

# Kalamazoo Family Fun Guide

*Family Friendly Things To Do In Kalamazoo County*



## Make Time for Your Family

Doing activities together is a good way to reduce stress and build joy and connection.



## Why Be Active?

Being physically active is good for you. Whether you like to move indoors or outdoors, being active can lead to:

- Better health
- Clearer thinking
- Less stress
- More happiness
- Fewer aches and pains
- Better sleep

**Play hard in Kalamazoo. You'll be glad you did!**



## Apple, Cherry and Pumpkin Picking

Picking fruits and vegetables is a good way to have fun and be active at the same time. Visit:

- **Verhage's**  
8619 W MI Ave., Kalamazoo  
(269) 375-0153  
verhagesfruitfarmandcidermill.com
- **Husted Farm Market**  
9191 W Main St., Kalamazoo  
(269) 372-1237  
hustedfarmmarket.com
- **Gene the Pumpkin Man**  
22637 W M 43, Kalamazoo  
(269) 668-2952  
facebook.com/GenethePumpkinMan



## AYSO Soccer

If your child is interested in playing soccer for the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) in Kalamazoo, some things you should know are:

- Signups for soccer are in the spring for the following season.
- Soccer in Kalamazoo is a fall/spring sport. You only need to sign up once in the spring to play the following spring/fall.
- Scholarships are available for those who meet certain criteria. Visit the website for details.

(269) 353-7000  
ayso211.com

## Basketball at the Park

Play basketball for free at your local city park. You just need to bring a ball that bounces!

- **Rockwell Park:** 1106 Trimble Ave., Kalamazoo
- **Upjohn Park:** 1018 Walter St., Kalamazoo
- **Henderson Tot Lot:** 1601 Henderson Ct., Kalamazoo

(269) 337-8191  
kzooparks.org

\*Parks close at sundown.



## Beach Party

You don't need much to have fun at the beach. Just pack water to drink and some sunscreen. Try these activities to get moving at the beach:

- Build a big sandcastle.
- Play beach volleyball.
- Walk or run on the beach.
- Hula-hoop on the beach.

Beaches in and near Kalamazoo:

- **Ramona Park:** 8600 S Sprinkle Rd., Portage
- **Woods Lake:** 2900 Oakland Dr., Kalamazoo



## Berry Picking

Picking berries is hard work but the reward (yummy tasting berries) is worth it! Pick your own berries at these places:

- **Corey Lake Orchards**  
12147 Corey Lake Rd., Three Rivers  
(269) 244-5690  
coreylakeorchards.com
- **Schultz Fruitridge Farms**  
60139 CR 652, Mattawan  
(269) 668-3724  
schultzfruitridgefarms.com

\*Schultz Fruitridge Farms is open various weekends throughout the winter. Call to find out more.



## Bowling

Bowling builds up your arm and leg muscles and helps to develop coordination. There are many places to bowl.

- **Eastland Bowl:** (\$3 for shoes, \$3.95 per game)  
5570 Gull Rd., Kalamazoo  
(269) 382-4077  
eastlandbowl.com
- **Continental Lanes:** (\$3 for shoes, \$3-4.50 per game)  
3645 Vanrick Dr., Kalamazoo  
(269) 343-2626  
continentallaneskazoo.com
- **Richland Lanes:** (\$3 for shoes, \$3.75-4.00 per game)  
9900 D Ave. E., Richland  
(269) 629-9388



# Camping

Camping is a fun way to enjoy the outdoors. There are lots of places you can camp! While you camp you can:

- Go for a hike through the woods.
  - Explore nearby lakes and rivers.
  - Learn a new card or board game.
  - Relax by a fire.
- **Fort Custer State Recreation Area:** (\$20-29/night)  
5163 Fort Custer Dr., Augusta  
(269) 731-4200
  - **Cold Brook County Park:** (\$26/night)  
14467 East MN Ave., Climax  
(269) 383-8778  
[kalcounty.com/parks/rescamping.htm](http://kalcounty.com/parks/rescamping.htm)



# Day Camps

Looking for something fun to do in the summer? Try a day camp where you will be active, have fun and learn new skills. No boredom allowed!

