

THE Fun TIMES



WINTER 2016 - DECEMBER - JANUARY - FEBRUARY



Find your place
at Recreation & Parks

A joint publication of the City of Ocala Recreation & Parks Department
and the Marion County Parks and Recreation as a service
to their residents and visitors.

PARKS AND RECREATION

www.OcalaFl.org

www.marioncountyfl.org

■■■ MARION COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION UPCOMING PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES ■■■

All programs are limited in size - PRE-REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT (IF APPLICABLE) IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS.
Register for county recreation programs by going online at www.MarionCountyFL.org/Parks

ADULTS

ARCHERY 101 FOR ADULTS

Wednesdays / 3 p.m.
Session I - Dec. 2-23 / Session II - Jan. 6-27
Session II - Feb. 3-24

A beginner archery program for adults. Meets at Brick City Adventure Park. Cost is \$20 /month (4 classes).

ECO TRAM TOURS

Carney Island / Jan. 17 / Feb. 11
Sunnyhill Restoration Area / Dec. 10 / Feb. 7

Tour nature trails where local wildlife reside while riding on our accessible tram that can accommodate people with disabilities. Participants must advise staff of special accommodation requests at the time of registration. Fee is \$10 /person. Tour time is 9 a.m. Meet at site location and may require park entry fee.

EVENING NIGHT HIKE

Carney Island / Dec. 5
Experience nature with a leisurely walk along the trails at Carney Island. Meet at 6 p.m. and don't forget your flashlight and bug spray. Fee is \$5 /person. Park entry fee required.

EXPLORE MARION COUNTY - INTERPRETIVE NATURE WALK

Tuesdays / Dec. 1 - Baseline Trailhead / Dec. 15 - Blue Run Park of Dunnellon / Dec. 22 - Ross Prairie / Jan. 12 - Yearling Trail / Jan. 26 - Carney Island / Feb. 9 - Marshall Swamp Trailhead / Feb. 23 - Ocklawaha Prairie

Adult participants should be in good health and able to leisurely walk with rest stops for up to 2-3 hours. Group meets at 8:30 a.m. at Brick City Adventure Park to travel to walk location, or you can meet at the designated park location. Fee is \$1 per-person. For those riding in the van it is \$2 per-person (van space limited to 10 people and must be registered upon sign up).

KAYAK 101 AT CARNEY ISLAND

Saturday / Age 10 and up / Dec. 5 / Jan. 16 / Feb. 6
Introductory kayak program providing basic instruction to the inexperienced paddler. Equipment provided. Program fee \$15/person, plus the park entrance fee. Class meets at 9 a.m.

KAYAK AND KOFFEE®

Rainbow River (KP Hole®) - Thursdays / Dec. 3 / Jan. 7 / Feb. 4
Silver River (Silver Springs State Park) - Thursdays / Dec. 17 / Jan. 21 / Feb. 18

Ideal for beginners and those interested in nature / wildlife viewing. Equipment provided. Fee is \$24, plus the park user fee. Meet at 9:30 a.m.

KAYAK OUTING

Ocklawaha River (Ray Wayside to Gores Landing) / Dec. 19
Ocklawaha River (Gores Landing to Eureka East) / Jan. 23
Rainbow River (KP Hole®) / Feb. 13
Silver River / Dec. 12 / Jan. 9 / Feb. 6

Kayak outings for the experienced paddler. Participants are to meet at the designated launch site by 9 a.m. Fee is \$35 / person plus the park user fee. Equipment provided.

MOONLIGHT PADDLE

Rainbow River (KP Hole® Park)
Jan. 24 / Feb. 21
Paddle the Rainbow River under the light of the moon. Launch from KP Hole® and paddle to the head springs. Equipment provided. Fee \$35/person (equipment provided) or \$20/person using your own equipment. Launch will vary based on moonlight schedule.

PRIVATE KAYAK OUTINGS AND KAYAK 101 ARE AVAILABLE.
PLEASE CONTACT MARION COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION AT 352-671-8560 TO ARRANGE A PRIVATE TRIP /CLASS. PLEASE NOTE THAT EQUIPMENT PROVIDED INCLUDES KAYAK, PADDLE AND LIFE JACKET.

