

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE SUMMER...

When the summer heat is on, it's time to go to the spots where we can have fun, be active, and stay cool at the same time. Here are some places you might like to try:

Free and Fun Things To Do With The Kids:

Barnes And Noble Booksellers at Desert Ridge

21001 N. Tatum Blvd. Suite 42, Phoenix. 480-538-8520
Story time for children of all ages every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

Borders Books and Music at Scottsdale 101

7000 E. Mayo Blvd. Suite 1050, Phoenix. 480-513-8848
Fax: 480.515.2345
Story time for tots and toddlers every Wednesday at 11:00 am

Cerreta Candy Company

5345 W. Glendale Ave., Glendale. (623) 930-1000. www.cerreta.com
This family owned candy company offers free guided tours Mon-Fri at 10am and 1pm. Tours last 30 minutes and include views of the Caramel, Cream Center and Chocolate Kitchens, the Chilling Room, and Wrapping Stations. Sampling is encouraged!

DC Ranch Water Fun

DC Ranch Market Street Park, southeast corner of Thompson Peak Pkwy. and Pima Rd., Scottsdale. www.dcranch.com
The covered outdoor water and sand play area within this community is great fun for all ages. Be sure to have the kids, as well as yourself, dressed to get wet and come ready to play!

Lakeshore Learning Store

4727 E. Bell Rd., Phoenix. (602) 482-7900. www.lakeshorelearning.com
This wonderful education supply store offers free craft activities for kids ages 3 and up every Saturday from 11am – 3pm.

Stuffington Bear Factory

2302 E. Thomas Rd., Phoenix. (602) 225-9513. www.stuffington.com
This is not your typical mall activity center. It's a real working stuffed animal factory! Free education oriented tours are offered daily at 1pm.

Tempe Beach Park Splash Playground

Tempe Beach Park, Tempe. (480) 350-5200.
<http://www.tempe.gov/lake/Recreation/SplashPlayground.htm>
There are many different water features to play in here, from waterfalls to stand under, slides to glide down, to a soothing creek to sit in and the cost is FREE. So dress to get wet and have some great fun at this unique water playground.

Westcor Kids Club

Paradise Valley Mall Children's Play Area near JCPenney www.westcor.com
Come learn, sing, dance and play with our host, Persephone and Webster the Wart Hog. The free one-hour children's program is held on the first Monday of every month in the Children's Play Area, beginning at 11am. At every show, sign up to be a Kids Club member and your child will get a small toy and special discounts to Paradise Valley Mall retailers, absolutely free!

Wildflower Kids Hour

Wildflower Bread Company in Sonora Village
15640 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale
SW Corner of Loop 101 & Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd. 480-991-5180
Every Wednesday from 3:30 to 4 p.m., Wildflower Kids enjoy a complimentary cookie, milk and activity.

About \$1.00:

Harkins Theatres Summer Movie Fun

www.harkinstheatres.com

This great summer program for kids offers \$7 for 10 movies at 9:45am from May 28th –August 3th. You pick the theatre and the day of the week to see the movies and buy your tickets for the whole summer!

AMC Summer Movie Camp

AMC Desert Ridge 18. (480) 606-0806. www.amctheatres.com/smc

The AMC Summer Movie Camp program presents \$1.00 G- and PG-rated Hollywood movies on the big screen every Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. from June 25th through August 6th. Prior to the movie, AMC associates provide simple craft activities at participating theatres. Tickets are available up to a week in advance. As of press time, the only participating AMC was Deer Valley 30 at 3033 West Agua Fria Fwy., but Desert Ridge AMC may join the fun if you check back later.

Play and Sports Centers

Alltel Ice Den

9375 E. Bell Rd., Scottsdale. (480) 585-7465. www.coyotesice.com

This is great place to take the family for some ice-skating. Check out their website for their public skating schedule.

Amazing Jake's

1830 E. Baseline Rd., Mesa. (480) 926-7499. www.amazingjakes.com

This is not your average pizza arcade. Amazing Jake's is 80,000 square feet of food, laser tag, rock climbing, bumper cars, bowling, kiddie rides, and more!!

Arizona Sunrays Gymnastics

3110 E Thunderbird Rd, Phoenix. (602) 992-5790. www.azsunrays.com

This is a great gymnastics center that has open gym for kids 18 months to 5 years old on Fridays from 10:00-12:00.

AZ on the Rocks

16447 N. 91st St., Scottsdale. (480) 502-9777. www.azontherocks.com

This is the state's largest indoor rock gym. If your kids are 6 years or older, bored and climbing the walls, this is the place to go!

Bounce U

8970 E. Bahia Dr., Suite 104, Scottsdale Phone: (480) 502-0210

<http://www.bounceu.com/cities/scottsdale.az/open-bounce.htm>

Indoor bouncing fun! Every TUESDAY, THURSDAY, and FRIDAY for ages 6 and under, Preschool Playdates are held from 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. The sessions include music, a small snack, juice and, of course, play time on giant inflatable toys. Price: \$6.95 per child and \$5.95 for each additional sibling.

Chuck E. Cheese

3329 E. Bell Rd., Phoenix. (602)-493-7000. www.chuckecheese.com

Always a kid's favorite, this indoor entertainment venue with pizza, arcade games, rides, video games, and costumed characters provides lots of fun for the family.

Fun Time 4 Kids

3202 E. Greenway Rd., Suite 1255, Phoenix. (602) 485-KIDS. www.funtime4kids.com

This is a 5,545 square-foot indoor play center for kids eight and under. Don't forget your socks.

Imagination Avenue

10614 N. 32nd Street, Phoenix. (602) 765-3192. www.imaginationavenue.us

This is a cute indoor play area where kids can pretend to be anything they want in creative & interactive play areas. They have a separate area for babies and loads to explore for kids up to 8 years old. Be sure to wear socks.

