



PC2 for Developmental Disabilities Summer, 2024 ~ Volume 29, Issue 4



"JUST FOR FUN!"

SUMMER, 2024 EDITION

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FUN! TO DO THIS SUMMER?

CHECK INSIDE FOR EVENTS + ACTIVITY IDEAS



The "FOCUS" newsletter is a publication of the Pierce County Coalition for Developmental Disabilities (PC2) and is produced four times each year. It is available to view and download by visiting www.pc2online.org.

PC2 is comprised of both individuals & organizations of parents, guardians, professionals, & other partners interested in the well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities. Opportunities to

gain information, education, & networking are available through our newsletter, website at <u>www.pc2online.org</u>, topical meetings/forums, & our Resource Guide.

PC2 provides education on the legislative process regarding policies & funding which allow families & individuals choice, control, & flexibility.

The PC2 office is open are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Please visit anytime for information, resources, brochures, or help with Internet searches.

If you have info on classes, conferences, or events, or other items to share, please submit to:

PC2

3716 Pacific Avenue #A Tacoma, WA 98418-7836 253-564-0707 (T) | 253-564-0702 (F) | 1-877-DD-LINKS (T/F) E-mail: <u>info@pc2online.org</u> Web: <u>www.pc2online.org</u>



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FOLLOW US ON facebook

From the Director's Desk . . .

Dear Families & Friends of PC2:

It is with mixed emotions that I announce my retirement from PC2. I started here in 2012 and it has been my professional and personal pleasure to work with PC2 families in Pierce County.

PC2's Mission and Vision:

"Find, inform, educate, and empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families."

"All people with developmental disabilities have access to the services and programs that meet their needs."

These statements provide the guidance and focus for this wonderful organization. It is truly our commitment that all individuals in Pierce County have access to the services and supports they need.

I remember reading a book years ago that talked about your avocation and vocation. When there is a match between the two, people find joy in their day. While some of the advocacy situations we have encountered have been very challenging, we are committed to positive outcomes for our families.

I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to work with you and for the support that you have given to PC2 over the years.

The Board of Directors would like to announce their decision for my replacement. Michele Lehosky will be assuming the Executive Director position after a transition period. Michele and I will be working together as the duties and responsibilities are shifted to her, and we will spend the next few months working on this transition process.

Michele brings 40+ years of experience working in the developmental disability field, in addition to being the parent of a young man who experiences Down syndrome. Michele started her work in this field shortly after her son was born. She became active in Pennsylvania before moving to Washington state. Michele brings her knowledge, skills, and passion to this new role. She has been on staff with PC2 since last Summer and has been a great fit for our team.

I am looking forward to shifting the responsibilities to Michele. I have to admit that there is part of me that will miss working at PC2.

As always, we hope you enjoy this Summer FUN! issue of the *Focus* newsletter and are able to find plenty of ideas for events and activities for your loved one to be out and about in their community! Please also watch your email for updates to activities as we get additional announcements throughout the Summer.

Have a blessed Summer!

BethAnn

PC2: Empowering individuals with developmental disabilities and their families - since 1995!



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IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sorrow we announce the death of our beautiful Demara Marie Vandervort.

Demara was born on March 21, 2011 and passed peacefully in her sleep on April 10th, 2024.

Although she had only 13 years to make her mark on this world, she did it with grace and courage, an example to us all. A self-proclaimed Jesus follower and Spina bifida warrior, Demara spent her life focused on her blessings,



taking every challenge in stride. She enjoyed music, singing and dancing, playing wheelchair basketball, participating in Girl Scouts, and acting in school plays. She was inspired by her weekend at the Rollettes Experience (a wheelchair dance team) and by attending Camp Korey. She was a proud graduate of Geiger Elementary and a student at Hunt Middle School where she attended with her besties the "7 twinsies."

Demara's love for Jesus was manifested in the way she loved others. She was happiness on wheels, bringing joy to all who knew her, lighting up a room with her beautiful eyes and her sweet smile.

She taught us so many things in her short life, but most significantly, she regularly reminded us that there is always time for a good laugh, no matter how hard things might be. Demara was a gift to all who knew her, and she will be missed greatly.

She is survived by her loving parents, Doreen and Darren Vandervort, her sister Delilah, her best friend, Scarlett, grandparents Lynn and Bill Vandervort, Dolly and John Reed, and many aunts, uncles and cousins who loved her very much. She was welcomed into heaven by her Grandpa Don Dougherty and her Grandma Great Pat Sankovich, Grandpa and Grandma Hirsch and Grandpa and Grandma Vandervort as well as many uncles, aunties, cousins who loved her.

> "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16 NIV













Catch Rhubarb at the game



BIRDABILITY®

Meet your friends at from Sequoia TR and new friends from the Tahoma Bird Alliance (previously Tahoma Audubon) to learn about birds and their habitats. These are flat paved loops, perfect for all abilities. Naturalists teach us about the birds we see or hear. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Sunday, April 28th1:00 - 3:00 pm:Titlow Lodge, 8425 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA 98406, USASaturday, May 18th10:00 am - 1:00 pm:Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually Wildlife Refuge, 100 Brown Farm Rd NE, DuPont, WA 98327, USASaturday, June 8th10:00 am - 12:00 pm:Swan Creek, 2106 E 44th St, Tacoma, WA 98404, USA\$16.35 Registration | \$8 with scholarship

Birdability® is a registered trademark of Birdability, a Texas nonprofit corporation.







Going for a strike at Bowlero Lanes



Enjoying birdwatching during a Birdability® walk despite the rain

SEQUOIA SOCIAL

Have fun Monday afternoons playing games, creating crafts, and more in this 10-week session. Please bring a caregiver to assist you with your personal care needs. It's ok to bring a snack.

April 8 - June 17 Mondays 12:30 - 2:30 pm

\$264 Registration | \$135 with scholarship

Fircrest Presbyterian Church, 1250 Emerson St. Fircrest, WA 98466

BOWLING

Meet up and bowl 2 games each Wednesday for 10 weeks at Bowlero Lanes of Lakewood. Recreational bowling, no lane switching, all skill levels welcome. Registration fee includes shoe rentals and games. Let Sequoia TR staff know if you have friends you'd specifically like to bowl with. April 10 - June 19 Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:30 pm

\$207 Registration | \$105 with scholarship

Bowlero Lanes of Lakewood 3852 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood, WA 98499

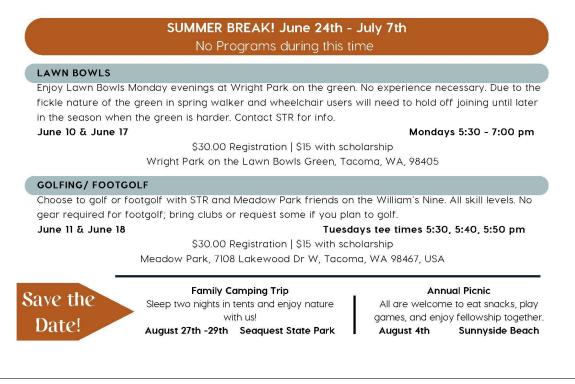




As of PC2's date of publication, Sequoia Therapeutic Recreation (STR) had not yet published their July-August events.

