

April PLAYcation 2019

Schedule of Events

April PLAYcation is a partnership between many community organizations in Lowell, providing free, unique activities for kids and families during school vacations.

PLAYcation is presented by:

Lowell National Historical Park
Coalition for a Better Acre
Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust
Lowell Points of Light Festival
Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
Mill City Grows
NFI Family Resource Center
Pollard Memorial Library
Tsongas Industrial History Center
Umbrella Community Arts Center
University of Massachusetts Lowell



HELPFUL HINTS:

- We love to host groups at drop-in events when space allows, but please **let us know ahead of time if you're interested in bringing a group of 10 or more kids** to any PLAYcation events by emailing the April PLAYcation coordinator Andrew Donovan: Andrew_Donovan@NPS.gov.
- All children participating in programs **MUST be accompanied by an adult**, unless otherwise noted.
- Lowell Kids Week programs are free of charge, but many have limited space **and require pre-registration**. Please see program listings for details and registration information.
- If you cannot attend an event for which you pre-registered, please call and cancel to make room for others.
- Drop-in programs are first-come, first-served.
- Weather cancellations will be announced online and on WCAP 980 AM.
- Program schedule is subject to change – please check www.lowellkidsweek.org regularly!

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

1PM-4PM • Hands-On History: Weaving and Engineering Workshops

All ages | Registration not required | Hosted by Lowell National Historical Park and the Tsongas Industrial History Center | Location: 3rd Floor, Boott Cotton Mills Museum (115 John St.)

Dreamer. Innovator, Researcher. Problem Solver. Inventor. Creator. Do any of these words apply to you? Then you could also be an Engineer! Engineers are people who design and build solutions. Come down and try your engineering skills in our design, build, and test challenge! We will also have a weave room open during this same period. No prior experience is required. Free and open to all.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

9AM-10:30AM • Wellness on the Walkways: Birding Walk

All ages | Registration not required | Hosted by Lowell National Historical Park and Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust | Location: Concord River Greenway Davidson St. Entrance (51 Davidson St.)

Celebrate the return of spring with Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust and Lowell National Historical Park! Join us for a birding walk along the Concord River Greenway. On this walk, we will identify common birds of the area and learn the basics of birding including how to use binoculars and field guides. Some parking is available at the Davidson Street trailhead (street parking is free on Sundays). Free parking is also available at the Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center parking lot. The address for the lot is 304 Dutton Street, Lowell, MA. It is a 10 minute walk to the trailhead from the Visitor Center.

MONDAY, APRIL 15

10AM-12PM • Mask Making

Ages 6+ | Registration required: call 978-970-5000 | Hosted by Umbrella Community Arts Center | Location: Counting House, Boott Cotton Mills Museum (115 John St.)

Who is your local animal inspiration? Design and paint your own or use one of our stencils to make a mask of local wildlife - raccoons, owls, hawks, mice, squirrels, and more. Wear the mask you create at the Lowell Earth Day Parade on Sunday, May 5!

1PM-2PM • Lantern Making Workshop

All ages | Registration required: 978-970-5000 | Hosted by Lowell Points of Light Festival | Location: Counting House@ Boott Cotton Mills Museum (115 John St.)

Be part of Lowell's Annual Points of Light Floating Lantern Celebration! During this workshop, you'll be provided with all the materials you need to make your very own lantern. On Saturday, May 4, your lantern will be released into the canal.

2PM-3PM • Weaving Workshop #1

Ages 6+ | Registration required: 978-970-5000 | Hosted by Tsongas Industrial History Center | Location: 3rd Floor, Boott Cotton Mills Museum (115 John St.)

Learn how cloth is designed, patterned, and made in this unique hands-on workshop. Weave your own piece of cloth using hand looms. Learn the difference between warp and weft and have fun in the process!

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

9:30AM-4PM • Lego Mindstorms and 3D Printing Camp (Day 1)

Ages 9-11 | Registration required: 978-674-1529 | Hosted by: Pollard Memorial Library | Location: Pollard Memorial Library (401 Merrimack St.)

