

Free or cheap summer activities 2017:

Grandparent Support Group in Mat Su Valley 2nd Sat: 1:00-3:00 Relative Caregivers and their children enjoy activities and snacks. 1st Friday: 10:30-12:00 Relative Caregivers only (no children) to plan Sat activities and provide support for each other. Held at Turn a Leaf Community room next to the thrift store at 404 N. Yenlo in Wasilla. Rozann Kimpton is the local contact person for the Mat-Su Grandparent Support Group 376-7322 rozann@mtaonline.net. During the summer she invites relative caregivers to the creek on her property for picnics and other fun activities.

David Carry is the Volunteers of America contact person for the Alaska Grandfamilies Project (1-888-522-9866 or grands@voaak.org or visit www.voaak.org.) VOA has passes in their Anchorage office for **relative caregivers** to go to the Alaska Zoo, Anchorage Museum, and Alaska Native Heritage Center, contact David for more information.

Anchorage: (<http://www.anchorage.net/>)

1. The Anchorage Alaska Center for Resource Families office (1-866-478-7307) has passes for **Resource Families** for the Native Heritage Center and the Alaska Sea Life Center for free admission. Passes must be checked out and returned there.
2. Cinemark: \$1 movies at Century 16 on Wed @ 10am starting May-August. (<http://www.cinemark.com/summer-movie-clubhouse>)
Regal Tikahtnu Stadium 16: Tue & Wed @ 10am for 9 weeks starting in June (<http://www.regmovies.com/Movies/Summer-Movie-Express#Alaska>)
3. Downtown events including Music for Little Ones, Mondays and Music in the Park, Wednesdays June-August. (www.anchoragedowntown.org)
4. Anchorage Market and Festival Sat 10:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-5:00, 3rd & E St. starting May - Sept (www.anchoragemarkets.com)
5. Loussac Library- Check website for event calendar. (www.muni.org)

Wasilla: (cityofwasilla.com)

1. North Bowl, Kids bowl free. May-August. 2 free games/day all summer. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Sign up at www.kidsbowlfree.com/northbowlak
2. The Dorothy Page Museum in Wasilla is free on Friday year round, for borough residents (bring ID) and children 12 and under are always free, there is also a summer schedule of events. (373-9071) (<http://www.cityofwasilla.com/departments-divisions/museum>)
3. Lowes (www.lowesbuildandgrow.com) has a free monthly workshop for kids between 10:00-11:00, you can pre-register online.
4. Home Depot (www.homedepotclinics.com) 1st Sat each month between 9:00-noon, no need to pre-register online, free.

Palmer: (www.cityofpalmer.org)

1. Many businesses sponsor free passes to the Mat-Su Miner's games held at the fairgrounds. Check the schedule for information.
http://www.matsuminers.org/files/uploaded_documents/1498/2017_Miners_Calendar.pdf

2. Alaska Pacific University's Kellogg Farm 6404 N Lossing Rd, Palmer
(<http://www.springcreekfarmak.org>) Check website or Call 982-3122 for info
3. Palmer Friday Flings May 19 2016- August 18 2017 from 11:00-6:00 with free music,
(<http://palmerchamber.org/events/friday-fling.html>)
4. AK State Fair has garden and animal events during the summer, check website
5. Second Saturday Art Walk- Pick up a free map at Palmer museum and explore local artists, music, food and fun! Second Saturday of every month.

Talkeetna: Denali Arts Council serves the entire northern Susitna Valley

<http://denaliartscouncil.org>

Mat-Su Borough: (www.matsugov.us)

1. The public libraries have great free summer programs. Check website for event calendar. (<http://www.matsugov.us/msln/>)
2. The local pools may have a dollar swim, check the borough website under "Lifestyle" and then "Facilities"

General Information:

1. Both ADN and the Frontiersman run calendars of free local events in the paper.
2. The borough, Wasilla & Palmer have websites with information & resources.
3. Eagle River Nature Center: (www.ernc.org, 694-2108) Free admission \$5.00 parking.
4. Other things to check on (<http://www.VisitWasilla.org>)
5. Palmer Hay Flats (<http://www.palmerhayflats.org/>)
6. Make-a-Scene paper (<http://makeasceneak.com/>)
7. Alaska State Park information (<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/>)

Festivals & Events –

Anchorage-

Three Barons Renaissance Fair, June 3rd & 4th & 10th & 11th 2017 <http://www.3barons.org>

Eagle River-

Bear Paw Festival, July 12th-16th 2017, <http://www.bearpawfestival.org/>

Palmer-

Colony Days, June 9th-11th 2017 <http://palmerchamber.net/events/colony-days.html>

Highland Games: Alaska Fairgrounds, June 24th 2017 <http://www.alaskascottish.org/games.html>

Annual Family Gathering hosted by Knik Tribal Council & Chickaloon Village Traditional

Council, Raven Hall @ Alaska State Fairgrounds, Sat June 10th 2017 11am-4pm

Great free family event with dancing, drumming, food, community booths, etc.

Mid-Summer Garden & Art Faire: Palmer, July 8th 2017 <http://www.palmergardenandart.org/>

Palmer Pride Picnic: Free picnic hosted by Palmer businesses and the City of Palmer. Palmer Pride hotdogs, veggies, music and Citizen of the Year. Palmer RR Depot, July 28th 2017 4-6 PM.

