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Spring Break Starts Here: Kid Camps, Pop-Up Programs & Historic Adventures in Philadelphia’s Historic District

Historic District Partners welcome families with special programs, seasonal reopenings, and hands-on ways to explore America’s story for the 250th anniversary

March 23, 2026 (PHILADELPHIA)—The [Philadelphia Visitor Center](#) (“the Visitor Center”) invites families to explore the Historic District this spring break with kid-friendly camps, hands-on museum experiences, pop-up programs, seasonal reopenings, and special events—all set in the birthplace of America. As the nation prepares to mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, the Historic District is already coming to life. Through interactive exhibits, engaging tours, and family-focused programming, visitors can experience the people, stories, and moments that shaped the country—while creating new memories of their own.

“There’s no better place to spend spring break than right here in Philadelphia’s Historic District, where America’s story comes to life around every corner,” said **Kathryn Ott Lovell, President and CEO of the Philadelphia Visitor Center and Philadelphia250**. “Families can step into history in a way that’s interactive and fun, whether that’s exploring iconic landmarks, discovering something new in our museums, or simply spending the day together.”

Spring break programs and seasonal highlights in Philadelphia’s Historic District are included in the schedule below.

Spring Break in the Historic District

[Start here! Independence Visitor Center](#)
599 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Visitors can start their experience at the Independence Visitor Center, the official hub for maps, tickets, and personalized recommendations to help plan the perfect day in the Historic District and beyond. It's also the easiest place to access exclusive savings through bundled ticket options to top museums and attractions.

[See More & Save More with the Historic District Ticket Bundle](#)

Visit any 2+ attractions in the Historic District for an exclusive 20% discount on tickets. Stop by the Visitor Services desk to learn more!

[Ride the Philly PHLASH to Philadelphia's Most Popular Destinations](#)

Getting around is easy with the Philly PHLASH, a fast, safe, and convenient way to connect to many of Philadelphia's most popular destinations. During spring break, the PHLASH operates Fridays through Sundays beginning March 27 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Service is free for SEPTA pass holders, \$5 for a day pass, and \$15 for a family pass for up to six riders. Tickets are available online at ridephillyplash.com or any Visitor Center location.

[Liberty Garden](#)

Visitors can also enjoy the return of [Liberty Garden](#), reopening April 2, with cocktails, light bites, and cold beer in its outdoor setting on Independence Mall, directly across from the Independence Visitor Center.

[Arch Street Meeting House](#)

320 Arch St, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Featured programs include:

- [Closing Reception | Visas for Life: The Righteous and Honorable Diplomats](#) (Monday, March 30 | 2-7 p.m.)
The exhibition features prominently the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Carl Lutz, a Swiss diplomat who orchestrated the largest diplomatic rescue operation of the Holocaust, it also honors numerous other courageous diplomats who used their diplomatic positions to issue life-saving visas and documents.
- [Season Opener Permanent Exhibition | The History of Quakerism: A Religious Revolution](#) (Thursday, April 9 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.)
With immersive displays and rarely seen artifacts, ASMNH's new permanent exhibit begins with a journey through the early origins of Quakerism. Learn how a 17th-century radical spiritual movement helped advance religious freedom in the United States and is still fighting for social justice today.

[African American Museum in Philadelphia](#)

701 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

Featured programs include:

- [A Tea Party Unlike Any Other](#) (Sunday, March 29 | 2-5 p.m.)

Guests will join a moderated conversation with former Philadelphia City Council Member Blondell Reynolds Brown exploring how to inspire the next generation to use their voices in the fight for freedom, with opportunities for audience questions and dialogue. The program centers on leadership, courage, and community impact, creating space for meaningful exchange and reflection. Admission also includes a Sunday brunch with tea service, a post-program author meet-and-greet, a copy of the featured book, and an individual AAMP membership. [Tickets Available Here](#)

- [Scenes on Paper: Multigenerational Scrapbooking](#) (Tuesday, March 31 | 6-8 p.m.)
Preserve your family memories and celebrate personal stories through a hands-on, multigenerational scrapbooking workshop led by Lunise Cerin. The program includes a screening of the short documentary *On the Garry* by Michael L Clay, a guided conversation about family and legacy, and a sneak peek of Philadelphia Theatre Company's upcoming production *Wilderness Generation* by James Ijames. Participants will leave with personalized keepsakes and shared stories that honor their family history. [Tickets Available Here](#)
- [Juried Art Show: Everyday Freedom Heroes](#) (Saturday, April 18 | 3-5 p.m.)
Children are invited to illustrate how they embody the spirit of an "Everyday Freedom Hero" in their own lives—whether in the classroom, at home, or on the playground. Children are encouraged to highlight examples of positive decision-making, kindness, leadership, and the ways they actively de-escalate conflict by showcasing their original art renderings, further bringing their interpretations of heroism to life.

