities!
password: Scout

CCS Winter Break Packets

<https://www.ccssoh.us/Page/2589>

PreK and Kindergarten <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MfOtFCFQa5GucdCIH4zjWrEhhC5-FbRk/view>

CCS #TogetherWeReadCCS

<https://www.ccssoh.us/Page/11713>

What you do with your child from birth to age 5 is critical for their success in school and beyond. Early language development creates connections in your child's brain and provides a foundation for learning to read and write. The good news is that it is easy to do! The most important thing is that you TALK with your child. Having conversations with your child will help them increase communication skills, develop a large vocabulary, create brain synapses, and make learning easier

KidLit- TV Crafts & Activities Archives

https://www.kidlit.tv/category/book-crafts-and-activites/?mc_cid=808276ee87&mc_eid=f293e9618f

Use these Top 5 Kid-Friendly Cookbooks to boost reading and math skills while cooking together, as we'll bond over special recipes that will bring joy for years to come.

GoNoodle

<https://www.gonoodle.com/>

The idea behind GoNoodle® is simple: be a force of joy, health, and self-discovery for kids and the adults who love them.

Happy Merry Everything: <https://www.gonoodle.com/videos/NXQEIX/happy-merry-everything>

Indoor Recess: Winter Wonderland: https://www.gonoodle.com/videos/WwJg9Y/winter-wonderland?source_name=share&source_page=share&source_page_type=share&source_element=share&utm_content=teacher&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DED%20T%20HME%20Video%20Launch&utm_term=winter-wonderland&utm_source=sendinblue

[wonderland&utm_source=sendinblue](https://www.gonoodle.com/videos/WwJg9Y/winter-wonderland?source_name=share&source_page=share&source_page_type=share&source_element=share&utm_content=teacher&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DED%20T%20HME%20Video%20Launch&utm_term=winter-wonderland&utm_source=sendinblue)

Big Heart World

<https://www.bigheartworld.org/about-us/>

Big Heart World is an initiative produced by Sparkler in collaboration with Noggin that enables parents and educators to help children explore what it means to have a “big heart”

Learning Through Holidays - <https://www.bigheartworld.org/learning-through-holidays/>

Monthly Activity Calendars and Crafts

Waterford

<https://mentor.waterford.org/>

DECEMBER PREK–KINDERGARTEN Calendar <https://resources.waterford.org/family-resources/2205/2205.pdf>

Day By Day Ohio December Monthly Activities

<https://www.daybydayoh.org/december/december-monthly-activities/>

Fun-a-Day EPIC LIST OF WINTER ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOLERS

<https://fun-a-day.com/winter-activities-for-preschoolers/>

Parenting Workshops

FREE Parenting Workshops

<https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/specialties/behavioral-health/for-families/triple-p>

Supportive, small group virtual programs to connect with other parents about raising young children. You can attend any or all of the classes below for free.

Getting Along with Others

Thursday, December 8, 2022 6-8p

Setting Boundaries & Limits

Thursday, December 15, 2022 6-8p

**All workshops on Zoom – Open to families in Crawford, Fayette, Franklin and Richland Counties

Can't make any of the above dates? Call or email us – we also provide one-to-one parenting support online or over the phone covering the topics above and more!

For more information or to register call 614-355-8099 or vemail TripleP@NationwideChildrens.org

Toy and Holiday Giveaways

Firefighters 4 Kids

www.firefighters4kids.com/

2055 Corvair Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43207

(614) 633-5259

Operates during the holiday season providing toys to children ages birth to 12 within the Central Ohio area. They work with local agencies throughout Franklin County to do sign-ups. A listing of these agencies, their locations and registration dates can be found on the website.

Neighborhood Services (NSI)

www.nsifoodpantry.org/

1950 North Fourth Street, Columbus, Ohio 43201

(614) 297-0592

Offers assistance programs, with their primary service area including 43201, 43202, 43210, 43220 and 43211. Services also include: food pantry, free clothing to children and adults, monthly free fresh produce markets, free tax preparation with American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), back to school programs, Holiday Food programs, and Christmas Gift Adoptions programs.

Salvation Army

https://s3.amazonaws.com/use-cache.salvationarmy.org/7e870bfe-fe98-4aec-95f7-31d6c8db9d50_Cheer+Flyer+Fix.pdf

966 East Main Street, Columbus, Ohio 43205

(614) 221-6561 or (800) 725-2769

Serves: Single Adults & Families

Offers various services for Central Ohio families throughout the year. Their services include: an in-residence rehabilitation program, after school learning centers for youth to get tutoring and homework help, Christmas assistance and food meal boxes; housing and rent assistance, utility assistance, help trafficking survivors and veteran support services. Visit the website for their Family Thrift Store locations in Central Ohio and for more information on each program.

Toys for Tots program in Columbus Ohio area

<https://columbus-oh.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx?nPageID=100&nPreviewInd=200&nRedirectInd=3>

This is available in the Franklin and Delaware County region, city of Columbus, and central Ohio. Free toys are given to children, most of which are unwrapped/new. There may be games, presents for opening under the Christmas tree, stocking stuffers, decorations for a tree, Legos, matchbox cars, dolls, or trucks, and more. For information on application sites, dial (614) 221-2255.

More Free Activities to Do in Columbus

Columbus Metro Parks

**Winter Hikes <https://www.metroparks.net/winter-hikes/>

<https://www.metroparks.net/blog/winter-hikes-series-50th-anniversary/>

WINTER HIKE KICK-OFF

December 3, 2022 from 5-7 pm at Inniswood Metro Garden

Join us at the [Innis House](#) for hot chocolate and take a walk through the gardens under the twinkling lights.

