

National Kids Day family discounts available

In an unprecedented partnership, four of the nation's leading youth-serving organizations, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, 4-H, KidsPeace and YMCA have declared Sunday, Aug. 5, as the First Annual National KidsDay.

Together, these organizations serve 20 million kids across the country in 8,000 locations.

Mothers have a day. Fathers have a day. Presidents have a day. Even groundhogs have a day. But unlike many other countries, America hasn't appointed an official day to recognize and celebrate children.

In recent years we have heard too many tragic stories about

troubled youth. It is imperative that adults dedicate themselves to kids," said Len Krichko, President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan.

Meaningful times

"As a youth service organization, we recognize and understand the importance of spending meaningful time with kids."

At the recent U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting held in Detroit a resolution was passed endorsing National KidsDay. National KidsDay celebrations are planned in communities across the U.S. Celebrations will encourage adults to pledge to

spend meaningful time with a child and to recognize the important role that kids play in families and communities.

"National KidsDay is just as important to our nation's adults as to our youth," says YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit President and CEO Reid S. Thebaud. "The day focuses the needs of kids, like mentoring, positive role models and nurturing - the needs necessary for them to grow as strong, capable citizens."

In southeast Michigan, the sponsoring clubs are offering cultural opportunities to help children make lasting memories with their special child. Eight of

the areas finest cultural institutions have joined together to offer a "KidsDay Pass" which provides, in most cases, free admission to children when accompanied by an adult.

■ Cranbrook Art Museum - All children and full-time students free admission.

■ Cranbrook Institute of Science - 18 and under free with each paying adult.

■ Detroit Institute of Arts - children under age 17 free admission for the day.

■ Belle Isle Aquarium and Zoo - Free admission for 2 children with one paying adult for the day.

■ Detroit Historical Museums - Free admission for children 18 and under with each paid adult.

■ The New Detroit Science Center - with one adult IMAX admission child gets to see new film "Journey into Amazing Caves" for free.

As the national television sponsor for KidsDay, Detroit Public Television, PBS is also providing free tours of the studio.

National KidsDay was created because of continuing research that showed meaningful time is currently lacking. In the study "Ask the Children," author Ellen

Galinsky, president/founder of the Families and Work Institute, found that 44.5 percent of kids say that time with mom is rushed, and 37 percent say like wise with dad. Children in the study gave higher marks to their parents when the time spent together was not rushed but focused in shared activities.

KidsDay Passes are available at all participating cultural institutions, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, Blockbuster Video stores and all Detroit Public Library branches. For more information call Boys & Girls Clubs at (248) 473-1400 or YMCA at (313) 267-5300.

MDA summer camp fun for Farmington brothers, 9 and 11

Each year at Muscular Dystrophy Association summer camp, 11-year-old Alex Jones of Farmington looks forward to one special event - casino night.

After five years at camp, that night still tops his list of favorite camp activities. This year, Alex's brother, Ben, 9, joined him at camp. Both boys have a neuromuscular disease, but together with the help of their attendants, Amy Hepper, 21, of Warren and Jen McPherson, 17, of Hamburg, the boys spent the week making arts and crafts, playing sports and squirting volunteers with squirt guns.

"(Camp is) very uplifting and rewarding," Hepper said. "It's a lot of fun. There are so many different types of people here that there's no judgment."

Since 1955, young people ages 6 to 21 with neuromuscular disease have attended MDA summer camps. Hundreds of volun-

teers staff the camps and donate countless hours to ensure that each camper enjoys activities tailored to his needs.

Campers play a wide range of games including euchre, football and softball and participate in other activities, such as a magic show, crafts and a tug-of-war.

Television recognition

It costs MDA \$450 per child to provide the campers with this experience. The camp is underwritten entirely by the support of local corporations and individuals. These and other donors will be recognized on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2-3, during the Jerry Lewis MDA telethon on WB channel 20 Detroit. This year marks the 36th annual telethon.

Founded in 1950, the Muscular Dystrophy Association is a voluntary health organization dedicated to finding a cure for 40

■ 'It's very uplifting and rewarding.'

Amy Hepper
—camp counselor

neuromuscular diseases. MDA finances research worldwide and currently finances projects at the University of Michigan, Wayne State and Michigan State. MDA operates 230 hospital affiliated clinics across the country.

Local clinics are at Children's Hospital in Detroit and the Michigan Institute of Neuromuscular Disorders in Farmington Hills. Services include physical, occupational and respiratory therapy, genetic counseling and testing, social services consultation and year round patient care. For more information, call Emily Breuker or Carmen Strong at (810) 274-9090.



Summer camp: Ben Jones, 9, of Farmington, counselor Jen McPherson of Hamburg, Alex Jones, 11, also of Farmington and Amy Hepper of Warren take a break from making arts and crafts at MDA summer camp at Lexington recently.

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JCC offers Great Cities of Asia tour Nov. 25

What do Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Hong Kong have in common?

They're all stops on the Great Cities of Asia tour sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit.

The trip will take place Nov. 25 through Dec. 11 and include a cruise on the South China Sea,

tours, shopping, sightseeing and time for relaxing. During the trip, Rabbi Hal Greenwald, JCC director of Jewish education, will discuss the connection between Judaism and Eastern faiths.

As a follow up to the Asian trip, a one-day course, "Mindy, Body and Soul," is being planned with the JCC Health Club.

The course will explore the interconnectedness between spirituality and a healthy mind and body.

Anyone may join the JCC-hosted Great Cities of Asia trip.

For itinerary, prices and details, call Marilyn Wolfe, JCC

travel director, at (248) 432-5472.

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