Please visit the STR website for more activity information. Summer registration will be live on June 3rd.

www.sequoiatr.org





Individual Services

Sequoia Therapeutic Recreation is a vendor providing DDA individual services to help folks meet their individual goals in the community as listed in their Individual Plans. Ask your Developmental Disabilities Administration Case Resource Manager if you qualify for Specialized Habilitation, Community Engagement, or Community Inclusion. See our website for more information.

Community Partners & Supporters

THANK YOU to the Names Family Foundation, Tahoma Bird Alliance, Tacoma Lawn Bowling Club, SAMi/TPS, Meadow Park Golf Course, Washington Trails Association, Spun, Manitou Park Presbyterian Church, Fircrest Presbyterian Church, Meadow Park Golf Course, Bowlero Lanes of Lakewood, and special thanks to all our volunteers and Sequoia supporters, We love our community!

Donate!

Consider supporting our programs and our scholarship fund by making a monetary donation on our WA Gives page. Thank you! https://www.waaives.org/organization/Seauoiati

About Us

Founded in Aug 2021, Friends of Sequoia Therapeutic Recreation (DBA Sequoia Therapeutic Recreation) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization providing inclusive community based therapeutic recreation activities one on one and in small groups for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families **Our Mission:** Cultivating confidence, friendships, joy, and respect.

Vision: To be well-respected and trusted Values: Sincerity, Honesty, Long-term relationships, Mutual Respect, Community



STR's Kodi and Kay Doty met with community partner and supporter the Washington Trails Association and made wonderful connections with other community organizations!

Sequoia TR is able to provide services and activities for the community thanks to grants, supporters, and donations. Special thank you to the **Names Family Foundation**. Every donation of time and financial contributions helps! Thank you. Follow our socials and check our website for the online Sequoia Spirit Wear store; opening soon...



STR was the Tahoma Bird Alliance Distinguished Service Community Award 2024 recipient!

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PICECC COUNTY PARAS <u>Pecialized</u> rec

Pierce County Parks SPECIALIZED RECREATION

CAN OTS OF

Sign up for one week at a time or all four weeks! DDA funds accepted & scholarships available. Please call to use DDA for payment 253-798-4199. Online registration not available for DDA payments.



Activities

- Arts & Crafts
- Games & Sports
- Sensory Play
- Science Experiments
- Special Guests
- Karaoke & more!

JULY 8-11 JULY 15-18 AUG 5-8 AUG 12-15

> ***New location! **Boze Elementary School** 1140 E 65th St. Tacoma, WA 98404

\$120

per week

Ages 5-17

More Information: 253-798-4199 | www.piercecountywa.gov/pcsr





PC2: Empowering individuals with developmental disabilities and their families - since 1995!



Pierce County Parks

SPECIALIZED RECREATION

EARTH EXPLORERS & CAMP PURSUIT JULY 1 - 3 (MONDAY - WEDNESDAY)

Earth Explorers Camp 9am - 12pm Our Environmental Educator friends from Pierce County Planning and Public Works will teach you all about the plants, trees, and

animals found in Pierce County. Cost \$60 Ages 13+

Camp Pursuit 12pm - 2pm

We'll build eye-hand coordination, creative thinking, and fine motor skills by participating in woodworking, art, and more! **Cost \$60 Ages 13+** Register for both camps for longer day!

2024



DDA funds accepted and scholarships available!

FOR MORE INFORMATION (www.piercecountywa.gov/pcsr) 253-798-2997 Specialized Recreation Summer Camps

Location: Meridian Habitat Park, 4422 Meridian E, Puyallup

Pierce County Paris Specialized rec

AGES 12 - 18

Introducing PCSR Teen Camp! Campers will head out on our accessible shuttle bus to Frontier Park each day for a nature walk and activity. Campers will also adventure out into the community each day and experience different recreational opportunities like bowling, mini golf, hiking and more!

\$120 FOR PER WEEK

JULY 22 - 25 & AUG 19 - 22 MONDAY - THURSDAY 9AM - 2PM

MERIDIAN HABITAT PARK 14422 MERIDIAN E, PUYALUP

Contact Karli Schwimmer, Recreation Coordinator with questions 253– 798–4186, KarliSchwimmer@piercecountywa.gov DDA FUNDS ACCEPTED FOR PAYMENT & SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE.

Pierce County Parks















EVENT CALENDAR

	NE	2024				County Purks
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Learn to Camp Campout
2 Big Band Dance Hall Hour	3 Wildlife Explorers Tae Kwon Do	4 Wildlife Explorers Belly Dance	5 Little Adventurers Low Impact Zumba Zumba Belly Dance	6 Tiny Tots Play Brides 4 Kidz® Coding Class Tae Kiwon Do	7	8 Kidz Kraze
9	10 Wildlife Explorers Tae Kwon Do	11 Wildlife Explorers Belly Dance	12 Little Adventurers Low Impact Zumba Zumba Belly Dance	13 Tiny Tots Play Tae Kwon Do	14	15 Foothills Dash
16	17 Wildlife Explorers Tae Kwon Do	18 Widlife Explorers Belly Dance	19 Juneteenth Administrative offices and some parks are closed Belly Dance	20 Tiny Tots Play Tae Kwon Do	21	22 Donut Dash 5K Tacoma Highland Games
23 Big Band Dance Hall Hour	24 Skyhawksi® Mini- Hawk Camp Tae Kwon Do Leam-to-Skate	25 Siyhawksili Mini- Hawk Camp Success Soccer Camp Belly Dance	26 Little Adventurers Low Impact Zumba Zumba Skyhawksi0 Mini- Hawk Camp Success Soccer Camp Belly Dance Learn-to-Skate	27 Tiny Tots Play Sighawks@ Mini- Hawk Camp Success Soccer Camp Tae Kwon Do Learn-to-Skate	28 Skyhawks® Mini- Hawk Camp Success Soccer Camp	29 Every Dog Adventures Sprinng Into Summer Fever ISI/Comepete USJ Competition
30 Big Band Dance Hall Hour	1	2	3	4	5	6

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1-2 Learn to Camp Campout

Does sleeping under the stars sound amazing? Is a s'more your idea of gourmet dessert? Is sitting around a fire your preferred form of evening entertainment? Join us for our very first Learn to Camp Campout where you will learn the essential "nuts and bolts" of tent camping. We'll have sessions on things like setting up your tent, fire building, campfire cooking, and basic plant ID's in addition to having games to participate in and activities like night hikes to go on, and more!



Kidz Kraze 8

Kidz Kraze is an opportunity for kids and their families to learn more about the resources offered in their community, enjoy bouncy houses, games, activities, crafts, food, info booths and more!

10:00 am-2:00 pm All Ages Volunteers Needed!

15 Foothills Dash 5K | 10K | Half Marathon

This fun and scenic race on the Foothills Trail in Orting is paved and provides flat areas with easy slopes which generally leads to faster finish times. for more serious runners. All distances are USATE certified and chip timed. Results will be made available online the week after the race. Runners must complete the course in four hours to be officially timed. Each runner receives a unique keepsake medal once they cross the finish line. Sponsored by Pierce County Department of Emergency Management.

