Enjoy summer museum fun with children

CRYSTAL SARAkas CORRESPONDENT

Learning shouldn’t stop just because school is out for the summer. Fortunately, there are a number of kid-friendly museums within easy driving distance that will help youngsters explore the world around them.

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The dome screen is 66 feet in diameter and six stories tall. Find the latest movie listings on the museum’s website. The museum also features the Silverman Planetarium at 11:15 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

New York Hall of Science

47-01 11th Street, Queens (located in Flushing Meadows Corona Park)

(718) 699-0005

www.nysci.org

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Museum prices: $12 for children ages 2-17, seniors and students; $15 for adults. Reservations are required and are made through the website. Parking is available at the museum for an additional fee, but check the museum website for blackout dates.

One of the top 10 science museums in the country, NYSSCI features more than 450 exhibits, demonstrations and workshops that explore STEM principles.

The newest exhibit is “Connected Worlds,” an animated world that features six ecosystems, each with its own trees, plants and animals but all sharing a common supply of water. Your actions affect how the world is kept alive.

Explore how molecules shape our bodies and our world in the “Molecules and Health” exhibit. And there’s the Preschool Place, where younger visitors age six and under can experience multi-sensory activities in a safe place.

The Scientister includes many hands-on exhibits.

Southern Tier

• 60 Morgan Road, Binghamton
  • (607) 773-8661
  • www.thediscoverycenter.org

• Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; closed Sundays through Labor Day.

• Museum prices: $7; free for children younger than 1.

• The Discovery Center is located in Ross Park next to the Binghamton Zoo. There are 30 play-and-learn exhibits, where kids can report the news and weather at a TV station, play inside a giant bubble or fly an A-10 jet. And don’t forget to shop in the Weis Market. (Parents can enjoy a trip down memory lane from their own shopping experiences as kids.)

• The current featured exhibit is “What’s the Buzz? A Honey of an Exhibit.” Children can explore the life of the honeybee. Climb inside a 14-foot beehive, learn about bees and health with microscopes and learn to wagle-dance just like a bee. (Who doesn’t love a good wagle-dance?)

• Milton J. Rubinstein

Learn

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Scientercenter

• 601 1st St., Ithaca
  • (607) 272-0000
  • www.scientecenter.org

• Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Mini-golf is open during regular hours.

• Museum prices: $6 for children ages 3-17; $8 for adults; $7 for seniors.

• Free for children younger than 3. Mini-golf is $6 per player ($3 for members) or free for children younger than 3.

The Scientister in Ithaca is a hands-on science museum, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The Scientistercenter welcomes more than 100,000 guests each year and has a variety of exhibits focusing on astronomy, health and wellness, early education, live animals, the ocean, sustainability, young scientists and more.

The current featured exhibit is “Strange Matter.” It includes more than a dozen hands-on experiences in the world of materials science. Children can use a special filter to explore light waves, experiment with the thinnest material in existence, and make a pool of magnetic fluid dance. And don’t forget the new 18-hole mini-golf course.

Please Touch Museum

• Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park, 4231 Avenue of the Republic, Philadelphia
  • (215) 581-3181
  • www.pleasetouchmuseum.org

• Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

• Museum prices: $7 for children and adults; free for members and children younger than 1.

• Among the many wonderful places to visit in Philadelphia is the Please Touch Museum in Fairmount Park. Founded in 1976, the Please Touch Museum was one of the first in the nation to focus on families with children 7 and younger, with a mission of providing learning opportunities through play.

• Today, kids can explore eight different exhibits, go to the theater, ride on a carousel and more. In the Flight Fantasy exhibit, children can row a flying machine or play hopscotch on clouds. The Imagination Playground features giant foam blocks, where kids (and parents too) can build whatever their imagination can dream up. Don’t forget Wonderland, which features the Pool of Tears, the Tea Party and more.

The Discovery Center of the