

See the Sights with a Park or Museum Pass By Laura Stoll, Assistant to the Director

With spring and summer almost here, it's time to make plans to get outside and enjoy the warm air, sunshine, and all of the activities that Central New York has to offer! If you want to explore some local parks and museums, stop at the Kirkland Town Library and borrow a pass for free or discounted admission.

To borrow a pass, just stop in the library with your card and browse what's available. All of our passes can be borrowed for seven days, but since they are in high demand, it's great if you can bring them back as soon as you're done. If you need to put it in the book drop, put it in an envelope so it doesn't get lost. Here are some of the adventures you can have!

If you're an animal lover, borrow one of four passes to the Utica Zoo. It provides half-off admission for up to four adults and six children. If you haven't been to the Zoo in a while, there are outdoor and indoor animal enclosures, a petting zoo, nature trails, and more. Starting May 24, you can experience Dino Discovery! According to their website, "Imagine the thrill of stepping into a world where life-sized dinosaurs roar, move, and immerse guests of all ages in a Jurassic experience like no other."

Animal enthusiasts can also borrow a pass for a discounted visit to the Fort Rickey Discovery Zoo in Rome. You'll receive half-off admission for up to four adults and six children. Fort Rickey opens for the season with limited hours on May 10. Their website says, "Fort Rickey is home to a variety of native and exotic animals, many of which are featured in daily hands-on educational presentations." As their long-ago theme song proclaimed, "It's fun for everyone!"

If these aren't enough creature choices, you can visit the Rosamund Gifford Zoo in Syracuse by borrowing the Onondaga County Parks Explore Outdoors Pass. You'll get free admission for up to four visitors so you can admire elephants, tigers, monkeys, and more. This pass also offers admission to Beaver Lake Nature Center, Highland Forest, Jamesville Beach State Park, Oneida Shores Park, and Pratt's Falls Park.

If you prefer a hands-on connection to nature, see what New York State Parks offer with the Empire Pass. It provides free admission at any State Park listed on their website, including locally: Delta Lake, Verona Beach, Chittenango Falls, and Green Lakes. Swim, hike, picnic, or just relax!

If the weather forecast predicts a day of indoor activities, you still have plenty of options. Head to Utica to visit Munson where the pass will provide unlimited admission to all exhibitions. Spring is a great time to see their latest exhibit, "Portraits of Flora: Flowers in American Art" (on view until May 11).

Two other indoor options are the MOST in Syracuse or ScienCenter in Ithaca, both hands-on science museums. Further afield is the Corning Museum of Glass, the world's most comprehensive glass museum, with more than 20 live demonstrations every day, hands-on activities in The Studio and Innovation Center, and 35 centuries of art and history. All exhibits and demonstrations are included with admission. The pass entitles you to one free adult admission.

If your travels take you to the Adirondacks, plan ahead and bring a pass to Adirondack Experience or Wild Center. Adirondack Experience, The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake, is more than just exhibits. "Step into the rich history of this region as you browse the museum, row

an authentic guide boat, break up a logjam, climb a classic ADK fire tower, or enjoy a family-friendly hike to Minnow Pond.” The pass provides 50% off admission for up to four adults or two adults and all children ages 17 and younger. Under five are always free.

Wild Center is recognizable for its elevated trail. From their website, “Walk up a trail of bridges to the treetops of the Adirondack forest. Visit a four-story twig tree house, swing on bridges, clamber over a spider’s web, or climb to the full-sized bald eagle’s nest at the highest point.” They also have live animals and hands-on exhibits. The pass admits two adults for \$10 each and gives free admission for four children ages 17 and under.