**Twinkling Lights

Friday December 9, 2022 & Saturday December 10, 2022

Walk under the twinkling lights at [Battelle Darby Creek](#), [Blacklick Woods](#), [Highbanks](#), [Homestead](#) and [Inniswood](#) during the month of December. Come out to [Chestnut Ridge](#) for special evening lantern walks and hot chocolate on

More activities – can be found [here](#)

**Winter Wonderland Forest

11/25/2022 -01/02/2023

Time: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Blendon Woods - 4265 E Dublin-Granville Road, Westerville, OH, 43081

(614)508-8111

Facility: Nature Center

We have brought the sparkling forest indoors for the holidays! Discover the magic of winter inside the cozy Nature Center with interactive exhibits.

**** Tots on Trails**

11/30/2022

Time: 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Days: Wed

Blacklick Woods - 6975 E. Livingston Ave., Reynoldsburg, OH, 43068

(614)508-8111

Facility: Nature Center

Take a slow-paced half-mile hike with your toddler and a naturalist.

**** 'Tis the Season**

12/17/2022

Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Days: Sat

Slate Run Farm - 1375 SR 674 N, Canal Winchester, OH, 43110

(614)508-8111

Facility: Farmhouse

Take a break from the holiday bustle with a quiet stroll around the farm. String popcorn and make a decoration to take home.

**** Craft Day**

12/18/2022

Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Days: Sun

Blendon Woods - 4265 E Dublin-Granville Road, Westerville, OH, 43081

(614)508-8111

Facility: Nature Center

Drop by to enjoy a cup of cocoa and make a nature craft for you or the birds

**** For Kids: New Year's Open House Party**

12/30/2022

Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Days: Fri

Sharon Woods Spring Hollow- 1069 West Main Street, Westerville, OH, 43081

(614)508-8111

Facility: Spring Hollow

Drop by between 10am-2pm and help us ring in the New Year with games, crafts and a ball drop countdown on every hour! Meet at Spring Hollow Lodge.

Program is geared towards kids age 3-10. Please note: Spring Hollow Lodge is NOT accessible via the main park entrance.

Please use this address to locate the lodge: 1069 W. Main St.

Columbus Metropolitan Library

**** Ready for Kindergarten Family Pajama Storytime**

Wednesday, November 30

7:00pm - 7:40pm

Columbus Metropolitan Library- Whetstone Branch, 3909 N High St, Columbus, OH 43214, USA

Bring the entire family for books and fun activities to build reading skills. Pajamas are welcome!

**** All Aboard the Storytime Express!**

Saturday, December 03

11:00am - 11:30am

Columbus Metropolitan Library - 96 S Grant Ave, Columbus, OH 43215, USA

Roll on in to hear railroad stories, sing choo choo songs and to learn tips on how to keep your little ones on track for kindergarten.

**** Community Concert - Urban Strings**

Saturday, December 03

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Martin Luther King CML Library - 1467 E Long St, Columbus, OH 43203

Youth string ensembles perform inspiring and upbeat music from popular African-American composers and arrangers.

**** Treats and Traditions: VIRTUAL**

Holiday stories and recipes to inspire

Wednesday, Dec. 7 | 7 p.m.

Explore the rich cultural diversity represented by the bakeries of Columbus as three of the city's favorite bakers share how their heritage and family traditions influence their holiday baking. Shanna Banks from Love Meets Cake, Scott and Gina Bast from Scotty's Café, and Isabella Bonello from Three Bites Bakery will give us a glimpse behind-the-scenes and share a few recipes along the way!

**** Sweets and Yummy Treats Storytime**

Sunday, December 18: 1:30pm - 2:00pm

Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S Grant Ave, Columbus, OH 43215, USA

Stop in for a scrumptious food themed storytime! We will share delicious stories, sing sweet songs and stir up some terrific tips on how to get your little ones ready for kindergarten.

**** Play to Learn**

Wednesday, December 21: 10:00am - 12:00pm

Linden Branch - 2223 Cleveland Ave, Columbus, OH 43211

AGE GROUP: BIRTH - 18 MONTHS, 3 - 6 YEARS, 18 - 36 MONTHS

Stop by to play in our kid's area and work on fun activities with your child. Ages 0-5.

**** Ready for Kindergarten Class**

Wednesday, December 21: 10:30am - 11:00am

Columbus Metropolitan Library - 96 S Grant Ave, Columbus, OH 43215, USA

AGE GROUP: 3 - 6 YEARS

Hands-on practice of kindergarten skills such as writing letters and cutting with scissors. Parents will receive tips on how to work on skills at home.

**** Winter Break Celebration**

Wednesday, December 21: 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Columbus Metropolitan Library: South High Branch, 3540 S High St, Columbus, OH 43207, USA

Join us for festive fun with stories, games and a chance to create your own gingerbread house!

**** Holiday Family Magic Show - Jim Kleefeld**

Wednesday, December 21: 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Whetstone Branch - 3909 N High St, Columbus, OH 43214

Enjoy a family-friendly magic show about Santa, elves, reindeer, snowman, presents and more.

**** Spanish/English Storytime - Join us for a bilingual Spanish storytime**

Tuesday, December 27: 10:30am - 11:00am

Northside Branch - 1423 N High St, Columbus, OH 43201