Learn how to program robots with Lego Mindstorms EV3, understand the basics of 3D printing, and design & print your own objects. The MC3D Robotics team is comprised of high school students from neighboring towns who are highly passionate about STEM and STEM education. Bring your own lunch. Snacks provided. Sign up by visiting the Ground Floor Children's Reference desk, calling 978-674-1529, or online at www.LowellLibrary.org - visit the calendar and click REGISTER for this event.

Note: You must be able to attend both days (4/16 and 4/17).

10AM-12PM • Be the Change!

All ages | Registration not required | Hosted by Lowell NHP | Location: Counting House@ Boott Cotton Mills Museum (115 John St.)

Celebrate the launch of the 2019 Lowell quarter and make your own change! Design your own coin to represent yourself and the changes you will make in our community. Free and open to all; drop by anytime. Note: This is not a coin exchange.

10AM-2PM • Peas on Earth

Ages 4-12 | Registration not required | Hosted by Mill City Grows | Location: Mill City Grows Urban Farm at Mill No.5 (230 Middlesex St.)

Kids will have the option of making a 'Germination Necklace' or decorating a cup and planting a pea in it to take home. They'll learn about what a pea needs to grow and how peas help our bodies. There will also be tours of the pea plantings on the farm!

1PM-3PM • Backyard Bass

All ages | Registration not required | Hosted by Lowell NHP | Location: Counting House@ Boott Cotton Mills Museum (115 John St.)

Learn about the fish who live in the Merrimack and Concord Rivers and try your hand at fishing (indoors)! We'll also have the opportunity to make our own puffy, playful fish with paper.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

9:30AM-4PM • Lego Mindstorms and 3D Printing Camp (Day 2)

Ages 9-11 | Registration required: 978-674-1529 | Hosted by: Pollard Memorial Library | Location: Pollard Memorial Library (401 Merrimack St.)

Learn how to program robots with Lego Mindstorms EV3, understand the basics of 3D printing, and design & print your own objects. The MC3D Robotics team is comprised of high school students from neighboring towns who are highly passionate about STEM and STEM education. Bring own lunch. Snacks provided. Sign up by visiting the Ground Floor Children's Reference desk, calling 978-674-1529, or online at www.LowellLibrary.org - visit the calendar and click REGISTER for this event.

Note: You must be able to attend both days (4/16 and 4/17).

10AM-12PM • Animal Puppets on a Stick

Ages 6+ | Registration required: 978-970-5000 | Hosted by Umbrella Community Arts Center | Location: Counting House@ Boott Cotton Mills Museum (115 John St.)

Choose an animal you might find in Massachusetts - maybe an owl, a red fox, a skunk? Or a plant - a flower or a vegetable? You'll draw, cut, staple your puppet and mount it on a stick, so it is ready to carry out the door.... Bring it to the Lowell Earth Day Parade on Sunday, May 5!

12PM-2PM • Spring Fling

Ages 6+ | Registration not required | Hosted by Coalition for a Better Acre | Location: Coalition for a Better Acre (517 Moody St.)

Come and welcome spring with us! Learn about planting and get creative with some spring arts and crafts activities.

1PM-2PM • Birds in Spring

Ages 3+ | Registration required: 978-970-5000 | Hosted by Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary | Location: 2nd Floor, Boott Cotton Mills Museum (115 John St.)

Meet some native birds, learn what they are up to in spring, and what you can do to help them.

2PM-3PM • Weaving Workshop #2

Ages 6+ | Registration required: 978-970-5000 | Hosted by Tsongas Industrial History Center | Location: 3rd Floor, Boott Cotton Mills Museum (115 John St.)

Learn how cloth is designed, patterned, and made in this unique hands-on workshop. Weave your own piece of cloth using hand looms. Learn the difference between warp and weft and have fun in the process!

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

10AM-11AM • Bow WOW Spring Storytime

Ages 3-7 | Registration required: 978-674-1529 | Hosted by: Pollard Memorial Library | Location: Pollard Memorial Library (401 Merrimack St.)

