

THE Fun TIMES



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A joint publication of the City of Ocala Recreation & Parks Department and the Marion County Parks & Recreation Department as a service to its residents and visitors.

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■■■ MARION COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION UPCOMING PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES ■■■

“EXPLORE MARION COUNTY” INTERPRETIVE OUTINGS

Carney Island County Park | Nov. 17
Morning Interpretive Walk | 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Afternoon Driving Tour | 1-2:30 p.m.
Two separate tours will be conducted each day. For walkers, a leisurely, interpretive tour will explore hiking trails in this popular county park on Lake Weir. A driving tour will be conducted in the afternoon, with stops along the way for interpretation and a closer look at things of interest. Reservations required. FREE!

Marshall Swamp Interpretive Hike December 22 | 9 a.m.-12 noon

Explore the wild trail section of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway. The group will meet at the Marshall Swamp Trailhead. Bring water and snacks, appropriate clothing and insect repellent. Reservations required. FREE!

KAYAK OUTINGS FOR ADULTS

Rainbow River | Dec. 4 | 9:30 a.m.
\$20 per excursion plus park entrance fee.
Ocklawaha River | Nov. 6 & Jan. 23 | 9:30 a.m.
\$25 per excursion plus park entrance fee.
Silver River | Dec. 19 & Jan. 15 | 9:30 a.m.
\$25 per excursion plus park entrance fee.

Kayak Outings for participants with paddling experience - kayaks, paddles, life jackets & ground transportation provided. Preregistration required.

KAYAK & KOFFEE ON THE RIVERS

Rainbow River | Nov. 5, Dec. 3, & Jan. 7 | 10 a.m.
Silver River | Nov. 19, Dec. 17 & Jan. 21 | 10 a.m.
Mini-outings on the Rainbow and the Silver River. Ideal for beginners - kayaks, paddles and life jackets provided. \$15 per excursion plus park entrance fee. Preregistration required.

OVERNIGHT KAYAK CAMP-OUTS ON THE OCKLAWAHA RIVER

November 21-22 & December 12-13.
Adventure on the Ocklawaha River providing insight into the local history of the river and the Greenway habitat. Activities include a night hike and nocturnal wildlife observation. Camping will be at a primitive site. \$60 per person (per excursion) includes kayak, paddle, life jacket, camping gear and meals. Participants must supply their own sleeping bag. Limited to ten adults. Preregistration required.

BASIC WILD CAVING EXPERIENCE AT BRICK CITY ADVENTURE PARK

Sat., Nov. 14 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m. | ages 12-15 years
Sat., Dec. 5 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m. | ages 16+
An excellent beginner program for participants that would like to explore an unimproved wild cave. Requiring strenuous physical activity. Participants should wear long pants, sturdy footwear and gloves. Caving gear will be provided. \$30 per person. Limited to six participants.

GEOCACHING AT BRICK CITY ADVENTURE PARK

Sat., Nov. 21 | 10-11:30 a.m.
Logging Finds and Placing Caches
Sat., Dec. 12 | 10-11:30 a.m.
Equipment Options

Using a hand-held GPS to search for “treasures” in public areas, you and your family will have an adventure to remember. Learn more about this activity that thousands of people have discovered.

BIRD AND NATURE WALKS

Nov. 14 | Blue Run of Dunnellon | 9:30 a.m.
Dec. 5 | Carney Island | 9:30 a.m.
Jan. 9 | Sunnyside Restoration Area in Moss Bluff | 9:30 a.m.
Whether you are a beginner or an experienced bird watcher, these outings promise to provide an enjoyable outdoor experience. Participants should bring a hat, insect repellent, binoculars (if you have them) and water. Preregistration required. FREE!

ART VAN-GO AT MARION COUNTY PARKS

Nov. 7 | Dec. 5 | Jan. 9 | Feb. 6
10 a.m. | Baseline Road Trailhead
12 p.m. | Liberty Community Park
2 p.m. | Wrigley Fields
Children ages 5-15 are invited to join us for our monthly mobile art program featuring a new art activity each month. \$2 per child which covers art instruction & materials.

BRUNCH WITH THE ELVES FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS

Dec. 7 | Liberty Community Park | 10 a.m.
Dec. 8 | Wrigley Fields | 10 a.m.
Dec. 10 | Baseline Road Trailhead | 10 a.m.
Join our Elves for games, make-it take-it holiday puppets, cookie decorating and lunch. \$10 fee which includes a parent and child. Additional children/adults are only \$3 each. Receive a \$4 discount by donating four canned goods for the community food drive. Preregistration required.

“FRIDAY FUN NIGHTS” - PARENTS’ NIGHT OUT

Brick City Adventure Park
11/13 | 12/11 | 12/18 | 1/8 | 1/29 | 6-9:30 p.m.
Children can have a safe and entertaining evening so parents can enjoy up to three hours of free time. A typical night will include supervised games, crafts, music and other fun activities. \$5 per child per evening. Preregistration required.

