



## Indoor Low-Cost Family Events and Activities- Fall/Winter 2025-2026



- **Minnesota Children's Museum:** Free Day-Free admission for everyone on the 1st Sunday of each month. Registration is required. All Play Program- Free and reduced priced memberships for low income, families on EBT, WIC, free/reduced school lunch and foster care families. Registration required. Visit <https://mcm.org> for more information. Address: 10 West Seventh Street, St Paul, MN 55012.
- **Science Museum of Minnesota:** Limited income discounts available to individuals at least 18 years of age and enrolled in qualifying public assistance programs. Registration required. Visit <https://www.smm.org/discounts> for more information. Address: 120 W Kellogg Blvd, St Paul, MN 55012
- **Works Museum:** Gateway Access program is for families with a demonstrated financial need. Eligible visitors receive discounted admissions, memberships, and camp. Visit <https://theworks.org/gateway> for more information. Address: 9740 Grand Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420.
- **Minnesota Historical Society:** Various locations. History-Connects (limited income program) is available for individuals who are at least 18 years of age and enrolled in a qualifying public assistance program. Proof of enrollment and completion of documentation required. \$4.00 admission for adults and children are free. Visit <https://www.mnhs.org/limitedincomeprogram> for more information.
- **Children's Theatre Company:** Act Pass program provides financial aid to attend performances, classes, and camps. Visit <https://www.childrenstheatre.org/tickets/act-pass-accessible-tickets> for more information. Address: 2400 3rd Ave South, Minneapolis, MN 55404
- **Stages Theatre Company:** Open Door Program provides free & reduced cost tickets, bus subsidies and tuition assistance to low-income families, schools, and social services agencies. Visit <http://www.stagestheatre.org/tickets/#opendoor> for more information. Address: 1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN 55343.
- **Minnesota Zoo:** Free zoo admission program provides free admission for qualifying families & their children. Must be enrolled in qualifying public assistance programs. No registration required. Visit <https://mnzoo.org/us/freetoexplore> for more information. Address: 13000 Zoo Boulevard, Apple Valley, MN 55124
- **Como Park Zoo & Conservatory:** Daily admission free. Open daily. Registration not required. Li'Explorers - free program each Thursday for 1-3-year-old children (any age is welcome) to meet animal and plant visitors, see story time, play games & other fun activities. Registration required. Visit <http://www.comozooconservatory.org> for more information. Address: 1225 Estabrook Drive, St Paul, MN 55103.
- **Mall of America:** Toddler Tuesdays includes events, free entertainment, & discounts especially for toddlers. Includes arts and crafts, story time & more. Registration not required. Visit <https://www.mallofamerica.com/event/feature/toddler-tuesdays> for more information. Address: 60 E Broadway, Bloomington, MN 55425.
- **Home Depot- Free Do-It-Yourself Workshop for Kids:** Free workshop 9am-12 noon on the first Saturday of every month for parents and children to create a project together. No registration required. Visit <https://www.homedepot.com> for more information. Address: Various locations.
- **Lowes Free Kids Workshops:** Registration required. <https://www.lowes.com/DIYU> Address: Various locations.
- **Wild Rumpus Bookstore:** Free Sensory-friendly story time occurs on the second Tuesday each month before the store opens to the public. Visit <https://www.wildrumpusbooks.com/sensoryfriendlystorytime> Address: 2720 West 43rd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55410.
- **Anoka County Library Events:** Free activities for children, youth, families, & adults. <http://www.anokacounty.us/2550/Locations-Hours> Address: Various locations.
- **YMCA: Free trial pass:** Offers discounted memberships, scholarship programs and financial help available. Health and fitness programs for the family, workout childcare available. Address: Emma B Howe. YMCA- 8950 Springbrook Drive, Coon Rapids, MN 55433, 763-785-7882. Andover YMCA. 15200 Hanson Blvd, Andover, MN 55304, 763-230-9622. Other locations: <https://www.ymcamn.org>



## Outdoor Low-Cost Family Events and Activities



· [Springbrook Nature Center](#): From toddlers to adults, programs are available to help you learn more about nature, cute critters & protecting our resources. Registration is required for select activities.