MARION COUNTY SENIOR SOFTBALL

Men 55 and up / Women 50 and up
Monday / Wednesday / Friday
Interested in getting back into the swing of it? Bat swing, that is. Fee is \$25 player per season. Winter season underway at this time but the league welcomes new players. Call 352-671-8560 for more information.

PICKLEBALL (DROP-IN)

Tuesdays / 9 a.m. / 6 p.m. / Coehadjoe Park / On-Going
Drop in pickleball meets on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Join other players of various skill levels. Equipment is available for sign out with a deposit at Parks office. A Pickleball 101 class is offered the first Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

ARCHERY 101 / Ages 8-16

Wednesdays / 4:15 p.m.
Session I - Jan. 6-27 / Session II - Feb. 3-24
Introductory archery program. Meets at Brick City Adventure Park. Cost is \$15 /month (4 classes).

HOME SCHOOL ART & CRAFT PROGRAM

Brick City Adventure Park
Wednesday / Ages 5-9 / 9 a.m.
Wednesday / Ages 10-15 / 10:15 a.m.
On-going home school art program for youth ages 5-15 meets each Wednesday thru the end of May. No program on school holidays. Class is limited to 25 students. Fee is \$20 / month per child.

HOME SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION CLUB

Brick City Adventure Park
Wednesday / Ages 5-9 / 10:15
Wednesday / Ages 10-15 / 9 a.m.
Our on-going "HPER Club" is offered each Wednesday continuing through the end of May. The program encourages teamwork, strategy and fair play in a social setting. No program on school holidays. Fee is \$12/month per child.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE FOR HOME-SCHOOLERS

Monday / Ages 9-15 / Dec. 14 / Jan. 11 / Feb. 15
Program participants meet at Brick City Adventure Park at 9 a.m. Participants must pre-register. Park sites and activities vary and may include kayaking, paddle boarding, hiking, etc. Parents are welcome to participate. Cost is \$15/person.

SPRING BREAK OUTDOOR FUN CAMP

Brick City Adventure Park
Monday-Friday / March 21-25 / 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Ages 9-15 / \$95 per child
A week of outdoor fun with a variety of recreation activities that may include nature exploration, hiking, kayaking (age relevant), fishing, crafts, etc. Before-and-after camp care (7:30-8 a.m. and 5-5:30 p.m.) included.

R.O.C.K. REDDICK BASKETBALL

Historic Reddick Gym
Basketball program for youth ages 8-14 is currently underway. Interested youth not currently registered may contact the Marion County Parks Office for a possible opening on a team. Cost is \$20 / person. Practices are held on Wednesday nights and games on Saturdays. Games run Dec. 5th - Jan. 30th (No games on Dec. 26th and Jan. 2nd). Online registration starts Nov 3rd.

FAMILY CAMPOUT

Carney Island
Saturday 2 p.m.-Sunday 11 a.m. / Dec. 5-6 / Feb. 20-21
Family campout offers an enjoyable outdoor recreation experience for the entire family. Activities may include: nature hike, kayaking, night walk and craft activity (weather dependent). Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast provided. Children must be at least 8 years old. Fee is \$40 for a family of two and \$15 for each additional family member. Fee includes tents/camping equipment, meals and snacks. Participants must provide their own sleeping bags and personal items. Pre-register early, as space is limited.

LOW ROPES PROGRAM

Marion County Parks and Recreation offers "Low Ropes Instruction" for groups. This challenging outdoor ropes course, consisting of several low elements a few feet off the ground, will provide personal development and team building opportunities while testing one's abilities. Interested groups should call 352-671-8560 or email parks@marioncountyfl.org for information and pricing.

KAYAK 101 AT CARNEY ISLAND (refer to Adults' Section)

SEARCH, REGISTER and PAY for
Marion County Parks and Recreation programs
24/7 from any device connected to the internet
at www.MarionCountyFL.org/Parks. For more
information, please contact Marion County
Parks and Recreation at 352-454-6251
or email parks@marioncountyfl.org.

Marion County Parks and Recreation and
City of Ocala Recreation & Parks reserve
the right at any time to adjust dates, prices,
and locations for all programs, rentals, and
memberships as considered necessary.