HOME-SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION & RECREATION (HPER) CLUB

Brick City Adventure Park
Our “HPER Club” meets each Wednesday. 5-9 year olds meet 10-11 a.m. ; 10-17 year olds meet 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$10 per month for the first child; \$7 for each add'l child within the same family. The program encourages teamwork, strategy and fair play in a social setting. Preregistration required.

HOME-SCHOOL ART PROGRAM AT BRICK CITY ADVENTURE PARK

Wednesdays | 10-11 a.m. | Ages 10-14
Wednesdays | 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Ages 4-9
\$10 per month for the first child and \$7 for each additional child within the same family. Preregistration required.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP

Week 1 | Dec. 21-23 | Ages 12-16
Week 2 | Dec. 28-30 | Ages 6-11
Two outdoor recreation based camps will be offered for two different age groups. Youngsters will take part in a variety of activities that include kayaking/canoeing, fishing, outdoor nature crafts, hiking & more. \$40 per child. Preregistration required.

PRE-SCHOOL PE AT BRICK CITY ADVENTURE PARK

Wednesdays | 9-9:30 a.m.
Children ages 3 - 5 can participate in a weekly physical education program. These 30 minute sessions will focus on the development of gross motor skills through age appropriate activities such as running, jumping and maintaining balance. Your child will develop these attributes in a social setting that is both fun and safe. \$10 per month for the first child; \$7 for each add'l child within the same family. Preregistration required.

PARK EXPLORERS FOR TWEENS/TEENS

January 22 & January 25 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Learn about nature and wildlife in our community with activities that include hiking, kayaking and other activities. Youth 12-16. \$20 per date includes lunch. Preregistration required.

All programs are limited in size & require preregistration. For more information, or to preregister, please call or stop by our office at 111 SE 25th Ave. in Ocala.



■■■ CITY OF OCALA RECREATION & PARKS UPCOMING PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES ■■■

FAMILIES

LIGHT UP OCALA – “A HOMETOWN TRADITION”

Saturday, Nov. 21 | 2-8:30 p.m.
Downtown Square | 368-5517

Join us in celebrating the season's tradition at the 26th Annual Light Up Ocala. This exciting, fun-filled, family friendly event will once again bring the community together with great crafts, delicious food, a stop-over by Santa Claus, children's activities, the Junior Sunshine Christmas Parade, live entertainment and much more – all topped off with the lighting of this year's new addition, a 42-foot Christmas tree in the heart of downtown.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS ON THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE

Downtown Square | 368-5517

Enjoy the holiday lights during our downtown Holiday Happenings on the Square throughout the month of December. Call us for more details or to hear who's playing on a particular evening.

SANTA ON THE SQUARE

Dec. 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 & 17 | 6-8 p.m.
Downtown Square | 401-3916

Santa will visit with children to hear their Christmas wishes and the elves will tag along to provide hayrides, music and refreshments for the whole family to enjoy!

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

First Friday of every month | 6-8 p.m.
Downtown Square | 629-8444

Mark your calendars for the first Friday of every month as local artists display their work along the downtown sidewalks. FREE!

SCOOP ON READING AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER

701 NE Sanchez Avenue | 401-3900
11/30 | 12/28 | 1/25 | 2/22 | 3/29 | 10-10:30 a.m.

Parents and children ages 2-5 are invited to get the scoop on reading at the Discovery Center, Altrusa International, Inc. of Ocala and Blue Bell Creamery come together on the last Monday of every month, November through March, to read us a story as we enjoy a delicious scoop of Blue Bell ice cream. This activity is free but is limited to the first 15 registered participants per week. Call to register in advance.

ADULTS

HEART, HEALTH & HOPE ART CLASS AT THE OCALA SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

210 NW 12 Avenue | 629-8357
November 19 | 1-4 p.m.

Join the fun and paint ceiling tiles with artist Michele Faulconer. These tiles will be presented to the children's floor at the Marion Regional Medical Center. Free for seniors 50 years and over. Preregistration required. Limited to 15 participants.



All programs are limited in size and require preregistration. For more information or to preregister, please call the designated center.

SHOW PALACE CHRISTMAS SENIOR FIELD TRIP

Departing from the 8th Ave. Senior Center
830 NE 8th Avenue | 629-8357
December 10 | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Come join us as we travel to Hudson, Florida to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with classical Christmas carols and high-energy dancing. Seniors 50 and over. Price to be determined. Limited to 45 participants.

COMPETITIVE, RECREATIONAL & COED SOFTBALL LEAGUES

Ocala Regional SportsPlex
3500 SW 67 Avenue | 629-8444

Currently registering for adult softball leagues. Leagues begin in January and include Men's Competitive, Men's Recreational and Coed. Come join and show your skills. Men 18 and over. \$325 per team plus \$20 sanctioning fee. Must be preregistered. Call Jenilee for details to include specific dates and times.

SANTA'S CALLING

December 1, 2 & 3 | 6-9 p.m.

