

Affordable Family Activities on Long Island



Updated 5/2017

South Country Library
22 Station Road
Bellport, NY 11713
631-286-0818
www.sctylib.org

Free Family Activities on Long Island

Avalon Park & Preserve

200 Harbor Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790
631-689-0619

Open all year long

Fee: Free

www.avalonparkandpreserve.org/

Take a walk through beautiful fields of wildflowers and observe different wildlife. Don't forget to bring some bread to feed the geese at the pond. The park is not stroller friendly.

Brookhaven's Volunteer Firefighters Museum

Fireman's Memorial Park
Route 25 (Middle Country Road)
Ridge, NY 11961
631-924-8114

Call for Hours

Fee: Free, donations appreciated

www.angelfire.com/ny5/brookhavenfiremuseum/

The museum is the restored 1889 Centre Moriches Fire House and contains two floors of firematic apparatus, photos, equipment, patches, old toys, badges and extinguishers. A second Truck House Building has six trucks including a 1956 85' Seagrave Ladder, a 1943 Brush Truck and a Class "C" Racing Rig.

The Big Duck

1012 Flanders Road
Flanders, NY 11901
631-852-3377

Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-5pm, Saturdays 10am-3pm, Sundays 10am-5pm

Fee: Free

www.bigduck.org

The Big Duck, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, overlooks Reeves Bay in Flanders.

Holtsville Ecology Center & Animal Preserve

249 Buckley Road
Holtsville, NY 11742
631-758-9664

Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am-3pm; Weekends & Holidays: 10am-3pm. Closed Weekends January-March and Holidays.

Fee: Free (There is a \$5 parking fee per car).

www.brookhaven.org/Departments/Highway-Department/Wildlife-Ecology-Center/Animal-Preserve

Features an exercise-trail fitness course. A zoo and ecology center, featuring: buffalo, mountain lions, eagles, and a children's petting zoo. Ecology exhibits and tours, free compost, greenhouses, and a picnic area. Contact for special events/programs.

Museum of Natural History

Central Park West at 79th Street,
New York, NY, 10024-5192
212-769-5100

Suggested Adult: \$22, 2-12 years old \$12.50, 60 or older: \$17.00.

Hours: Open daily 10am-5:45pm

www.amnh.org

Suggested General Admission, which supports the Museum's scientific and educational endeavors, includes admission to all 45 Museum halls and the Rose Center for Earth and Space. Museum visitors have the opportunity to pay more or less than their ability

Nature Explorium @ The Middle Country Library

101 Eastwood Blvd.
Centereach, NY 11720
631-585-9393 ext. 107

Hours: Open seasonally. See website or call for the most current hours.

Fee: Free

www.natureexplorium.org

An outdoor learning space for children and families. Whether they're reflecting on a poem under a willow tree, climbing on a tree stump, or expressing artistic talent through song and dance on the Play It stage, children will discover the gift of nature.

New York Hall of Science

47-01 111th Street
Queens, NY 11368-2950
718-699-0005

Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:30am-5pm; Saturday & Sunday: 10am-6pm

Fee: \$16 adults; \$13 children ages 2-17, seniors, and students. Free general admission Fridays 2pm-5pm and Sundays 10am-11am. *Free hours are suspended in July and August.* Access to: Science Playground, 3-D Theater, and Mini-golf are available at an additional cost.

www.nysci.org

A visit to NYSCI is a hands-on, energetic educational experience where you can indulge your curiosity and nurture your creativity. NYSCI offers professional development for teachers, produces curricula and resources for classrooms, and studies how technology and play affect how we learn.

Other Resources

South Country Library

South Country Library offers free museum passes to library card holders for many various museums across Long Island. Please stop by the Children's Desk for more information.

Bank of America

www.museums.bankofamerica.com

If you own a Bank of America or Merrill Lynch card you should take advantage on the first weekend of every month— all for free. Each card holder gets free general admission to 150 museums nationwide.

Bronx Zoo

2300 Southern Boulevard,
Bronx, NY 10460
718-220-5100

Hours: Daily: 10am-5pm; Weekends & Holidays: 10am-5:30pm

www.bronxzoo.com

Wednesday is a suggested donation day. Suggested donation is \$16 for adults, \$12 for children, and \$14 for seniors. Museum visitors have the opportunity to pay more or less than their ability. There is a \$13.00 fee for parking.