- 1 7:15 am check-in (Half) 8:15 am Start 10 7:30 am check-in (10K) 8:30 am Start 83 7:45 am check-in (5K) 8:45 am Start Parking: Orting Main City Park 20 All Ages Check-in: Orting Skate Park 19496: \$35/Half Marathon 19497: \$35/10K Volunteers Needed!
 - 19498: \$35/5K

EVENT CALENDAR



Donut Dash 5K

Who doesn't LOVE donuts?! Enjoy a donut pit stop on the trail and more when you cross the finish line courtesy of Legendary Doughnuts! The 5K course starts and finishes next to the Orting Main City Park and is USA-TF certified and chip timed. The Foothills Trail is paved and provides flat areas with easy slops. Enjoy a pre-race warm-up hosted by Zumba with Lea, take a photo at the photo booth, and enjoy lawn games, coffee, and cocoa. Each participant will receive a keepsake medal once they cross the finish line.

👸 8:30 am check-in, 9:30 run start 🛛 😟 All Ages Volunteers Needed!

- 19312: \$20/Virtual

22 Tacoma Highland Games

Emotier Park



Every Dog Adventures 29

Being in the outdoors is an important part of keeping our dogs happy and healthy. Join us for this one of a kind gathering of experts in the field of adventuring with your dogs. We will have hiking demos, sustainable adoption practice information, and opportunities to learn about dog safety and care. Bring your furry friend and see how dogs can be part of your next adventures! Please leash and scoop while in the park.

2 10:00 am-1:00 pm Meridian Habitat Park Volunteers Needed!

Sprinker Recreation Center

All Ages 19576: FREE, Registration Reg

Skater entry info coming soon

29 Spring Into Summer Fever ISI/Compete USA Competition

This event is open to all figure skaters who are current members of ISI, Learn to Skate USA or the Lakewood Winter Club.

All Ages

SPRING/SUMMER 2024 WWW.PIERCECOUNTYWA.GOV/PARKS 🚧 Fierce County Pluds 🚹 📵 🖠 🐒

87 TBD





EVENT CALENDAR

		2024		ter staling v open		County Purks Adventures
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
30	1 Skyhawksill Basketball Camp Tae Kwon Do Learn-to-Skate	2 Skyhawksill Basketball Camp Belly Dance	3 Skyhawksili Basketball Camp Low Impact Zumba Zumba Belly Dance	4 Independence Day Administrative officies and some parks are closed	5	6
7	8 Siyhawksili Multi- Sport Camp Deep Roots Day Camp Eco Explorers Camp Tae Kwon Do Leam-to-Skate	9 Skyhawicsili Multi- Sport Camp Deep Roots Day Camp Eco Explorers Camp	10 Skyhawksiti Multi- Sport Camp Deep Roots Day Camp Eco Explorers Camp Low Impact Zumba Zumba Learn-to-Skate	11 Skyhawkolli Multi- Sport Camp Deep Roots Day Camp Eco Explorers Camp Tae Kwon Do Learn-to-Skate	12 Skyhawksill Multi- Sport Camp Deep Roots Day Camp Eco Explorers Camp Movies in the Park	13 Fast & the Furriest 5K Bark by the Bay
14 Big Band Dance Hall Hour	15 Wildlife Scavenger Hunt Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawks® Mini- Hawk Camp Steel Soccer Camp Tae Kwon Do Leam-to-Skate	16 Wildlife Scavenger Hunt Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawks® Mini- Hawk Camp Steel Soccer Camp Belly Dance	17 Wildlife Scavenger Hunt	18 Wildlife Scavenger Hunt Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawks® Mini- Hawk Camp Steel Soccer Camp Tae Kwon Do Learn-to-Skate	19 Wildlife Scavenger Hunt AKC Dog Show Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawks® Mini- Hawk Camp Steel Soccer Camp Movies in the Park	20 Wildlife Scavenger Hunt ARC Dog Show
21 Wildlife Scavenger Hunt AKC Dog Show Big Band Dance Hall Hour	22 Wildlife Scavenger Hunt Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawksill Soccer Camp Tae Kwon Do Leam-to-Skate	23 Wildlife Scavenger Hunt Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawksill Soccer Camp Belly Dance	24 Wildlife Scavenger Hunt	25 Wildlife Scavenger Hunt Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawksill Soccer Camp Tae Kwon Do Learn-to-Skate	26 Wildlife Scavenger Hunt Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawksill Soccer Camp	27
28 Golden Era Car Show Big Band Dance Hall Hour	29 Deep Roots Day Camp Bricks 4 Kidz® Camp Sicyhawks® Baseball Camp Tae Kwon Do Learn-to-Skate	Bricks 4 Kidz® Camp Skyhawks® Baseball Camp Belly Dance	31 Deep Roots Day Camp Bricks 4 Kidz® Camp Skyhawks® Baseball Camp Low Impact Zumba Zumba Belly Dance Learn-to-Skate	1	2	3



12 Movies in the Park "Lady and the Tramp"

Grab a blanket and your favorite lawn chair for a family friendly outdoor movie on our jumbo screen. This is a dog friendly night. Non-aggressive dogs are welcome, please leash and scoop. Special guest appearance by Emerald Kingdom Parties.

7:00 pm pre-show fun
 Movie starts at dusk
 Meridian Habitat Park

All Ages
 Concessions Available
 FREE

All Ages

U All Ages

FREE: \$10/parking



13 Fast & the Furriest Fun Run 5K

t3 8:00 am check-in. 9:00 run start

Grab your furry friends for a fun run prior to Bark by the Bay. The trail is fully paved, offers challenging hills and stunning views. Water will be available on the course for both dogs and human participants. Each participant will receive a keepsake medal once they cross the finish line.



13 Bark by the Bay

Browse canine vendors, indulge at the food trucks, explore dog activities and games including an art project and treat hunting. Our off-leash play and water zones are sure to entertain your pooch for a long time. The event will also feature adoption opportunities, costume contest, parade of breeds, giveaways and a photobooth. Plus, enjoy agility, training and flyball demonstrations throughout the day. Puget Sound Pet Food Bank will be onsite accepting dog and cat food, treats and gently used items.







15-26 Wildlife Scavenger Hunt

Learn all about the animals that inhabit our parks while completing this fun scavenger hunt. Collect a scavenger hunt form and answer a series of short questions about the wildlife signs you spot. Return your completed form for a prize. Limit of one prize per person.

9:00 am-4:00 pm Cross Park Ages 4+ FREE



19 Movies in the Park "The Super Mario Bros."

Grab a blanket and your favorite lawn chair for a family friendly outdoor movie on our jumbo screen. Special guest appearance by Emerald Kingdom Parties.