- **Camp Kzoo:**  
(269)-337-8191  
[kzooparks.org/campkzoo](http://kzooparks.org/campkzoo)
- **Super Rec**  
(269) 337-8191  
[kzooparks.org/superrec](http://kzooparks.org/superrec)
- **KNC Camp**  
(269) 381-1574  
[naturecenter.org/Camp/Summer-Camp](http://naturecenter.org/Camp/Summer-Camp)

\*Note: a list of summer camps and their websites are only available during the spring/summer.



## Disc Golf



Southwest Michigan has beautiful green areas that are wonderful places to try out disc golf! For more information on parks and facilities, visit [kzooparks.org](http://kzooparks.org).

- **Knollwood Park:**  
(269) 337-8191  
[kzooparks.org/Parks-Facilities/Knollwood-Park](http://kzooparks.org/Parks-Facilities/Knollwood-Park)
- **Spring Valley Park:**  
(269) 337-8191  
[kzooparks.org/springvalley](http://kzooparks.org/springvalley)

## Festivals

Many different kinds of festivals are held in and around the Kalamazoo area such as art festivals, music festivals, film festivals and food festivals. Some popular festivals in Kalamazoo include:

- The Black Arts Festival
- Ribfest
- Fall Craft Show

Kalamazoo's Visitor's Bureau has the latest information on all events:

(269) 488-9000  
[discoverkalamazoo.com/events](http://discoverkalamazoo.com/events)



## Food Truck Rallies

Walk around Kalamazoo and enjoy some local eats. For more information:

(269) 388-2830  
[foodtruckrallykz.com](http://foodtruckrallykz.com)

\*Try a new food when you visit the food trucks. You'll be glad you did!



## Golf and Mini Golf

Golf and mini-golf are fun to play, and playing often helps you develop eye-hand coordination. Places to golf and mini-golf in Kalamazoo include:

- **Red Arrow Golf Course:**  
1041 King Highway, Kalamazoo  
(269) 492-7800  
[kmgagolf.com/red\\_arrow](http://kmgagolf.com/red_arrow)
- **Airway Fun Center:**  
5626 Portage Rd., Portage  
(269) 327-7061  
[airwayfuncenter.com](http://airwayfuncenter.com)



## Help Out in the Community

Volunteer at places such as food pantries or animal shelters. For more information:

- **Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes:**  
901 Portage St., Kalamazoo  
(269) 343-3663  
[kzoolf.org](http://kzoolf.org)
- **Kalamazoo Animal Rescue:**  
2918 Business One Dr., Kalamazoo  
(269) 226-8570  
[kalamazooanimalrescue.org](http://kalamazooanimalrescue.org)





## Ice Skating



Ice-skating is great exercise. Skating strengthens your whole body, especially your legs and heart. It gets cold on the rink. Be sure to bundle up and wear a helmet!

- **Wings West:**  
5076 Sports Dr., Kalamazoo  
(269)-743-4218  
wings-west.com

## Paddling on Water Trails

Michigan summers can get hot! Cruise the water sitting, standing, rowing or paddling on the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek rivers. It's the perfect place to bring your paddle board, kayak or canoe to explore the waters.

[battlecreekvisitors.org/launch-your-kayak-in-calhoun-county](http://battlecreekvisitors.org/launch-your-kayak-in-calhoun-county)

\*Remember to always wear a life jacket.



## Jump, Jump, Jump Around!

Visit an inflatable playground center where you can have fun while being active. You can...

- Bounce
  - Slide
  - Climb
  - Race
- **Jungle Joe's Family Fun Center:**  
7255 S. Sprinkle Rd., Portage  
(269) 324-1992  
[junglejoesffc.com/aboutus.html](http://junglejoesffc.com/aboutus.html)



## Parks

There are many fun activities you can do through Kalamazoo's Parks and Rec department! Some examples include:

- Kzoo Parks Summer Cinema
- Lunchtime Live
- Aqua Power

For more activity suggestions:

(269) 337-8191

[kzooparks.org](http://kzooparks.org)

[kzooparks@kalamazoo.org](mailto:kzooparks@kalamazoo.org)



## Kalamazoo Valley Museum

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum features exhibits on science, technology and the history of Southwest Michigan. Pre-registration is required for admission. Visit the museum's calendar for a list of upcoming events. General admission is free.