Join us for a special spring storytime featuring our therapy dog, Prince and his handler Joyce. We will be reading spring themed stories, singing songs, playing instruments, and making a craft. Make sure to stay after storytime for a special meet and greet with Prince! Sign up is required and begins on April 1st, 2019. Sign up by visiting the Ground Floor Children's Reference desk, calling 978-674-1529, or online at www.LowellLibrary.org - visit the calendar and click REGISTER for this event.

2PM-4PM • Family Movie

All ages | No registration required | Hosted by: Pollard Memorial Library | Location: Pollard Memorial Library (401 Merrimack St.)

All children and their families are invited to join us for a family movie. This animated film stars Miles Morales as a New York teen struggling with a new school, friends, and on top of all that, being the new Spider-Man. He meets various versions of this iconic superhero from different dimensions and trains to become the new protector of his city. This film is rated PG.

2PM-3PM • Waterpower Workshop

Ages 6+ | Registration required: 978-970-5000 | Hosted by Tsongas Industrial History Center | Location: 3rd Floor, Boott Cotton Mills Museum (115 John St.)

Design, build, and operate a canal system just as the Proprietors of Locks and Canals did in Lowell in the early 1800s. All participants will get hands-on canal building

experience (no prior experience required). Be ready to have a great time and maybe get a little wet.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

10AM-12PM • Flags for the Earth

Ages 6+ | Registration required: 978-970-5000 | Hosted by Umbrella Community Arts Center | Location: Counting House, Boott Cotton Mills Museum (115 John St.)

Design and paint a flag for Earth Day. It could be a nature image, a message, or an abstract design – then add it to a dowel and you are ready to go. You can hang it in your room or outside your house and wave it proudly in the Lowell Earth Day Parade on Sunday, May 5! This program is limited to 25 participants, first-come, first-served.

10AM-12PM • Fun with Fish at the Spalding House

All ages | No registration required | Hosted by: Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust | Location: The Spalding House (383 Pawtucket St.)

Join us at the historic Spalding House to explore the fish migration up the Concord and Merrimack River through hands on activities and crafts. Participants can RSVP through <https://lowelllandtrust.org/about-us/contact-us/>

1PM-3PM • Planting and Scavenger Hunt at Hawk Valley Farm

All ages | No registration required | Hosted by Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust | Location: Hawk Valley Farm (end of Varnum Terrace)

Join Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust for a plant-your-own herb garden at Hawk Valley Farm. Participants can also enjoy a nature scavenger hunt throughout the park. Each scavenger hunt participant will receive an egg-cellant prize! All ages welcome.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

9:30AM-5PM • Fee-free admission at the Boott Cotton Mills Museum

All ages | Registration not required | Hosted by Lowell National Historical Park | Location: Boott Cotton Mills Museum (115 John St.)

In honor of National Park Week, the Boott Cotton Mills Museum will be fee-free. This is a great opportunity to bring the entire family. Don't forget to pick up the new Junior Ranger Activity Book and become a Lowell National Historical Park Junior Ranger.

10:30AM-12PM • NFI Family Resource Center Drop-In

**All ages | Registration not required | Hosted by NFI Family Resource Center
| Location: NFI Family Resource Center (27 Prescott St.)**

Stop by the NFI Family Resource Center and get crafty! We'll have different types of painting for children, including water colors, sponge painting, marble painting, and stamp painting.

1PM-4PM • Your City Saturday: National Junior Ranger Day

**All ages | Registration not required | Hosted by Lowell National Historical Park
Location: LNHP Visitor Center (246 Market St.)**

Join Lowell National Historical Park on National Junior Ranger Day and become a Junior Ranger! You can stop by the Visitor Center between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. for special Junior Ranger activities, including a Downtown Scavenger Hunt. "Explore, Learn, and Protect!" The Junior Ranger motto is recited by people around the country; each taking an oath of their own to protect parks, continue to learn about parks, and share their own ranger story with friends and family. All are welcome to participate!

**Mark Your Calendars for the
Annual Lowell Earth Day Parade and Festival
on Sunday, May 5th!**

*View the whole Earth Day schedule at
lowellcityoflearning.org/festival-parade/home*