■■■ CITY OF OCALA RECREATION AND PARKS UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES ■■■

Preregistration required. Preregister and pay online at <http://recreationandparks.ocalafl.org>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ~ Call Connie Carroll at 352-368-5504 for details.

EVENTS

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

Downtown Ocala

First Friday of each Month | Now-May 6 | 6-9 p.m.

Enjoy over 50 artist displays, indoor galleries, unique restaurants and boutiques with extended hours.

OCALA FARM MARKET

Downtown Square

Every Saturday | 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Reap locally grown farm fresh seasonal produce, homemade jellies and jams, delicious kettle corn, boiled peanuts, homemade crafts and plants.

LET'S SKATE OCALA!

Downtown Ocala

Now-January 3 | Hours vary

The City of Ocala brings you the 2015 Holiday Skating Rink. A FUN unique winter activity using synthetic "ice" that's so authentic you won't know the difference. Come to one of our theme nights at the rink and have a blast! Reserve the rink for a private function such as a holiday, birthday or office party.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Downtown Ocala

Most nights in December | Times vary

Bring the entire family to festive Downtown Ocala almost every night in December for Holiday Happenings! Enjoy a variety of youth and adult Christmas carolers, music, food drives and Symphony Under the Lights.

SANTA ON THE SQUARE

Downtown Ocala

Tuesdays and Thursdays | December 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17
6-8 p.m.

Join Santa and Mrs. Claus on Ocala's festive Downtown Square! Santa's Elves will be providing music, games, refreshments and a hay ride! There's sure to be FUN for the entire family and remember to bring your camera. Santa only has time to see a maximum of 250 people per night because he has to get back to the North Pole.

SANTAS CALLING (AGES 3-7)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday | December 1, 2, 3
6-9 p.m.

The North Pole operator places the call and transfers it to Santa in his workshop. Santa loves to talk to all of the good little girls and boys in Marion County. For details, contact Diane Leaf at 352-401-3916.

NATURE WALKS

Discovery Center

Wednesday | December 16 | 9 a.m.

Calling all ornithology enthusiasts! Join members of the Audubon Society in a guided walk around Tusawilla Lake to see seasonal migratory and resident birds! Meet at the Discovery Center and remember to bring your binoculars!

MOVIE IN THE PARK

Citizens' Circle

Friday | December 18 | 5:30 p.m.

Join us for an outdoor movie adventure as we watch "Jack Frost" on the BIG screen. Bring your lawn chairs and blanket!

ROTARY DISCOVERY FEST CRACKER CATTLE DRIVE & COWBOY ROUND UP

Tusawilla Park

Saturday | February 20 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Round up the kids; break out your Stetsons and your best John Wayne drawl. This event kicks off with a real cattle drive through downtown Ocala to Tusawilla Park. There will be kids' games, demonstrations, cowboy skills, live music and entertainment! Great vittles will be served as well. Contact Jeff Inglehart at 352-368-5517 or at jinglehart@ocalafl.org for more details.

FUNTASTIC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (AGES 6-12)

E.D. Croskey Recreation Center

Monday-Friday | Now-May 27 | 2:15-6 p.m.

Daily homework assistance, fitness, creative activities, games and a snack. Come enjoy FUN times with us at a FUNtastic place! \$25 one-time registration fee/child. \$60/child/month.

LILLIAN BRYANT AFTER SCHOOL OPEN RECREATION (AGES 5-17)

Monday-Friday | Now-May 27 | 3-6 p.m.

Youth will enjoy activities such as basketball, dodge ball, kickball, softball and volleyball; play bumper pool, pool or ping pong; or use the computer lab and receive homework assistance in a supervised environment. Includes a nutritious snack.

DISCOVERY CENTER

www.mydiscoverycenter.org

CREATE SCIENTISTS (AGES 2-5)

Thursdays | 10-11 a.m.

December 3, 10, 17, 28~Temperature | January 7, 14, 21, 28~Sounds | February 4, 11, 18, 25~Things That Go! You are never too young to be a scientist! We'll introduce your little Einstein into the many facets of science through story books, songs, simple experiments and hands on projects that will feed their minds and sometimes their tummy! \$22/member/week. \$26/non-member/week.