7:00 pm pre-show fun
 Movie starts at dusk
 Meridian Habitat Park

All Ages
 All Ages
 Concessions Available
 FREE

19-21 AKC Dog Show

Frontier Park
% www.TacomaKennelClub.org

28 Golden Era Car Show

Frontier Park & https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100079616174848

SPRING/SUMMER 2024 WWW.PIERCECOUNTYWA.GOV/PARKS 6 Ferre County Plants 6 @13



					Pierce (r Creek Regional Park
AU	GU	DI	2024			ADVENTURES
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1 Deep Roots Day Camp Bridis 4 Kidz® Camp Skyhawks® Baseball Camp Tae Kwon Do Leam-to-Skate	2 Deep Roots Day Camp Bricks 4 Kidz® Camp Skyhawks® Baseball Camp	3 Kite Festival Rainier Music Festival
4 Kite Festival Big Band Dance Hall Hour	5 Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawksill Volleyball Camp Summer Cool Camp Eco Explorers Camp Tae Kwon Do Leam-to-Skate	6 Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawksill Volkeyball Camp Summer Cool Camp Eco Explorers Camp Belly Dance	7 Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawksite Volleyball Camp Summer Cool Camp Eco Explorers Camp Belly Dance Learn-to-Skate	8 Pierce County Fair Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawksill Volleyball Camp Summer Cool Camp Eco Explorers Camp Tae Kwon Do	9 Pierce County Fair Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawksik Volieyball Camp Summer Cool Camp Eco Explorers Camp	10 Pierce County Fair Star Gazing
	12	12		Learn-to-Skate	10	47
11 Pierce County Fair Sig Band Dance Hall Hour	12 Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawksill Rag Foot- ball Camp Tae Kwon Do Leam-to-Skate testing	13 Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawks® Flag Foot- ball Camp Belly Dance	14 Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawks® Rag Foot- ball Camp Belly Dance Learn-to-Skate testing	15 Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawks® Flag Foot- ball Camp Tae Kwon Do Learn-to-Skate testing	16 Deep Roots Day Camp Skyhawksill Rag Foot- ball Camp	17 NW Chapter America Truck Show Family Campout
18 Mopar Car Show & Swap Meet Big Band Dance Hall Hour	19 Skyhawksill Multi- Sport Camp Eco Explorers Camp Bricks 4 Kidzill Camp Steel Soccer Camp Tae Kwon Do	20 Skyhawksill Multi- Sport Camp Eco Explorers Camp Bricks 4 Kidzill Camp Skell Soccer Camp Belly Dance	21 Skyhawksili Multi- Sport Camp Eco Explorers Camp Bricks 4 Nidzili Camp Steel Socier Camp Belly Dance	22 Skyhawksi® Multi- Sport Camp Eco Explorers Camp Bricles 4 Kidz® Camp Steel Soccer Camp Tae Kwon Do	23 Skyhawks® Multi- Sport Camp Eco Explorers Camp Bricks 4 Kidz® Camp Steel Soccer Camp	24 Classic Car & Truck Show Mommy & Me Tea Party
25 Big Band Dance Hall Hour	26 Tae Kwon Do	27	28	29 Tae Kwon Do	30	31

14 () 🔞 🥢 Frence County Plants WWW.PIERCECOUNTYWA.GOV/PARKS SPRING/SUMMER 2024

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FREE: \$10/parking

Volunteers Needed!

8-11 Pierce County Fair Frontier Park & www.PlerceCountyFair.com



Star Gazing 10

Bring your picnic blanket, headlamp or flashlights, comfortable shoes, binoculars, and a list of wishes as we check-out the early evening Perseid Meteor Shower along with the summer constellations. Staff will assist the exploration, demonstrate telescope use, guide a night hike along the trail, help you take AMAZING night sky photos, and plenty more still in the works!

38:00-11:00 pm Ashford County Park

H Al Ages 19377: \$5

17 NW Chapter American Truck Show

Frontier Park P www.facebook.com/groups/1621739518062373/

Mopar Car Show & Swap Meet 18 Frontier Park & www.AllAroundMopars.com

EVENT CALENDAR



17-18 Family Campout

Enjoy a night sleeping under the stars! We provide a host of activities including lawn games, family activities, Lego® building with Brickz 4 Kidz® and a PG rated movie when it's dark! Saturday dinner will be provided with s'mores to follow. Continental breakfast is also included on Sunday morning. Bring your tent (no campers or RVs), blankets, flashlights and lanterns and get ready for a great time in the outdoors with family and friends. Space is limited, register early! Sorry, but no pets allowed.

1:30 pm-11:00 am Volunteers Needed!

All Ages Chambers Creek Regional Park 6 19314: \$30/18yr+, \$25/17yr-



24 Classic Car & Truck Show Stroll through the vintage vehicles at the 21st Annual CARSTAR HI-Tech

Collision Classic Car & Truck Show, meet the owners, vote for your favorite vehicle, and enjoy the beautiful park while browsing the car vendors. Open to vehicles 1991 and older.

2 8:00 am-3:00 pm · All Ages Spanaway Park

SFREE: Spectators 19303: \$15/Classic Car Entry by Aug 18

Mommy & Me 24 Tea Party



Moms and kids join us for a special day of tasting teas made from native plants, decorating a teacup planter to start your own tea garden, creating a native plant bouquet, and other fun activities while creating special memories that will last a lifetime.

10:00-11:30 am · All Ages 19363: \$25 (first two people) Cross Park SPRING/SUMMER 2024 WWW.PIERCECOUNTYWA.GOV/PARKS 🎆 Ferrer County Parts 🚹 📵 1 5

PC2: Empowering individuals with developmental disabilities and their families - since 1995!

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10:00 am-4:00 pm

Chambers Creek Regional Park



EVENT CALENDAR

COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER...



Touch-A-Truck

Does your child have a love for trucks and large vehicles? Kids of all ages will love to climb, run around, sit in, and honk horns of many types of trucks and vehicles. A special no horns time is scheduled from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. for sensory sensitive children. Come explore a fire engine, dump trucks, command center, bucket truck, striper truck, tractor, military vehicles, school buses and so many more.



14 Frontier Park Fall Yard Sale



10 9:00 am-3:00 pm Frontier Park Barns









14 Chase the Rainbow 5K

It's time to get COLORFUL! Before the race starts, we'll get ready with a group color throw in the central meadow. Colored powder, bubble and water stations as well as colorful balloon arches will be placed along the course for extra pizazz. Enjoy a pre-race warm up hosted by Zumba with Lea, take a photo at the photobooth, play lawn games, and afterwards visit a food truck. Each participant will receive a keepsake medal!

1 8:30 am check-in, 9:30 run start 🙂 All Ages Volunteers Needed! 19317: \$20/Virtual



14 Ashford Field Day

We'll have the amphitheater field setup for large gr p games, provide guided nature walks, and craft projects that you can take home. Plus, we'll be raffling prizes. It'll be a great fun-filled day for the whole family!

过 11:00 am-3:00 pm 🙂 All Ages Ashford County Park FREE



16-27 Dog Days of Summer Scavenger Hunt

It's the end of summer and our furry friends have been spotted lounging all over Cross Park and the Naches Trail Preserve. Come and see if you can find them all Collect a scavenger hunt form and answer short questions about the signs you see. Return your completed form for a prize. Limit of one prize per person. Please note: dogs are NOT permitted at Naches Trail Preserve.

10 9:00 am-4:00 pm Cross Park



16 🚯 🞯 🥢 Feree County Parts WWW.PIERCECOUNTYWA.GOV/PARKS SPRING/SUMMER 2024









ADAPTIVE CAMPS

DESIGNED TO EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS WITH MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS TO ENJOY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, LIKE BIKING OR HIKING, In a supportive environment.

ADAPTIVE & SENSORY-FRIENDLY

PARALYMPIAN CAMP	JUL 22-25	GRANT ELEMENTARY	AGES 6-15
HIKE & BIKE CAMP	AUG 19-23	LISTER ELEMENTARY	AGES 6-15
END OF SUMMER Bike & BBQ BASH	AUG 24	SWAN CREEK PARK	ALL AGES

SENSORY-FRIENDLY CAMPS

DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE A WIDE RANGE OF SENSORY SENSITIVITIES AND OFFER CUSTOMIZED ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE AN ENRICHING Experience for Campers.

