

ECFE Summer Survival Guide, 2026 - Thank You, ECFE Parents!!

WINONA ECFE PARENTS' LIST OF LOCAL-ISH **PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO:** (build-your-own summer bucket list!)

Red Barn Learning Farm-Hayfield MN Fridays from 9am-3pm Can be reserved for private events other days.	Lewiston Farmers Market & Live Music 5:00-8:00pm Wednesdays Eyota Farmers Market 4:30-7:00 Tuesdays -food trucks -live music -vendors Winona Farmers Market Saturdays 7:30-12:00 pm \$2.00 kids voucher for fruits and veggies	Winona Public Library -Libby -Hoopla -Reading/Summer Programs -SELCO -Rochester PL -Rent a state park pass -Storytime in the park -Early explorers in the park -https://winona.lib.mn.us/
Creekside Park in Rushford visit the Creamery-11:00-8:00 Mon-Wed 7:00a-8:00p Thurs-Sun Mystery Cave and Forestville State Park https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/tours/mystery_cave/tours/index.html	Winona County Fair July 8th-12th, 2026 -Animal/4-H Booths Berry Picking -Chester Berries (Rochester, MN) -The Berry Patch (Centerville, WI) -Cain's Orchard (Hixton, WI)	Whitewater State Park https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/park.html?id=spk00280#homepage Beaver Creek Valley State Park https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/park.html?id=spk00112#homepage

Clearwater Farms in Onalaska WI -Open barn -plant sales -food trucks	Splash Pads -Levee Park -La Crosse Splash Pad-type sprinklers https://a.co/d/iAkrF66	Owl Center in Houston https://www.internationalowlcenter.org/
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Create your own water activities/water table https://a.co/d/iuAxIJy Kiddie pool in yard https://a.co/d/eYCAkKE	Reusable (magnetic) water balloons https://a.co/d/9VYbKbP Chalk paint https://a.co/d/bGIZVpO Stomp rocket https://a.co/d/3d3XZO6	High Five https://shop.highlights.com/highfive-magazine-subscription National Geographic Magazines https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/
Decorah, IA -Trout Hatchery -Waterfalls -Seed Savers Exchange -Whippy Dip Ice Cream -Bike Trails	Eagle Center in Wabasha https://www.nationaleaglecenter.org/	Dolly Parton's Imagination Library https://imaginationlibrary.com/
Nelson, WI -Cheese Factory https://www.nelsoncheese.com/ -Sunflowers -Pizza Farm https://www.thenelsonstonebarn.com/	Niagara Cave in Harmony https://niagaracave.com/ -Cave tour -Gift shop -Panning for treasures	Wazee Lake Recreation Area Black River Falls, WI -Scuba Diving -beachy sand -crystal clear water

Winona Lake Lodge -canoe and kayak rentals -disc golf rentals -bicycle rentals -longboard rentals -paddleboard and pedal boat rentals https://www.cityofwinona.com/Facilities/Facility/Details/Lake-Lodge-Recreation-Center-3	Champions in Galesville https://championsriversideresort.com/ -camping or day pass -clean water and dreamy, soft sand -obstacle course -\$15 daily visitor pass	YMCA https://www.winonaymca.org/events/summer-sizzler-membership-special-1 Sign up by June 15th to get the special summer pricing
Farmer's Park -playground equipment -picnic area	Children's Museum of LaCrosse Tuesday-Sunday 9:00-5:00 \$10.00 per person (\$1 off Sundays) https://www.funmuseum.org/	Rad Zoo-Reptiles and Amphibians Medford, MN https://www.theradzoo.com/

Money Creek -tadpoles and frogs	Whispering Pines in Holmen, WI Day pass \$10.00 -manmade swimming beach -jumping pillow -playground	Chatfield, MN -Old West Park -bowling alley -aquatic center
Como Zoo and Conservatory St. Paul, MN Free fun for the whole family! https://comozooconservatory.org	Fawn Doe Rosa Wildlife Educational Park St. Croix Falls, WI https://www.fawndoerosa.com/	Myrick Park-LaCrosse, WI The Nature Place M-4 9:00-4:00 Th-Fr 8:00-4:00 Sat 9:00-12:00pm natureplacelacrosse.org