Dave & Busters

Desert Ridge Market Place. (480)538-8956. www.daveandbusters.com

This is an entertainment and dining universe with 64,000 square feet of reality gaming, billiards, and bowling! It also has two restaurants to boot! Talk about fun for the whole family!

Makutu's Island

6919 W. Ray Road, Chandler. (480) 893-0106. www.makutuisland.com

This is a great indoor family amusement center filled with all kinds of fun for every age. You can climb through their tunnel "trees", play in their game area, or just plain run around.

Mini Golf Paradise

15230 N. 32nd St., Phoenix. (602) 274-4653. www.minigolfparadise.com

This is an adorable 18-hole indoor mini golf course with a fun safari theme. Toddlers to grandparents can take a break from the heat while puttin' in the jungle.

Peter Piper Pizza

15720 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale. (480) 423-5200. www.peterpiperpizza.com

4716 E. Thunderbird Rd. Phoenix. (602) 996-5444

Offering pizza and games, this local indoor entertainment restaurant is a kid's favorite. Save big during the week with their pizza and salad lunch buffet! Kids under 3 eat free at the lunch buffet with a paying adult.

Pump It Up

9378 Bahia Drive, Scottsdale. (480) 425-7867. www.pumpitupparty.com

This is a great indoor JUMP zone with lots of giant inflatable play structures. You usually have to be a part of a party to join in the fun, but every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 to 11:30 they have Mommy and Me open play time, which is for children 5 years old and under.

Paradise Valley Pool

17648 N. 40th Street, PV. 602-534-5161. www.phoenix.gov

Go for a swim at this great community pool with a beach entrance wading pool and a giant mushroom waterfall.

Rollerplex Entertainment

16083 N. 75th Ave., Peoria. (623) 334-8118. www.rollerplex.com

This is a great skating facility with public skating open to all ages every Saturday from 12-2pm and Sunday from 1-4pm for only \$6 per person.

Shiloh Community Center

19032 N 32nd St., Phoenix. (602) 569-0311 www.shilohcommunity.com/activities

Shiloh Community Church will be hosting Tot Town this summer, schedule TBA. For children up to five years old, the indoor play land has loads of toys, climbers, riding toys, and more. A family membership costs \$15 per year. Check out their web site for all the details and dates.

Waterworld Safari

4243 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Phoenix. (623) 581-8446. www.golfland-sunsplash.com

A great water park with a number of water slides, a children's play pool, and a lazy river to float on. Waterworld Safari is will open on Saturday, May 24th for the 2008 season.

Museums and Tours**Arizona Museum for Youth**

35 N. Robson St., Mesa. (480) 644-2467. www.arizonamuseumforyouth.com

A "first" museum experience—the Arizona Museum for Youth introduces the "Art Museum" concept to kids. Their activities and exhibits are designed for adults and children to enjoy together and its diverse appeal ensures that your toddlers to 12-year olds will have a great time!

Arizona Museum of Natural History (formerly Mesa Southwest Museum)

53 N. Macdonald, Mesa. (480) 644-2230. www.azmnh.org

This is a wonderful museum of Arizona's cultural and natural history. This is a great place to take your dinosaur lovers, for they have an exciting display of dinosaur bones as well as animated models!

Arizona Science Center

600 E. Washington St., Phoenix. (602) 716-2000. www.azscience.org

This is a great place to take your little scientist where there is plenty to do from hands-on fun with more than 300 interactive exhibits, a state-of-the-art planetarium, five story giant-screen theater, and traveling exhibitions.

Challenger Space Center

21170 N. 83rd Ave., Peoria. 623-322-2001. <http://azchallenger.org>

Whether you're five or eighty-five, a visit to the Space Center just might make you want to be an astronaut when you grow up! Be sure to check their website for upcoming events and when their next Space Place will be. Space Place is designed for children ages 3-6, and features our planet and solar system. Activities include story time, solar system puzzles, center time, and more. This adventure even includes a gentle simulated shuttle launch in their on-site simulator!

Hall of Flame

6101 E. Van Buren St., Phoenix, AZ. (602) 275-3473. www.hallofflame.org

This is said to be the world's largest firefighting museum. Children of all ages will be fascinated by the six exhibit galleries filled with firefighting memorabilia and engines from every continent dating back to 1725!

Phoenix Art Museum

1625 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. (602) 257-1222. www.phxart.org

This is a beautiful museum with many kid friendly items to participate in. Be sure to ask for a "Kids Pack" that's filled with looking activities, puzzles, and other creative challenges that correspond to featured art pieces. They also have special Family Fun Days every month and every Thursday offers FREE admission.

Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art

7374 W. Second St., Scottsdale. (480) 994-ARTS. www.smoca.org

This is the only museum in Arizona devoted to the art, architecture, and design of our time. Located just adjacent to SMOCA is their Young @ Art Gallery. This gallery is devoted to the creative work of children.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

All the Hands

3375 E. Shea Blvd., Phoenix. (602) 493-1604. <http://allthehands.com>

This is an independent ceramic clay studio with the look and feel of home and is for people of all ages and abilities. They have no sitting fees and you can come back as many times as you wish to complete your bisque purchase. In addition to clay painting, if you're interested in learning how to make your own pottery they offer many different classes as well.

As You Wish

Desert Ridge Market Place. (480) 585-0041. www.asyouwishpottery.com

This is a fun paint-your-own pottery studio that provides families with a colorful, comfortable atmosphere in which to create. They offer open painting time as well as classes like Mommy & Me, Story time Painters, Pottery Pals, and more.