Santa and his elves will surprise area boys and girls ages 3-7 years with a priceless call from the North Pole. Registration forms are sent home through the Marion County School System in November and are due back to the City of Ocala Recreation and Parks Dept. by 11/25. If you need a registration form, stop by the Recreation and Parks Dept. at 828 NE 8th Ave. to get a copy. Santa is also looking for volunteers to help continue this holiday tradition.

KRINGLE'S KIDS KAMP AT E.D. CROSKY RECREATION CENTER

1510 NW 4th St. | 401-3920 | 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Week 1 – December 21, 22, 23
Week 2 – December 28, 29, 30 & 31

Moms and Dads can take care of some of those last minute chores while kids ages 5-11 have a festive time. Activities include holiday arts & crafts, cooking, games, field trips and more! \$25 per week.

WINTER WONDER CAMP AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER

701 NE Sanchez Ave. | 401-3900 | 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Week 1 – Dec. 21, 22, 23 | \$45 members | \$55 non-members

Week 2 – Dec. 28, 29, 30 & 31 | \$60 members | \$70 non-members
Children ages 8-12 years old are invited to spend their holiday break at the Discovery Center's Winter Wonder Camp, a wonderful way to add magic and education to your child's holiday season as they explore the science of candy, concoct homemade gifts, develop their yuletide spirit and learn others' holiday traditions. Limited to 35 participants.

FUTURE PILOT FLIGHT ACADEMY AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER

701 NE Sanchez Avenue | 401-3900
Tuesdays, Dec. 1-Jan. 19 | 6-7 p.m.

Learn the fundamentals of flight in these hands on aviation ground school. Taught by a real flight instructor! Youth 12-15 years old. \$45. Limited to 30 participants. Preregistration required.

JUNIOR GOLF CLINICS AT OCALA GOLF CLUB

3130 NE Silver Springs Blvd. | 401-6917
Ongoing golf instruction through December 15. \$5 per session. Newcomers are welcome each week.

Tuesdays | 4-5 p.m.

Golf instructions with Clark Creamer, Head Golf Professional. Youth 6-14 years old.

Saturdays | 9-10 a.m.

Golf instruction with Kandace Clatterbaugh, Head Golf Professional. Youth 7-16 years.

FT. KING TENNIS CENTER AFTER SCHOOL TENNIS PROGRAM

3301 SE Ft. King St. | 629-8453

Every Mon. & Wed. | Jan. 11-June 7 | 4-5 p.m.
16 Mondays - \$160 | 20 Wednesdays - \$200 |
36 Mondays & Wednesdays - \$360

Lessons with Jason Weiss, Head Tennis Professional, for beginners and intermediates improving upon proper grips, stroke development, foot work and physical conditioning. Youth 7-17 years old. Preregistration not necessary but highly recommended.

BASIC ARCHERY PROGRAM AT LILLIAN BRYANT CENTER PARK

2200 NW 17th Place | 629-8389

Mondays | Nov. 23-Jan. 11, | 5-6 p.m.

Youth will learn basic archery skills. Archery instills confidence, greater attention spans and a willingness to try other sports activities. Youth 7-13 years old. Preregister through November 20. FREE!

STICKS FOR KIDS AT LILLIAN BRYANT CENTER PARK

2200 NW 17th Place | 629-8389

Tuesdays | Dec. 1-Jan. 19 | 4:30-6 p.m.

Kids will learn the basic fundamentals of golf to include swing, stance and posture. Youth 8-13 years old. Registration begins November 17. FREE!

JR. MAGIC BASKETBALL LEAGUE AT THE E.D. CROSKY RECREATION CENTER

1510 NW 4th St. | 401-3920 | 5:30-8 p.m.
Monday-Thursdays | Nov. 30-Dec. 17 & Jan. 4-21

This league provides boys and girls the opportunity to participate with a team to learn and develop athletic and social skills while gaining an understanding of teamwork and cooperation with others. Youth 5-14 years old (participant can not be in high school). Sign up for a free basketball clinic when registering for this league.

GIRLS JR. MAGIC BASKETBALL LEAGUE AT THE E.D. CROSKY RECREATION CENTER

1510 NW 4th St. | 401-3920 | Feb. 8-Mar. 20

Practice two days per week (Mon. & Wed. 4:30-6 p.m.) with games on Saturdays 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

This program teaches young ladies the basics of basketball to advance them in the game. Participants will learn many new skills, teamwork, hard work and dedication as it pertains to basketball. Girls 6-14 years old. \$25 per participant. Limited to 160 participants. Registration begins December 14.

YOUTH ROOKIES, MAJORS & YOUTH T-BALL LEAGUE

Ocala Regional SportsPlex
3500 SW 67 Avenue | 401-3909

Currently registering for youth t-ball and baseball leagues playing at Ocala Regional Sportsplex. Registration begins Dec. 21. Leagues begin in February and include Rookies, Majors and Youth T-Ball. \$40 per player. Must be preregistered. Call Steve for details to include specific dates and times.