Prairie Island Campground -music ("Campfire Series") -food trucks -playground -beach	Winona Municipal Band Concerts Lake Winona Bandshell 10 weeks Wednesday 8-9:00pm	Trempealeau, WI -pool -bike paths -library -wildlife refuge
Byron, MN -Oxbow Park -nature center -Zollman Zoo -natural playground	Houston, MN Trailhead Park -bike path -natural playground -nature center	Pleasant Valley Church Indoor Playground Monday-Friday 9:00-3:00
Chester Woods-Eyota MN -trails -fishing -beach	Minnesota Marine Art Museum Seasonal Saturday-tour, art, music, bingo and more. Toddler Tuesdays-hands on art 10:30am-12:00pm \$10/family June 9, July 14, Aug 11	Trane Accessible Park in La Crosse, WI All abilities park designed for those with sensory, cognitive and physical challenges.
Sunset Bay on Lake Delton Wisconsin Dells, WI https://sunsetbayresort.com/	Penguin Zesto-Winona Locally owned ice cream and other treats East and West locations	Jump Start Adventure Park-trampoline Toddler time: Tuesdays and Saturdays 10:00-noon \$10/2 hrs for 3-5 yr olds 2 and under free

Root River-Lanesboro MN -tubing(5 yr +) -trails	Breakfast on the Farm-June dairy month Bert Mar farms- W12976 Huskelhus Rd. Osseo, WI 54758	Irvine Park Zoo-outdoor Chippewa Falls, WI Free admission
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Alma, WI -Secret Garden-behind Hotel DeVille -Fire and Ice coffee and ice cream -Castlerock museum -railroad bridge	Winona Aquatic Center Daily passes and summer memberships available. https://www.cityofwinona.com/Facilities/Facility/Details/Bob-Welch-Aquatic-Center-1	Sugarloaf Trail Hike up to Sugarloaf
Garvin Heights Park -trails -stairs -picnic area	Schwertel Family Farms W27348 State Road 54 35 Trempealeau, WI 54661 -fruit and veggie stand	Lark Toys Kellogg, MN -mini golf -carousel -ice cream https://www.larktoys.com/
Winona 7 theater Wednesdays 10:00am \$2/ticket https://www.ectheatres.com/?tid=20	Minnesota's Largest Candy Store Jordan, MN https://minnesotalargestcandystore.com/	Winona Lake Park -bandshell park -sand toys by volleyball courts -bike path
Minnesota Zoo Apple Valley, MN https://mnzoo.org/	Sea Life Aquarium Mall of America https://www.visitsealife.com/minnesota/	St. Charles, MN -pool -city park
Indoor Playground - La Crosse Playgrounds of La Crosse 3320 Mormon Coulee Rd. La Crosse, Wi 54601 https://playgroundsoflacrosse.com/	Wild Child Indoor Playground Valley View Mall, Unit 171 La Crosse, WI 54601 info@wildchildlax.com 608-518-7578 https://www.wildchildlax.com/	High Roller Skating Rink 3624 East Ave. South La Crosse, WI 54601 highrollerskating@gmail.com https://www.highrollerskating.com/LaCrosse/

***WIC/SNAP households can access museums and zoos in MN for free**

***Fishing licenses-children can fish for free if their parents are licensed. Purchase here:**

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/online-sales.html>

***visitwinona.com for local events**

From MN Kid Event Facebook Group:

Here are all the links to save for easy summer fun:

 Splash Pads: www.minnesotaparent.com/family-directory/splash-pads

 Zoos & Animals: www.minnesotaparent.com/family-directory/zoos-and-animals  Swimming

Pools & Waterparks: <http://www.minnesotaparent.com/.../swimming-pools-waterparks> 

Destination Playgrounds: <http://www.minnesotaparent.com/.../destination-playgrounds>  100

Things to Do this Summer: <http://www.minnesotaparent.com/100-summer-activities-in-.../>  Family