Brookhaven Parks & Recreation

631-451-8696

www.brookhaven.org/Departments/Parks-Recreation

This department strives to provide the very best that Brookhaven and Long Island has to offer and to enhance the quality of life for residents. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Sports, and Cultural Resources is responsible for over 170 various parks, sports complexes, playgrounds, ball fields, beaches, pools, recreation centers, marinas and docks. Aside from these locations we have many historical sites such as the Longwood Estate. If you enjoy playing golf, check out our golf courses – The Millpond in Medford and Rolling Oaks in Rocky Point. In the mood for an outdoor concert or movie, check out the Pennysaver Amphitheater at Bald Hill.

Home Depot – Kids Workshop

Any Home Depot location

Hours: First Saturday of each month between 9am-12pm

Fee: Free

www.workshops.homedepot.com/workshops/kids-workshops

The workshops are free, how-to clinics designed for children ages 5-12, available at all Home Depot stores. Children accompanied by an adult, use their skills to create objects that can be used in and around their homes or communities.

Lakeland County Park

Johnson Avenue
Islandia, NY 11760
631-853-2727

Hours: Office/Restrooms open Memorial Day – Labor Day.

Fee: Free

www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Parks/Parks/LakelandCountyPark.aspx

Includes a nature trail boardwalk over the head-waters of the Connetquot. Picnic area with gazebo, boardwalk, shuffleboard and basketball court.

Long Island Live Steamers

Southhaven Park
Brookhaven, NY

Hours: May-October 10:30am-3pm

Fee: Small donation of your choice.

www.longislandlivesteamers.org/

This railroad model club has made mini-trains that you and your kids can ride on! There is also a picnic area.



Quogue Wildlife Refuge

3 Old Country Road
Quogue, NY 11959
631-653-4771

Hours: Refuge Trails & Distressed Wildlife Complex are open every day from sunrise to sunset.

Nature Center Building is open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday 11:00am – 4:00pm.

Fee: Free

www.quoguewildliferefuge.org

The center is a 305-acre expanse of protected land with over seven miles of trails where you can explore a variety of habitats. The main trail is wheelchair and stroller friendly and all of the trails can be enjoyed in every season. There is also a Distressed Wildlife Complex which houses animals that have been injured and would not be able to survive in the wild.

Suffolk County Farm & Education Center

350 Yaphank Avenue
Yaphank, NY 11980
631-852-4600

Hours: Open Daily 9am-3pm (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas & Easter)

Fee: Free, but you must sign-in at Visitor's Center

www.ccsuffolk.org/suffolk-county-farm

Visitors are able to see a century old working farm which still holds a tie to the past through the historic hay barn, while showcasing present-day agriculture. You can visit with the farm animals and even feed them with food purchased at the main desk.

Sweetbriar Nature Center

62 Eckernkamp Drive
Smithtown, NY 11787
631-979-6344

Hours: Office is open Monday-Friday 9am-4pm; Saturday & Sunday 12pm-4pm. Preserve is open Daily 8:30am -4:00pm. Vivarium is open daily 10am-4pm (In Season).

Fee: Free, donations accepted. Butterfly House: \$5 general admission; \$3 seniors and children under 12.

www.sweetbriarnc.org

Includes 54 acres, hiking with views of Nissequogue River and a butterfly house. Mock rain forest. Long Island Greenbelt Trail runs through the preserve. Wildlife rehabilitation with eagles, hawks, and owls.

Sag Harbor Whaling and Historical Museum

200 Main Street
Sag Harbor, NY 11963
631-725-0770

Hours: Open seasonally each April. Check website for current hours. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm.

Fees: \$6 adults; \$5 seniors & students; \$2 children 11 and under

www.sagharborwhalingmuseum.org

A collection of historical objects related to the village's whaling history, as well as the presentation of contemporary exhibits and events that reflect the culture of the village today.