WONDERFUL WATER CAMP	JUL 8-11	MARY LYON ELEMENTARY	AGES 6-11 & 12-17
BEAUTIFUL BUGS CAMP	JUL 15-18	MARY LYON ELEMENTARY	AGES 6-11 & 12-17
SPACE CAMP	JUL 29-AUG 1	MARY LYON ELEMENTARY	AGES 6-11 & 12-17
DINO DISCOVERY CAMP	AUG 5-8	MARY LYON ELEMENTARY	AGES 6-11 & 12-17
ANIMALS OF THE PNW CAMP	AUG 12-15	MARY LYON ELEMENTARY	AGES 6-11 & 12-17

FIELD TRIP FRIDAYS

FIELD TRIP FRIDAYS ARE INTENDED TO AUGMENT THE SENSORY-FRIENDLY CAMP EXPERIENCE. LINKED WITH SENSORY-FRIENDLY CAMPS, THESE Field Trips are open to all and encourage caregivers and/or one sibling to join. Separate registration for field trips is redured. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from the field trip location.





For more information, please visit: www.metroparkstacoma.org/camps

Motro I	APBS CAL	2PS
OUTDOOR A		
HIKE & BIKE CAMP, AGES 10-15	EXPLORE SWAN CREEK TRAILS WITH TWO WHEELS OR	ON YOUR OWN
and the second sec	TWO FEET. THIS CAMP IS GEARED FOR BEGINNER HIK	ERS AND BIKERS.
JUNE 24-28 & JULY 22-26	MEET AT EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER	9 AM-4 PM
OUTDOOR ADVENTURES CAMP, AGE	S 10-15 EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS THROUGH KAY Rock Climbing and Hiking All While	AKING, CANOEING, Meeting New Friends.
JUN 24-28, JUL 22-26, AUG 26-30	MEET AT TITLOW PARK LODGE	9 AM-4 PM
OUTDOOR ADVENTURES MINI CAMP.	AGES 10-15 JOIN A 3-DAY MINI ADVENTURE TH	ROUGH WESTERN
JUL 1-3	MEET AT TITLOW PARK LODGE	OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. 9 AM-4 PM
and the second se		
ISLAND CAMP, AGES 10-15 KAYAN DIFFE	K AND CANOE TO EXPLORE ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH SOU Rent Island every day!	VD. WE WILL VISIT A
JUL 7-12	MEET AT TITLOW PARK LODGE	9 AM-4 PM
TITLOW ADVENTURE CAMP, AGES 10	D-15 LEARN OUTDOOR SKILLS THROUGH HANDS ON Exploring the trails and coastline of t	ACTIVITIES WHILE
AUG 12-16	MEET AT TITLOW PARK LODGE	9 AM-4 PM
	THROUGH THE CENTRAL CASCADES ON	
BACKPACKING CAMPS BACKPACK	//TWO NIGHT TRIPS WITH EXPERIENCED OUTDOOR LEAD	JERS.
INTRO TO BACKPACKING JUL 1-3	MEET AT TITLOW PARK LODGE	AGES 12-16
INTM. BACKPACKING JUL 7-12	MEET AT TITLOW PARK LODGE	AGES 14-18
WOMEN'S BACKPACKING JUL 29-31	MEET AT TITLOW PARK LODGE	AGES 12-16
WATER ADVENTURES LEARN HO	W TO KAYAK, CANDE AND GO SWIMMING Autiful Local Waters.	9 AM-4 PM
KAYAK CAMP JUL 15-18 & AUG 12-15	MEET AT TITLOW PARK LODGE	AGES 12-16
CANOE CAMP JUL 29-AUG 2	MEET AT TITLOW PARK LODGE	AGES 10-15
CAMP AGUA AUG 5-8	MEET AT TITLOW PARK LODGE	AGES 10-15
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NUP AT METROPARKSTACOMA.ORG	CAMPS	

For more information, please visit: <u>www.metroparkstacoma.org/camps</u>

CAMPS FOP INDIVIDUALS WIGH SPECIAL NEEDS

Camps for Individuals with Special Needs

Free Camps

Camp Agape Northwest in Gig Harbor - Overnight camp for kids with cancer and their families

Camp Amanda in Walla Walla – Weekend camp for children aged 8-14 who've experienced a significant loss in their life

Camp Discovery in Stanwood - Overnight camp for children who suffer from epilepsy

Camp Erin in Everett, Seattle, Tacoma, and Lewiston – Day and overnight camps for youth and families grieving the death of a significant person in their lives, run by eluna

Camp Mariposa in Everett and Vancouver – Day and overnight camp for youth affected by the substance use of a family member, run by eluna

<u>Camp Prime Time</u> near the White Pass Ski Area – Overnight camp for families with a serious/terminally ill or developmentally disabled child(ren)

Camp Promise in Mt. Vernon – Overnight camp ages 6 years or older who have neuromuscular disorders

<u>Kiwanis Camp Casey</u> in Blaine – Day and overnight camp for those aged 6-17 that are mildly to severely physically challenged

Camps Partnered with Lifespan Respite

<u>Black Diamond Camp</u>* in Auburn – Summer day camps for children aged 5–12, overnight camp for middle and high school students

Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County - Day camps for Club members at additional fee

<u>Camp Beausite Northwest</u> near Port Townsend – Summer camps for individuals 7 and older who have IDD or physical disabilities

Camp Dart-Lo in Spokane – Day camp for Pre-K through 8th grade, run by Camp Fire Inland Northwest

Camp Dudley near the White Pass Ski Area – Overnight camp for children aged 7-15, run by the Yakima YMCA

Camp Lutherhaven* at Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho - Overnight camp for grade school students

Camp Sealth on Vashion Island – Overnight and Day camps for school-aged kids, run by Camp Fire Central Puget Sound

Camp Stand By Me in Vaughn – Overnight camp for those with disabilities aged 7 and up, run by Easterseals of Washington

Camp Sun Sparrow* in Greenwood – Day camp for individuals with IDD aged 15 and older, run by Warm Beach Camp

*Denotes religious camp

www.lifespanrespitewa.org

To access the list with live links, please visit: <u>https://www.lifespanrespitewa.org/camps-for-individuals-with-special-needs/</u>

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Camps for Individuals with Special Needs

Camp Sweyolakan on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho – Overnight camp for grade school children and day camp for grades 1-6, run by Camp Fire Inland Northwest

<u>Champ Camp</u>* at Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho – Overnight camp for people with special needs, 8 and older with a 1:1 staffing, or all ages if attending with caregiver, run by Lutherhaven Ministries

Community Care in Seattle – Therapeutic day camp for children over 5 that have behavioral health issues.