Visit <https://springbrooknaturecenter.org> Address: 1000 85th Ave, NE, Fridley, MN 55432

**Lantern Light Hikes**: Friday 6:30-8:30pm (scheduled once a month), \$5 per person, Registration required.

Dates: Check dates on website

**Snowshoe Rental**: rental fee \$5 per pair for use onsite.

· [Wargo Nature Center](#): Activities for youth, families and adults that create awareness, knowledge, & appreciation for our natural world. Registration required for select activities.

Visit <https://anokacountyparks.com/wargo-nature-center> Address: 7701 main St, Lino Lakes, MN 55038

**Activity Backpacks**: Free to use backpack filled with family-oriented activities to use onsite. Each backpack has a different Theme. Just stop by the front desk & ask for one to use.

**Snowshoe Rental**: rental fee of \$5 per pair for use onsite.

**Lunch with a Naturalist**: Free and registration is not required. Open for all ages. Bring your own lunch and join in on a Wednesday's from 11:30am-1pm on natural or cultural history. Check website for dates.

**Walk with a Naturalist**: Free for all ages, monthly on Saturday. Check website for dates & time.

**Winter Solstice Celebration**: FREE Saturday Dec 21, 3-7pm.

**Snow Day**: FREE Saturday January 25, 1-4pm. Try a variety of winter activities.

· [Sledding](#): Various locations. Free activity and bring your own sled. Visit

<https://www.familyfuntwincities.com/twin-cities-sledding-hills-guide/> for more information. George Enloe

Park: Lighted sledding hill. 631 Lund Blvd, Anoka

Wintercrest Park: Designated sledding hill. 10200 Woodcrest Drive, Coon Rapids

Sledding Hill: 10160 Foley Blvd, Coon Rapids

· [Snowshoeing](#): Various locations. A fun winter activity to get all ages outdoors exploring the beauty of winter. You can snowshoe anywhere in Minnesota's state parks & recreation areas, except on trails specifically groomed for activities such as skiing or snowmobiling. Visit:

[https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/snowshoeing.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/snowshoeing.html)

· [City of Anoka-Loaner Ice Skates](#): Lincoln Elementary Warming House. Loaner Snowshoes: George Enloe Park Warming House. Free to use but liability waiver must be signed with Ice Rink attendant

Visit <https://www.anokaminnesota.com/306/Skating-Rinks>

· [Anoka County Parks and Recreation](#): <https://www.anokacounty.us/372/Parks-Recreation>

· [Columbia Heights- Santa's City Tour](#)- Santa tours Columbia Heights by Firetruck collecting toys, followed by holiday festivities at Murzyn Hall 530 Mill St. See website for date TBA.

<https://www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/community/events.php>

· [Anoka Annual Tree Lighting Event](#): Free activities for the whole family. Sat Dec 7, 3-7pm. Address: City Hall River Plaza, 2015 First Ave North, Anoka. <https://www.anokaminnesota.com>

· [Champlin Tree Lighting Event](#): Friday Dec 5, Free, 4-7pm with Santa, cocoa, cookies, & carolers. 6:30pm tree lighting. Address: Mississippi Crossings 307 E. River Parkway <https://www.ci.champlin.mn.us>

· [Coon Rapids Ice Center](#): <https://www.coonrapidsicecenter.com/1317/Skating-Events>

· [Coon Rapids Tree Lighting Event](#): Sat. Dec 13, 3:30 to 6pm. Fireworks at 5:30pm. Santa, Cocoa, bonfires, & singing. Boulevard Plaza, 11000 Crooke Lake Boulevard. <https://www.coonrapidsmn.gov>

· [Ramsey Christmas Tree Lighting Event](#): at Ramsey City Hall, 7550 Sunwood Dr. NW. Dec. 2nd 6pm-8pm Photos with Santa, Cocoa, and Cookies.