Shinnecock Nation Cultural Center and Museum

100 Montauk Highway & Westgate Road
Shinnecock Reservation
Southampton, NY 11969
631-283-6143 ext. 14

Hours: Open Thursday-Sunday 11am-5pm

Fees: \$8 adults; \$5.50 seniors or students; \$4.75 children ages 5-12; children under 5 are free

www.shinnecockmuseum.com

This museum houses 10,000 years of Shinnecock history that features murals, totems, a replica of a wigwam, jewelry, mounted animals, weavings, and photos.

White Post Farm

250 Old Country Road
Melville, NY 11747
631-351-9373

Hours: Seasonal hours— call for hours

Fee: \$10.00 CASH ONLY

www.whitepostfarms.com

With over 3,000 animals and 25 acres of fun and play, White Post Farm is full of free-range fun for the whole family. Attractions include an animal farm, fun rides, bird landing, playgrounds, and much more. Parking is free.

Wood Kingdom

544 Middle Country Road
Coram, NY 11727
631-451-2200

www.woodkingdomeast.com

Hours: Monday– Wednesday 10am-3:30pm; Thursday-Friday 10am-11:30am

Fee: Monday– Wednesday is \$8.00 per child; Thursday-Friday is \$6.00 per child

The Kids get to play on our great bouncers and climbers, cookies and juice are included and Mom can have a cup of coffee on us!

Family Activities \$10.00 and Under per person

Benner's Farm

56 Gnarled Hollow Road
East Setauket, NY 11733
631-689-8172

Hours: Check calendar for updated visiting hours and programs.

Fee: \$8 Adults; \$6 Children, plus tax (includes food for animals)

www.bennersfarm.com

Visit with the animals, walk through the nature trails, and enjoy the world famous swing in the woods! Each admission includes give a cup of feed for the animals.

Hallockville Museum Farm

6038 Sound Avenue
Riverhead, New York 11901
631-298-5292

Hours: Guided-Tours: May-Columbus Day Weekend Fridays & Saturdays: Tours are at 12:15, 1:15, 2:15.

Self-Guided Tours: All year, Weekdays 12pm-4pm;
Weekends May-December only

Fee: \$7 for adults, \$5 for children and seniors

www.hallockville.com

Hallockville Museum Farm is a non-profit organization dedicated to re-connecting the community to our shared agricultural heritage. We invite you to visit for a museum tour, attend an educational class or workshop, bring your friends and family to the special events, fairs and festivals throughout the year!

Ice Skating Rink

Mitchell Park
Greenport, NY 11944
631-477-2200 ext. 2

Hours: Hours of operation are weather permitting

Fee: \$5 adults; \$3 children under 18 years weekdays. \$7 includes rentals. There is a price increase on the weekends; please refer to the website for more details.

www.greenportvillage.com/mitchell-park-ice-skating-rink/

Long Island Science Center

21 N. Country Rd.
Rocky Point, NY 11901
631-208-8000

Hours: September-June: Saturdays 11am-4pm; Summer Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 11am-4pm

Fee: \$7 per person, children under 2 are free

www.lisciencecenter.org

Hands-on science and technology museum with interactive exhibits for kids.

Family Activities \$6.00 and under per person

1920's Antique Carousel

Mitchell Park, 115 Front Street
Greenport, NY 11944
631-477-2200

Summer Hours: Open daily 10am-9pm, closing through Labor Day Weekend, Columbus to Nov.30th 10am-6pm. See site for additional hours.

Fee: \$2 for adults and children over 3; children under 3 are free but must be accompanied by a paying adult

www.villageofgreenport.org/carousel-greenport-village.php

Bring the kids to ride the carousel, or ride along and let the Carousel bring the kid out in you! Try to capture the Brass Ring and win a free ride.

Blacksmith Shop

On the dock, West of Claudio's
Greenport, NY 11944
631-477-2100

Hours: June-September: Saturday & Sunday 11am-5pm
All other times by reservation.

Fee: \$2

www.greenportvillage.com/blacksmiths-shop/

A replica of the village blacksmith shop, dating back to the year 1870. Families can tour this shop and watch a professional blacksmith at work.