Coyote Central in Seattle - Day camp/creative courses for 10-15-year-olds

CSTOCK Community Theatre Camp in Silverdale – Day camp for ages 4-18

Empowering Strides in Snohomish – Equine therapy day camp for kids aged 5-12 who are neurodivergent or have behavioral health problems

Four Star Farm in Graham - Day camp with horse training and riding

<u>Funshine Day Camp</u> in Spokane – Day camp for ages 6 and up for individuals with disabilities, run by the City of Spokane Parks & Recreation Therapeutic Recreation Services

Metro Parks Tacoma - Day camps for ages 4 and up, including adaptive & sensory friendly camps

Ocean Park Camp* - Overnight camp for grade school children and families

Premier Northwest Kids in Snohomish - Preschool classes and day camp for ages 4-10

Seattle Playgarden - Summer day camp for ages 3.5-21 years old with and without disabilities

TROT in Kennewick - Adaptive riding day camp for 4 and older

Vancouver Elite Gymnastics Academy - Gymnastic and dance day camp for children 3-16

Warm Beach Camp* in Greenwood - Runs horsemanship day camp and family overnight camp

Camps for Individuals with Special Needs and Conditions (not affiliated with Lifespan Respite)

Camp Killoqua in Stanwood – Day and Overnight camps for children grades 1-12, run by Camp Fire Snohomish County

Camp Leo in Auburn - Overnight camp for grades 3-12 who have Type 1 Diabetes

Camp Spark in Vancouver - Sports camp for aged 8-21 athletes who are blind or visually impaired

Camp Zanika at Lake Wenatchee – Overnight camp for children in grades 1-12, run by Camp Fire North Central Washington

Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp - Overnight camp for ages 12 and up that have developmental disabilities

<u>New Horizons Camp</u>* on Vashon Island – Overnight camp for adults with disabilities, run by Camp Burton

*Denotes religious camp

www.lifespanrespitewa.org

To access the list with live links, please visit: <u>https://www.lifespanrespitewa.org/camps-for-individuals-with-special-needs/</u>



Upcoming Activities



Movie in the Park Saturday, July 27, 2024; film starts at dusk (approx. 8:45 pm), Wright Park

So1 South I St Tacoma, WA 98406



Summer Bash at Norpoint Saturday, August 10, 2024; 2 pm Center at Norpoint

4818 Nassau Ave NE Tacoma, WA 98422



Summer Bash at Stewart Heights Park Saturday, August 17, 2024; 2 pm Stewart Heights

S715 Reginald Gutierrez Ln Tacoma, WA 98404



Summer Bash at STAR Center Friday, August 23, 2024; 6 pm STAR Center

3873 S 66th St Tacoma, WA 98409 Free! Join us for a family-friendly movie in Wright Park. Film starts at dusk (8:45 pm).

Pack your snacks, blankets and lawn chairs and head to Center at Norpoint for a free outdoor movie for the whole family.

Pack your snacks, blankets and lawn chairs and head to Stewart Heights Park for a free outdoor movie for the whole family.

Pack your snacks, blankets and lawn chairs and head to STAR Center for a free outdoor movie for the whole family.

For more information, please visit

https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/activities-and-sports/category/annual-events-festivals/summer-bash-outdoor-movies/





For more information, please visit <u>https://cityofpuyallup.org/2273/Concerts-in-the-Park</u>

	PC		20	B E	eli	F	ð
PenMet Parks Parks For All. Parks For Life.	Every Wednesday Noon to 1:30 PM Volunteer Vern Pavilion Sehmel Homestead Park	Move to Music June 5 • Make and listen to music • Dance and exercise	Musical games Mostal games Sensory exploration Harbor Friendship Social June 12 . Visit with conduct	 Art project interios Art project interios Seasonal crafts Walk outdoors Join the Happy Feet 	Walking Group June 7 Friday 10:30-11:30 AM Sehmel Homestead Park	Pierce County Specialized Recreation Saturday Morning Meet-Up	June 8 & IS 9 AM - 12 PM Vern Pavilion
AR	SAT		8 PCSR Sat. Meet-Up	IS PCSR Sat. Meet-Up	22	29	
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SPECIALIZED RECRE	NOM		2	Q	71	24	
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For more information and additional Summer activities, please visit: https://penmetparks.org/specialized-recreation/





2024 Caregiver Conference

June 21st 9am-3pm

Presented by Pierce County Human Services and the Health Care Providers Council of Pierce County



PIERCE COUNTY CAREGIVER CONFERENCE 2024

"CAREGIVING: IT TAKES A VILLAGE"

Presented by Aging and Disability Resources and the Health Care Providers Council of Pierce County

Join us in person on Friday, June 21st for the annual Pierce County Caregiver Conference! Participants will hear presentations from subject-matter experts that offer information and practical skills for caregivers of adults.

This Conference will feature dynamic speakers on key topics including dementia caregiving, fall prevention, adaptive equipment, managing difficult behaviors, caregiver stress, nurse delegation and safety, and advocating for a loved one in a facility. There will also be plenty of break time to visit vendor tables and learn about local resources for support.

Lunch is provided for attendees and five DSHS Continuing Education credits are available.

For more information, please visit: <u>https://www.piercecountywa.gov/8413/Caregiver-Conference</u>





Summer Resource Fair Feria de recursos de verano



The Amara Family Resource Center is hosting a free Summer Resource Fair! Children of all ages and their families are invited to visit for free activities, games, and to learn about resources available in the community!



3501 104th Street E. Tacoma, WA 98445







For more information, please email <u>mthomps@tacoma.k12.wa.us</u>



PARENT CLUB

Food, resources & connect with other parents!

WEDNESDAY11AM - 1230PMMay 15Sept. 18July 17Nov. 20

EASTSIDE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

3569 E. Roosevelt Ave. Tacoma

LUNCH PROVIDED RSVP HERE





For more information, please visit: www.ontheroadwpc.org





For more information, please visit: www.ontheroadwpc.org

www.ontheroadwpc.org • 6824 19th ST W, PMB 280 University Place, WA 98466

Waser States Fair - 2024

August 30 - September 22 Visit <u>www.thefair.com</u> or call (253) 845-1771 for more information.

Event / Concert	Date	Time
Foreigner	8/30/24	7:30 pm
Lauren Daigle with Blessing Offor	8/31/24	7:30 pm
Wiz Khalifa with Travis Thomp- son	9/1/24	7:30 pm
Happy Together Tour	9/2/24	6:30 pm
Sawyer Brown	9/5/24	9:15 pm
Nate Smith	9/6/24	9:15 pm
Ernest	9/7/24	9:15 pm
Parmalee	9/8/24	7:30 pm
Theory of a Deadman with Black Stone Cherry	9/9/24	7:30 pm
Kidz Bop	9/11/24	6:30 pm
Walker Hayes with Tanner Adell	9/12/24	7:30 pm
Matchbox Twenty with Beauty School Dropout	9/13/24	7:30 pm
Ne-Yo with Gym Class Heroes	9/14/24	7:30 pm
TobyMac with Leanna Crawford	9/16/24	7:30 pm
Alabama with Alex Miller	9/18/24	7:30 pm
Thomas Rhett	9/19/24	7:30 pm
Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias	9/20/24	7:30 pm
Bryson Tiller	9/21/24	7:30 pm
Steve Miller Band	9/22/24	7:30 pm
Rodeo	9/5/24	6:30 pm
Rodeo Parade & Cattle Drive	9/6/24	10 am
Rodeo	9/6/24	6:30 pm
Rodeo	9/7/24	1 pm
Rodeo Finals	9/8/24	1 pm

Schedule subject to change ; accurate as of press time.



SENIOR FARMERS MARKET

NUTRITION PROGRAM



Program Details

From May 1- Oct 1, eligible seniors can apply for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program and receive funds to purchase produce from participating farmers markets and roadside stands. If approved, you will receive an Electronic Benefits Card with \$80 pre-loaded for the season.