Car Show information, <http://www.49thstatestreetrodders.com/id4.html>

Machetanz Art Festival, Matsu College June 3rd 2017, <http://www.Matsu.alaska.edu/maf>

Alaska State Fair, August 24th-September 4th, 2017, <http://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/>

Wasilla- Fourth of July Parade, July 4th, Downtown Wasilla Beginning at 11am

Houston, Founders Day, 3rd Sat in August, For more information call (907)829-6557
Talkeetna, <http://www.talkeetnachamber.org/schedule/calendar/events-calendar>
Kenai Peninsula, www.kenaipeninsula.org <http://kenai-chamber.org/>
Kenai River Festival, June 9-11 2017 at Soldotna Creek Park in Soldotna. Free family event
<http://www.kenaiwatershed.org/krf/kenairiverfestival.html>
Homer, www.homer-alaska.org/visit-homer/events
www.prattmuseum.org, www.islandsandocean.org, www.akcoastalstudies.org
Seward, <http://www.alaskasealife.org/> <http://www.sewardchamber.org/>
Soldotna, www.visitsoldotna.com www.ci.soldotna.ak.us/soldotna_creek.html
www.tsalteshi.org

Farmer's Markets, Please check this website for more information

<http://www.alaskafarmersmarkets.org/index.php/directory/>
Anchorage- Anchorage Downtown Market & Festival, 3rd Ave between C & E St.
May 13th– Sept 10th, Sat 10-6 & Sun, 10-5
Anchorage Farmers Market, 1420 Cordova St., Sat, May-Oct 9-2
<http://www.anchoragefarmersmarket.org/>
Muldoon Farmers Market, Sat June-Sept 9:30-2:30
Northway Mall Wednesday Market, 3101 Penland Blvd., June- Oct Wed, 9-4
South Anchorage Farmers Market, Subway Sports Center Sat, May-Oct 9-2
South Anchorage Wednesday Market, Behind Dimond Mall, July- Sept 10-4
<http://southanchoragefarmersmarket.com/>
Spenard Farmers Market, Sat May-Sept 9-2 www.spenardfarmersmarket.org
Tuesday Eagle River Farmers Market, VFW Post parking lot, Jun-Sep 3-7
Saturday Eagle River Farmers Market, Mike's Meats on Business Lp. Jul-Sep 10-4
Mat-Su-Palmer Friday Flings, Across from Visitor's Center, Fri, 11-6, May 19-Aug 18 2017
Artisans Open Air Market Village Park, downtown Talkeetna www.denaliartscouncil.org/
Willow Farmers Market, Mi. 69 Parks Hwy, near Newman's Tesoro, Fri, June-Sept 2-7

Museums & Places to See-

Anchorage

Alaska Zoo, <http://www.alaskazoo.org/>
Alaska Natural History Museum, <http://www.alaskamuseum.org/>
Anchorage Museum, <http://www.anchoragemuseum.org/>
Alaska Native Heritage Center – Check website for Free Admission days
<http://www.alaskanative.net/en/para-nav/home/>
Girdwood- Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, **Free Admission** on Mother's Day
Mat-Su- Colony House Museum, <http://www.palmerhistoricalsociety.org>
Dorothy G. Page Museum, www.Cityofwasilla.com/museum
Knik Museum & Musher's Hall of Fame, www.Wkhsociety.org
Museum of Alaska Transportation & History, <http://www.museumofalaska.org>
Palmer Museum of History & Art, <http://www.palmermuseum.org/>
Reindeer Farm Open starting May, <http://www.reindeerfarm.com>
Musk Ox Farm, May-Sept 10-6, <http://www.muskoxfarm.org>

Summer Camps/Programs in the Valley

Royal Family Kids' Camps Is a camp for children ages 7-11 involved in the foster care system. Children attend free of charge. Contact your caseworker for information. June 23-29 2017

Valley Performing Arts, Ages 7-17, 373-0195, 2017 Dates on Website,
<http://www.valleyperformingarts.org>

Denali Gymnastics, Summer camp Ages 5-12, May- Aug 2017

Year round activities for all ages, 373-3547, <http://www.denaligymnastics.com>

MTA Sports Center, 7GO-PLAY, Visit Website for event calendar.

<http://www.mtasportscenter.com/>

Alaska Club, 907-330-0117, Visit website for event calendar. Thealaskaclub.com

Camp Peggy Lake (Willow), 1st-8th graders, June-Aug, Visit Website for Calendar

http://ymcaalaska.org/ymca-wp/summer_camp/

Girl Scouts of Alaska, Visit website for event calendar.

<http://girlscoutsalaska.org/programs/camps>

Acoustic Alaska Guitar Camp, Ages 16+ Aug- Sept 2017

Joe Becker @ 1-866-293-6827, camp@acousticalaska.com, acousticalaska.com

ASC School of Sewing, Ages 8+, June & July 2017 asc.schoolofsewing.net

Green Light Circus Camp (Talkeetna) Ages 6+

Visit website for calendar and registration. <http://www.Denaliartscouncil.org>

Laverne Griffin Camps Grades 1-12, 376-6887, 2017 camp dates on website, lgyrc.org

Salvation Army Kings Lake Camps, 357-2501, 2017 camp dates available on website

<http://www.salvationarmyalaska.org/alaska/children>

Trailside Discovery Camp, 274-KIDS, Event calendar available on website

info@akcenter.org, <http://akcenter.org/trailside-discovery/>

Boys and Girls Club Mat-Su, Visit website for event calendar.

<http://www.bgcalaska.org/>, 357-2582

Alaska Theater of Youth, Located in Anchorage

Visit website for event calendar aty@alaskatheatreofyouth.org alaskatheatreofyouth.org

Percussion in the Valley Ages 7-18 June 2017 <http://www.percussioninthevalley.com/>

UAA Summer Engineering Academy Grades 6-12, Schedule available on website

<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/schoolofengineering/summeracademies.cfm>

For more camp and program information check out the Frontiersman

<http://www.frontiersman.com> or Anchorage Daily News <http://www.adn.com>