230 N Rose St., Kalamazoo

(269) 373-7990

[kalamazoomuseum.org](http://kalamazoomuseum.org)



## Kal-Haven Trail

The Kal-Haven trail is one of the most beautiful trails in the state. You can get on the trail at 10th St, and if you're up for it, you can walk (or bike) 33 miles to South Haven! Trail information:

- There are bathrooms along the trail.
- Bring a healthy snack and water with you.
- No motorized vehicles are allowed on the trail.
- Don't disturb animals or pick flowers on the trail.

(269) 637-2788

[michigan.org/property/kal-haven-trail-state-park](http://michigan.org/property/kal-haven-trail-state-park)



## Play Structures

Many city parks have fantastic play structures for young children under 10 years old.

- See how high you can get on the swings.
- Find out how many monkey bars you can get through without dropping to the ground.

Parks in and near Kalamazoo:

- **Arcadia Creek Festival Place:** 145 E Water St., Kalamazoo
- **Upjohn Park:** 1018 Walter St., Kalamazoo
- **Frays Park:** 4400 Canterbury Ave., Kalamazoo

For more information on parks visit:

(269) 337-8191

[kzookids.com/parks-playgrounds-kalamazoo](http://kzookids.com/parks-playgrounds-kalamazoo)



## Roller Skating

Roller skating is a fun and unique way to get active as a family. Tips for roller skating safety:

- Be sure to wear a helmet, elbow pads, wrist guards and knee pads.
  - Watch where you are going and be aware of people and objects in your surroundings.
  - Wear comfortable clothing and always wear socks with skates.
- 
- **Roller World:**  
7491 Stadium Dr., Kalamazoo  
(269) 375-4609  
rollerworld.net



## Sledding

Sledding is fun and it helps your heart and legs get stronger when you pull your sled up the hill. You can sled for free at the following parks:

- **Oakland Drive Park:**  
7650 Oakland Dr., Portage
- **Kindleberger Park:**  
650 S Riverview Dr., Parchment
- **Woods Lake Park:**  
2900 Oakland Dr., Kalamazoo

\*Sledding can be dangerous, so be sure to practice safety. Dress in warm clothes, wear a helmet and watch out for other people sledding.



## Track and field

Visit the Kanley Track on the Western Michigan University campus. See who can run around the track the fastest, who can jump the furthest in the long-jump pit or see how many times you can walk around the track in an hour. Be sure to check their website to see when it is open to the public.

- **Kanley Track:**  
1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo  
[fm.wmich.edu/ap/bldg/050](http://fm.wmich.edu/ap/bldg/050)



## Visit the Skate Park

If you have a skateboard or rollerblades, you can skate for free at Portage Skate Park. Make sure to wear a helmet and safety pads, and never skate alone.

- 9010 S Westnedge Ave., Portage
- (269) 329-4522

\*The park closes at dusk. There is no adult supervision at the park.

## Wellness Classes

Bronson Athletic Club offers information about health and wellness. Join for group exercise classes, personal training, swimming lessons and more!

- 6789 Elm Valley Dr., Kalamazoo
- (269) 544-3200
- [bronsonhealth.com/athletic-club](http://bronsonhealth.com/athletic-club)



## W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary



Visit the beautiful bird sanctuary where visitors have the chance to see a variety of birds and hike 3 miles of trails. It is an incredible place to watch the birds, take nature photos and enjoy being outside.

- 12685 East C Ave. Augusta
- (269) 671-2510
- [birdsanctuary.kbs.msu.edu/visit](http://birdsanctuary.kbs.msu.edu/visit)

## Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery

Established in 1927, the Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery currently produces steelhead, Chinook salmon, walleye and Great Lakes muskellunge for both inland and Great Lakes waters. Trails and feeding the fish are open year-round at no charge to the public.

- 34270 County Rd. 652, Mattawan
- (269) 668-2876
- [michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136\\_79236\\_80247\\_80504\\_82189---,00.html](http://michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79236_80247_80504_82189---,00.html)



## Zoo Experience

Plan a visit to Gull Meadow Farms. With over 30 activities to do on the farm, you are sure to find something your whole family will enjoy. Visit with the animals in the petting zoo, get lost in a maze or take a quiet wagon ride around the farm.

- 8544 Gull Rd., Richland
- (269) 629-4214
- [gullmeadowfarms.com](http://gullmeadowfarms.com)





Visit **[bronsonhealth.com/bronsoneats](https://bronsonhealth.com/bronsoneats)**  
for more nutrition and physical activity ideas.

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