HOME SCHOOL THURSDAYS (AGES 8-12)

Thursdays | 12:30-2 p.m.

December 3, 10, 17~Discovery Dissections

January 7, 14, 21~Signs and Wonders | February 4, 11, 18~Engineering: Design, Create, Innovate!

Blast off with an exploration of outer space. We will begin close to home within our own solar system, then launch to the furthest depths of the universe to discover the science behind constellations, black holes, nebula and many more mysteries! We'll take a trip through space with our miniature planetarium! \$22/month/member. \$27/month/non-member.

GITTS ~ GIRLS INSPIRED TO TRY SCIENCE (AGES 8-12)

"Science is Shocking"

Saturdays | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

December 12~Sports Science

January 9~If it Matters to You; It Matters to Me |

February 6~Beautiful Minds, Health and Hair

Girls Rule!!! Expand your knowledge and get energized with GITTS. Drink and pizza lunch included. Explore and enjoy interactive stations. \$20/girl.

MAD SCIENCE BIRTHDAY PARTIES

(AGES 5-13)

Dates/times open

Celebrate your child's birthday with one of these Mad Science themes: Electrifying, Rocket, Sweet Science or Animal Science. 8-11 children \$20/child, 12-17 children \$18.50/child, 18-24 children \$15/child. Birthday child is complimentary! Call for details.

THE FIRST TEE OF GREATER OCALA (AGES 6-15)

Ocala Golf Club and Pine Oaks of Ocala

After school and weekend classes teach kids life skills and core values through the game of golf. Programming takes place at Ocala Golf Club and Pines Oaks of Ocala. Scholarships are available. For details, visit www.thefirstteegreaterocala.org or call Executive Director Chris Wilson at 352-362-2258.

HUDSON DINNER THEATRE (AGES 50+)

Charter bus leaves Eighth Avenue Adult Activity

Center at 8:30 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m.

Wednesday | December 2 | 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the most wonderful time of the year; Christmas! Spread some holiday cheer from building snowmen to drinking eggnog, singing carols, decorating the tree, listening to stories or watching children open their gifts. Fee is \$70/person and includes transportation, lunch and admission. Call Grace at 352-629-8357 to register.

ADULT SOFTBALL (AGES 18+) MEN'S, CO-ED, COMPETITIVE AND RECREATIONAL

Ocala Regional Sportsplex

Sunday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Year-round
6:45-10:30 p.m.

Now is the time to get involved on a softball team! Sunday's Co-ed League is laid back/recreational, Tuesday's Men's League is relaxing/not ultra-competitive, Wednesday's Co-ed League is top notch competition and Thursday's Men's League is tournament type play. \$325/team.

GOLF

Ocala Golf Club

3130 East Silver Springs Blvd. | 352-401-6917

Pine Oaks of Ocala

2201 NW 21st St. | 352-401-6940

Adult Golf Outings and Lessons. Interested in joining a league? Need lessons? Just want to play a round of golf? Call the city golf courses and get ready to tee it up!

TENNIS

Fort King Tennis Center

3301 SE Fort King St. | 352-629-8453

Have you always wanted to play tennis? This center is open to the public and offers all types of lessons. Or if you just want to play a set, make reservations at 352-629-8453.

TEAM BUILDING ADVENTURES

Two Hour Sessions

These FUN activities will enhance cooperation, improve communication and increase trust in self and others within the group. Ideal for business, sports and youth groups. 5-15 people \$11/person | 16-30 people \$9/person | 31-45 people \$7/person | 46-60 people \$5/person | 61-75 people \$3/person. Please call 352-401-3900 to discuss your specific needs for your team.

YOUTH

ADULTS

GET UPDATES ABOUT UPCOMING PROGRAMS and events sent to your inbox!
Go to <http://www.ocalafl.org/subscribe.aspx> and sign up for eNotify.

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, or follow our Blog



Community Sponsor



You can SEARCH, REGISTER and PAY for Ocala Recreation and Parks programs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from any device connected to the internet at <http://recreationandparks.ocalafl.org>

CITY OF OCALA RECREATION AND PARKS 352.368.5517

The City of Ocala Recreation and Parks reserves the right to adjust dates, prices and locations for all programs, memberships and rentals.