APPLY ONLINE

PierceCountyWA.gov/farmersmarket

Program Criteria

Be a WA State resident (apply in your county of residence)

60+ years old (55+ if Native American or Alaska Native)

X Meet income criteria below:

- \$2,322 for 1 person household
- \$3,151 for 2 person household

Add \$829 for each additional person in household

Request a paper application from the Aging and Disability Resource Center

253-798-4600

Please visit the website for more information and for program materials in other languages: <u>www.piercecountywa.gov/farmersmarket</u>



https://www.lovetabitha.com/pierce-county-family-friendly-summer-fun-2024/ (Visit the link for other Pierce Co. city events.)

May 25- June 16, 2023 Tacoma Trails Challenge – We're celebrating National Trails Day (June 2) with a fun three-week exploration of Tacoma's parks and trails. Register online (free) today and get ready to join us from May 25-June 16, to connect, explore, and discover your local Tacoma parks and trails. Being in nature is good for your mental health!

Summer Playground & Meal Program – Monday- Friday, July 1-August, 2024 (no program July 4) When school's out, parks are in! Our Playground and Lunch Program provides free lunch to all youth under 18 years of age Monday-Friday. In addition, activities and games are led by staff at all sites from 10 am-3 pm. Lunch is served from 12 to 1 pm.

Low Tide Walk's – Join Harbor WildWatch for a fun and educational public beach walk program on the stunning shorelines of the Salish Sea. Our knowledgeable and friendly biologists and volunteer naturalists will guide you through a hands-on exploration of the intertidal zone, where you will discover the incredible diversity of marine life that calls our local waters home.

Low Tide Beach Walk's – aka Tiptoe through the Tidepools, Bring your family to explore the beach, learn about tide pool life and have lots of fun during some of the lowest tides of the year. A naturalist will guide low-tide beach exploration. This event is free!

Tuesdays during the summer! Storytime for Little Spark Plugs – ACM welcomes toddlers and their caregivers for our brand new, in-person Storytime for Little Spark Plugs! Join us to meet new friends, enjoy interactive stories and action songs, and play in ACM's hands-on Family Zone. 10:00-11:00am, register here.

June 22, 2024 Lincoln District Food Walk – 12pm-7pm Tacoma's favorite street food festival is back! Save the date for Lincoln District Food Walk! Enjoy food trucks, restaurants specials, a michelada beer garden, music, and more! Shop the pop-up marketplace curated by Tacoma Sunday Market.

LeMay Motors & Movies – Grab dinner at our picnic concessions and watch in your car or from a blanket, either option will provide you a great view of the 40-foot tall outdoor screen. Motors & Movies is FREE and open to all ages, no RSVP required, first come first served. Gates for parking 6:00 pm, Movie Start Time: Sunset June 28 – Movie TBD July 12 – Movie TBD August 9 – Movie TBD

Family Nature Walk's – Explore Tacoma parks during these seasonal, naturalist-led family walks. Discover amazing plants and animals and how they adapt in the different seasons.

June 1 – Wapato Hills, 10-11am June 1– McKinley Park, 1-2pm

June 1-2, 2024 Pt. Defiance Flower & Garden Festival – Visitors to the event will enjoy a showcase of gardening in the Pacific Northwest with hands-on programming, garden tours, food trucks, shopping, lectures, live music, a beer and wine tasting garden and more.

June 19, 2024 Juneteeth Celebration – Stewart Heights Park, 11am-5pm. A Road to Economic Freedom event which boasted over 8,000 in attendance, national recording artists, state and local dignitaries, 100 plus vendors, the Miss Juneteenth Pageant and performances by local talent and artists, we are happy to announce that we are doing it again!!

June 22, 2024 Lincoln District Food Walk – 12pm-7pm, Tacoma's favorite street food festival is back! Save the date for Lincoln District Food Walk! Enjoy food trucks, restaurants specials, a michelada beer garden, music, and more! Shop the pop-up marketplace curated by Tacoma Sunday Market.

June 22 & 23, 2024 Pt Defiance Zoo Pride Celebration - free with admission, 9am-4pm

June 24 (12:30-2:30pm), July 6 (11am-1pm), July 21 (11am-1pm), August 19 (10:30-12:30 pm), 2024 Explore the Shore – Owens Beach, Join naturalists from Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and stroll along the beach at low tide to learn about the animals there.

June 24-August 30, 2024 Summer Late Nights – Monday-Friday, 5-10 pm at various locations. Middle and high school students will have a free place to get dinner and hang out with friends every weeknight this summer. Summer Teen Late Nights are held across Tacoma, with schools, community centers and non-profits opening their doors to keep teens safe and engaged. Middle and high school students can get dinner every night and participate in open gym, art and music activities, and hang out with friends.

This is a drop-in program and students can attend as often as they like. Students can drop in at the site assigned to them or the location nearest their home. Parents/guardians are encouraged to register their child online on the Compass/Family App. FREE

June 28-29, 2024 Tacoma Ocean Fest - Tacoma Ocean Fest returns to the Foss Waterway Seaport.

June 28-29, 2024 and beyond! Incredible art, music, dance, film, poetry, science and water fun bring our community together to celebrate the ocean, learn about its threats and get inspired to protect it.

Lantern Paddle for Species: 7-10pm June 28 Beach Clean-Up: 10am-12pm June 29 Festival: 10am-5pm June 29

June 28, 2024 – Critter of the Month- Join our Park Guide Darnell at STAR Center on the last Friday of the month as we learn about animals through stories, games, crafts and more. Free! 12:00pm

July 4th, 2024 Tacoma Summer Blast – This annual event takes place on Dune Peninsula and the iconic Ruston Way Waterfront and features two distinct event footprints, over 150 vendors, 2 stages and a 20-minute firework display. This event is the largest free community event in the South Sound. 12pm-10:30pm

July 19, 2024 Family Fun Night at Fort Nisqually – Enjoy summer at the Fort with the whole family. Bring a picnic dinner to enjoy in the shade of the locus trees. Kids of all ages enjoy 19th century games, music, and the firing of the candy cannon! 6:00pm -9:00pm, tickets available soon

July 26, 2024 – Critter of the Month- Join our Park Guide Darnell at STAR Center on the last Friday of the month as we learn about animals through stories, games, crafts and more. Free! 12:00pm

July 27-28, 2024 Mosaic Tacoma Arts & Cultural Festival – Wright Park 12pm-7pm. Great news for summer festival fans! MOSAIC continues its 36-year tradition of bringing together a kaleidoscope of dance, music, art, food and family fun, set under the shady trees of Wright Park.

August 3 & 4, 2024 Pt Defiance Zoo Wild Cat Weekend - free with admission, 9am-5pm

August 6, 2024 National Night Out – 3-8pm at People's Community Center. Come to People's Center on August 6 for a night out with your neighbors!

Summer Bash & Outdoor Movie – Pack your snacks, blankets and lawn chairs and head to the park for a free outdoor movie for the whole family. Seating is on the lawn, so attendees are encouraged to bring blankets or folding chairs.

August 10 – Center at Norpoint – Activities begin at 2 pm, Movie begins at dusk

August 19 - Stewart Heights Park - Activities begin at 2 pm, Movie begins at dusk

August 10-11, 2024 Brigade Encampment – 11am-5pm, Step back in time to 1855 at Fort Nisqually Living History Museum's annual Brigade Encampment. This event recreates the bustle and excitement of the historic visit of fur traders to Fort Nisqually in 1855. Witness the arrival of the brigade (the convoy that delivered a year's worth of furs) and spirited contests between trappers and traders. Guests of all ages can participate in "Engage for the Day," visiting with living history interpreters at their tents and receiving hands-on lessons on period skills, games and skills of the time and collecting beads in trade along the way. Delight in food sampling from our period kitchen, take in a Punch and Judy Puppet Show by Professor Petitcoat, listen to a history talk. This two-day event has something for everyone! Tickets available soon.