Children's Maritime Explorium

Waterfront, Adjacent to the Port Jefferson Village
Community Center
631-331-3277

Hours: Saturdays & Sundays 1pm – 5pm

Fee: \$5 per person

www.maritimeexplorium.org

Come explore and learn about Long Island: A Working Waterfront. Children can visit various centers, such as "Engineer a Water Wheel", "Operate a Water taxi", "Design a Dock", "Open a Store", "Load Cargo", "Bail a Boat", and more. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery & Aquarium

1660 Route 25A
Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724
516-692-6768

Hours: Open daily 10am-5pm (June-August open Saturday & Sunday 10-am-6pm).

www.cshfishhatchery.org

The Hatchery is proud of having the largest living collection of New York State freshwater reptiles, fish, and amphibians. Visitors are given a self-guided tour sheet and can purchase food to feed the hungry trout. Check their calendar for special events and programs. 5

Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum

301 Main St.

Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

631-367-3418

www.cshwhalingmuseum.org

Hours: Saturday & Sunday: 11am-5pm;

Tuesday-Friday 12pm-4pm

Fee: \$6 for adults; \$5 for children and seniors; \$20 per family (up to 6 people); Children under 3 & military members are free. **Sundays 11am—12pm is “pay what you wish”**

www.cshwhalingmuseum.org

Features a 19th century whaleboat, whaling history exhibits, scrimshaw collection, whale conservation exhibits, Family Activity Center, films, special events and changing exhibits.

Custer Institute & Observation

1115 Main Bayview Road

Southold, NY 11971

(631) 765-2626

Hours: The observatory is open Saturday evenings from dark until midnight (you can't see much unless it's dark!)

Fee: Minimum suggested donations: \$5 for adults; \$3 Children under 14; FREE for Members.

www.custerobservatory.org

The Custer Institute and Observatory is Long Island's oldest public observatory (est. 1927). Open to the public every Saturday evening from dark until midnight, our staff of volunteers will give you a tour of the facilities and the night sky through our powerful telescopes. Custer has frequent lectures, classes, concerts, art exhibits and other special events.

East End Seaport Museum & Marine Foundation

3rd Street, in the former railroad station

Greenport, NY 11944

631-477-2100

Hours: Memorial Day-June 30: Weekends 11am-5pm; July-Labor Day: Wed-Sun 11am-5pm; Labor Day-Halloween: Fri-Sun 11am-5pm. Nov-Dec, Fri-Sun 11am-4pm.

Fee: \$2 per person; ages 15 and younger are free

www.eastendseaport.org

The museum boasts an array of exhibits on the maritime heritage of the area, including displays on the Greenport menhaden fishing industry, the oyster industry, lighthouse lenses, a model ship of the USS Ohio and more. There is also a gift shop.

Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge

2595 Noyak Rd.

Sag Harbor, NY 11963

631-286-0485

Hours: Refuge hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

Fee: \$4.00 per vehicle

www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges/morton.html

The nature trail at Morton passes through upland areas and onto the beach. You can then follow the peninsula for almost 2 miles, travel an upland trail or visit a brackish pond (partial beach closure April 1st – August 31st).

Long Island Science Center

21 N. Country Rd.

Rocky Point, NY 11901

631-208-8000

Hours: Winter: Saturdays 11am-4pm. Vacation weeks, please call for availability.

Summer: Tuesday-Saturday 11am-4pm.

Fee: \$5 per person. Under the age of 2 is free.

www.lisciencecenter.org

Hands-on science and technology museum with interactive exhibits of bubbles, magnets, structural engineering, archeology, and more.

Michael's Craft Store: Kids Club

2799 Route 112, Medford, NY 11763

(631) 758-1835

Hourse: Select Saturdays—Check the online calendar

Fee: \$2 per child

www.michaels.com

Drop in. Take home a completed project. 30 minutes of creative craft fun, supplies included. Ages 3 and up.

South Shore Nature Center

130 Bayview Avenue

East Islip, NY 11730

631-581-6908

Hours: Nature Center: Open Daily 9am-5pm; Visitor Center: Open Weekends 1pm-4pm

Fee: \$2 Residents; \$4 Non-Residents

www.seatuck.org

The 200-acre preserve stretches to the shores of the Great South Bay. It includes forests, freshwater wetlands and a salt marsh. An extensive network of trails and boardwalks are open to visitors. Visitor center provides interactive exhibits and collections of both live animals and mounted wildlife specimens and dioramas.