Fun Calendar: www.minnesotaparent.com/calendar

 2026 Family Favorites: www.minnesotaparent.com/familyfavorites

 Amusement Parks: www.minnesotaparent.com/family-directory/amusement-parks

 Nature Centers: www.minnesotaparent.com/minnesota-nature-centers

Local parades festivals and parades:

Steamboat Days-Winona, MN June 17-21st

Kiddie parade June 19th 8:30-12:45pm-Lake Park Bandshell

Grand Parade June 21st 12:01pm

Lewiston Heartland Days-Lewiston, MN June 24th-28th

Grand Parade June 27th 6:00pm

4th of July Celebration-Buffalo City, WI July 4th

Grand Parade 1:00pm

Catfish Days-Trempealeau, WI July 10th-12th

Grand Parade July 12th 1:00pm

Rushford Days-Rushford, MN July 17th-19th

Grand Parade July 19th 7:00 pm

Houston Hoedown Days-Houston, MN July 24th-26th

Grand Parade July 26th 12:00pm

Buffalo Bill Days-Lanesboro,MN July 31st-Aug 2nd

Grand Parade August 2nd 1:30pm

Western Days-Chatfield, MN August 14th-16th

Grand Parade August 15th 1:00pm

Goodview Days-Goodview, MN August 21st-23rd

Grand Parade August 23rd 1:00pm

Eyota Days-Eyota, MN July 13th-19th

Grand Parade July 18th 11:00am

Podcasts for Kids:

Circle Round

Story Pirates

Imagination Neighborhood

Sparkle Stories

Kids' Short Stories

Greeking Out

Parenting Books:

Good Inside

How to Talk So Little Kids Will Listen

A Little Bit of Dirt by Asia Citro

The Whole-Brained Child

Us-Terrance Real

Stop Yelling and Love Me More, Mom!

Hunt, Gather, Parent

Our Babies, Ourselves

Raising Good Humans

Peaceful Parents, Happy Kids

Fun Books (for adults, but not about parenting):

Abby Jiminez romance novels (if you're looking for a place to start, try "Part of Your World.")

Tessa Bailey romance novels

Lucy Score's "The Things We Never Forget" and "The Things We Hide from the Light"

Janet Evanovich, crime and comedy fiction (start with One for the Money) Lisa

Regan, Detective Josie Quinn

Untamed - Glennon Doyle

This Tender Land

Game of Thrones books

The Last Thing He Told Me

Lessons in Chemistry

Virgin River

The Life She Was Given

Remarkably Bright Creatures

Social Media, Apps, and Safe Online Entertainment:

Big Little Feelings

Flourishing Homes & Families- Instagram
Play to Learn Preschool on Facebook
Milestones and Motherhood
The Mom Psychologist
Babies & Brains
Momlife_comics
Nurtured First
Hey Sleepy Baby
Dr. Becky
Janet Lansbury
Solid Starts
Kids Eat in Color
Winona Moms Facebook Group
YouTube: The Healthy Gamer GG
Brain Breaks for Kids (YouTube)
Go Noodle
“How to Draw” YouTube videos
Marble Race YouTube videos
Making model dollhouse YouTube videos
Hamster maze YouTube videos
Signing Time & Baby Signing Time (“sign” not “sing”)
1000 Hours Outside
Busy Toddler (Instagram)
Caleykukla (Instagram)
“Geocaching” App - bring a treasure container
Safe in the Seat
Winona County Rocks (paint, participate, follow on Facebook)
Kids bedtime yoga YouTube genre
Run Wild My Child
Little Pine Learners
Baby Center

Happy Family Organics
Nurture Life
Dr. Siggie

Podcasts for Adults (fun and parenting)

Mindful Mama on Apple Podcasts (parenting - Raising Good Humans))
Belly Up (humor)
Generation Why
My Favorite Murder (comedy and true crime)
Morbid (true crime)
Unruffled (parenting)
Good Inside (parenting)
We Can Do Hard Things
I'm All In
The Mortified Podcast
Moms Don't Have Time to Read Books
Dave Ramsey
Bellied Up (comedy)
Read Aloud Revival