August 24, 2024 – Adaptive End of Summer Bike & BBQ Bash at Swan Creek Park, 11am-1pm. (All Ages) Come celebrate the end of a successful summer with us! We will have our adaptive cycles out and available to try out while BBQing and sending off the summer. Participants are welcome to bike, hike, and explore the park on their own and visit the pavilion for lawn games, socializing, and BBQ. \$6 per person, register online.

August 24, 2024 The Hilltop Street Fair – Tacoma's largest street fair, from 11:00am to 7:00pm. This much-anticipated event promises a one-of-a-kind experience for all who attend, featuring over 130 vendors, 20 food stalls offering delectable treats, an unforgettable live music lineup, and also a kid's play area and bouncy houses in People's Park. Furthermore, the highly anticipated car show, returning with added grandeur, beckons car enthusiasts from far and wide.

August 24, 2024 Mommy & Me Tea Party – Come and delight in a unique event where you can savor teas crafted from native plants, design a charming teacup planter for your very own tea garden, craft a lovely bouquet from native plants, and engage in a variety of other enjoyable activities that will help you create unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime. 10-11:30 at Cross Park. Pre-register online, \$25 per couple.

August 30, 2024 – Critter of the Month- Join our Park Guide Darnell at STAR Center on the last Friday of the month as we learn about animals through stories, games, crafts and more. Free! 12:00pm

August 31- September 2, 2024 Pt Defiance Zoo End of Summer Blast - free with admission, 9am-5pm

oss Waterway Seaport. ence and water fun and get inspired to 2pm June 29 Center on the last and more. Free!





Before we had kids, my husband and I traveled as often as we could — we hiked in Patagonia, Chile; roamed around Ireland by car; and honeymooned in Bali. Then our first child, Max, had a stroke at birth that resulted in <u>cerebral palsy</u>. Kids can put a bit of a damper on your wanderlust. A kid who has a disability can make parents feel alarmed at the mere thought of navigating an airport. But over the years, I've learned some key pointers. Here are my 10 essential tips for traveling with kids with disabilities.

1. Contact the hotel, cruise line or attraction before leaving home.

Call to ask about accommodations and modifications for children who use wheelchairs, who have visual or hearing limitations, or who are sensitive to sensory overload. When traveling with a child who has special dietary needs, let the hotel reservation manager know or ask to speak with someone from the dining area.

When there's a kids camp you'd like to use, ask the program manager how they can work with your child. We did this for our Disney Cruise, and while they typically only let in kids who are toilet trained and my then 6-year-old wasn't, we agreed that they'd give us a pager if he needed changing. For the most part — hotels, cruise lines and attractions are willing to work with us. They just need some notice.

2. Call the airline 24 hours in advance.

That's when you can request bulkhead seating (the first row of seats in Coach), which means more room for you to stretch out and less hauling of your child to the nether regions of the plane. Just don't get too jealous of being one row away from First Class.

3. Do not hesitate to ask for help at the airport.

If your kid is scared of crowds and may have a melt down in the airport security line, then tell a security guard. They will often let you move to the front of the line, and don't you dare feel one bit guilty about that. Do you want to upset travelers with the sound of your child's wails? Nope. Also, when you're in a large airport, ask for an electric cart to transport you to the gate. Bonus fun ride for kids!

4. Use toys, snacks and technology as distraction.

Tablets and smart phones are child crack, no more so than on a plane or long car ride. Make sure to download several of your child's favorite TV shows and movies before take-off. Also, pack a bag with little surprise travel toys in it for your child. Include goodies from the Dollar Store, a box of crayons, a cute little note pad, stickers, and packaged snacks like Goldfish and Valium (wait, that's for you \Box). Let your child pick a surprise out of the bag every so often during the ride.

5. Honor your child's interests.

If your child is into, say, toy trucks, I am not suggesting you bring the entire fleet of Tonka trucks, but

try to pack one miniature version and a few favorite books and other playthings. It is worth the haul. Being in an unfamiliar setting can unnerve kids who have disabilities; it's comforting to have familiar objects along.

6. Bring inflatable pool toys.

When deflated, pool toys don't take up much room in your luggage, but you will save millions of dollars (or close to it) by not having to purchase them at the hotel. They're also a great way for getting other kids to meet your child so bring a couple of extra inflatable pool toys along!

7. Do not panic if you forget medicine or other important stuff.

Unless you are traveling to some remote location, there are pharmacies and stores where you can buy swim diapers and other necessities. And there are concierges and hotel managers who know how to navigate around seeming impossibilities. That said, it's a good idea to travel with a copy of prescription medications, a list of all your child's doctors with their phone numbers, and his or her medical history (you know, in case you run out of magazines to read).

8. Steal some time for yourself.

This is your vacation, too, and nobody deserves a break more than you. One winter vacation we went to South Seas Island Resort on Captiva Island in Florida. I called ahead and requested an experienced babysitter who had worked with kids with special needs, and we got a great one. Some hotel and cruise line kids camps hire staff who specialize in working with disabled children, too.

9. Do not covet what you cannot have.

For parents whose children are unnerved by the din of restaurants, like Max is, the same will hold true of restaurants in beautiful, breezy locations.

When I'm planning a trip, I'll search CHOWHOUND and Yelp for local places with outdoor seating areas, which don't unnerve him. Max is also content with bringing food into the room from takeout places. Some restaurants that don't have takeout, per se, can accommodate orders to go. Room service can also be a handy perk when traveling with disabled kids. If room service isn't in your budget, then consider ordering in from a service like GrubHub instead.

10. Learn more about traveling with kids who have special needs.

Parents and caregivers of children with disabilities may also find the following resources helpful in planning their family's travels:

- Let's Explore with Cor Cor – A picture book that shows how children with disabilities can have fun traveling the world.

- *Tips for Traveling with Kids on the Autism Spectrum* – Learn how to travel with kids with autism from a family travel expert.

- *Must-Visit Wheelchair Accessible Attractions Around the World* – Discover 10 wheelchair-friendly destinations that all ages love.

- *Tips for Traveling with Children with Food Allergies* – A guide for exploring the world with kids who have serious food allergies.

Remember these tips for traveling with disabled kids! Your real life is filled with a million musts. This is vacation. Let go. Just let go.

By Ellen S., Travel Mamas Guest Blogger, June 30, 2020 About the Author: Ellen S. writes a daily blog, Love That Max, about parenting, juggling life, trading tips and advice, laughing at the insanity it all. It's also about raising a child with special needs.

https://travelmamas.com/10-commandments-of-traveling-with-a-child-whohas-special-needs/



BE SAFE, BE WELL, + TAKE CARE.

AND FROM ALL OF US AT PC2, HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!



Sequoia Therapeutic Recreation Summer Catalog Link: <u>https://www.sequoiatr.org/activities</u>

Pierce County Specialized Rec Summer Catalog Link: <u>https://www.piercecountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/135392/24PCSR-</u> <u>Q2-Guide-DIGITAL419?bidId=</u>

> Pierce County Adventure Guide Link: https://www.piercecountywa.gov/1247/Adventure-Guide