Work will be judged based on historical interpretation, creativity, and conflict resolution. Awards will be presented for Best of Show, as well as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Cash prizes, generously provided by an anonymous sponsor, will be awarded as follows: Best of Show **\$500**, 1st Place **\$300**, 2nd Place **\$200**, 3rd Place **\$100**. [Tickets Available Here](#)

[Arden Theatre Company](#)

40. N. 2nd Street, Philadelphia PA 19106

[Spring Break Camp \(March 30 – April 3\)](#)

Arden Drama School is where kids and teens come to create and collaborate in exciting programs taught by top theatre professionals. Camps are held Monday-Friday from 9:30a.m.-4:30p.m. (K-5) and 10:00am – 5:00p.m. (Grades 6-8). Extended Day options from 8:00a.m.-10:00a.m. and 4:30p.m.-6:00p.m. [Register Here](#)

[Elfreth's Alley Museum](#)

124 Elfreth's Alley Philadelphia, PA, 19106

Featured programs include:

- [The Alley Book Club: Sesqui! By Thomas H. Keels](#) (Saturday, March 28 | 4:30-6 p.m.)
It was meant to be the greatest international exposition the world had ever seen. It became known as the "Flop Heard 'Round the World." What went wrong with Philadelphia's second world's fair, staged fifty years after its tremendous success with the 1876 Centennial? Filled with unforgettable characters, *Sesqui!* tells the compelling story of a world's fair that crashed and burned, set against the backdrop of a changing, conflicted city and country during the Roaring Twenties. Join us for an exciting in person discussion at Elfreth's Alley Museum! [Reserve Tickets](#)

- [Spring Maker's Market](#) (Saturday, April 18 | 11 a.m.-4 p.m.)
The Elfreth's Alley Association invites the public to a Makers Market on Saturday April 18, 2026, from 11am-4pm! During this one-day event, local Philadelphia crafters, artisans, and regional makers will set up shop on Elfreth's Alley, Philadelphia's most historic residential street. It is FREE to attend, but we recommend bringing some money to purchase the fantastic items you'll find!

[Museum of the American Revolution](#)

101 South Third Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Families can explore a wide range of daily and weekend programming at the Museum of the American Revolution throughout spring break, including special talks, hands-on activities, immersive discovery spaces, and living history experiences. [Spring Break Program Schedule & Registration](#)

Featured programs include:

- [The Declaration's Journey](#) (Daily | Patriots Gallery)
Presented by Griffin Catalyst, this special exhibition explores the history and global impact of the Declaration of Independence from 1776 to today.
- [10-Minute Talk: Objects of Reflection](#) (Daily | Patriots Gallery)
Learn more about what the Declaration of Independence meant in 1776 and in 1963 through two objects featured in *The Declaration's Journey*.
- [10-Minute Talk: Witness Objects](#) (Weekends | *The War Begins 1775*)
Join a museum educator to explore objects connected to the first battles of the Revolutionary War.
- [First Person Performance: Meet Elizabeth Freeman](#) (April 4, 5, 11, 12 | 1:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.)
This 30-minute theatrical performance shares the life and legacy of Elizabeth Freeman, also known as Mumbet, who successfully sued for her freedom from enslavement in Massachusetts.
- [Meet the Revolution: Jordan and Kehala Smith](#) (April 11-12 | 11 a.m.-4 p.m.)
Living history interpreters Jordan and Kehala Smith will share stories, traditions, and culturally meaningful objects connected to their Native communities.
- [Unpack a Sea Chest](#) (Daily | The War at Sea)
Learn what life was like aboard a Revolutionary-era ship through stories and hands-on exploration.
- [Revolution Place](#) (Daily | First Floor)
This family-friendly discovery center brings Old City in the 1700s to life through immersive spaces and hands-on activities for children.
- [History in the Making: Make Your Own Declaration Button](#) (Saturdays | Onsite)
Create a personalized button inspired by historic movements and moments in American history.
- [Camp Followers Discovery Cart](#) (Daily | Onsite)

Learn about the important role of women and children who traveled with British and Revolutionary armies.

[National Constitution Center](#)

525 Arch St, Philadelphia, PA 19106

- [Family Fun Night](#) (April 1 | 5 p.m.-8 p.m.)
In celebration of America's 250th, kick-off Spring Break with Family Fun Night at the National Constitution Center! Enjoy extended hours in the galleries, including the new America's Founding exhibit, and a guided flashlight tour of Signers' Hall. Try out 18th-century themed crafts, activities, and workshops throughout the evening – you'll feel as though you traveled back to Philadelphia in 1776! This fun and interactive night will be educational and entertaining for the whole family.
- [Inspired by Independence](#) | (Daily | 10:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.)
From the Seneca Falls Convention, declaring that all men and women are created equal, to Dr. King's "I Have a Dream Speech," reminding us that Black men as well as white men have the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, people throughout history have borrowed the words of the Declaration of Independence as they have worked to expand its promise of freedom and equality. This program will explore moments throughout history when those powerful words have inspired new generations of Americans to build on the legacy of the nation's founding.
- [Gallery Highlight: Speaking Out with Suffragists: Mabel and Ernestine](#) (Daily | 11:45 a.m.)
Join us in The 19th Amendment: How Women Won the Vote to hear the stories of suffragists Mabel Ping-Hua Lee and Ernestine Hara Kettler. Learn how these women from different backgrounds both fought for their right to vote, despite significant opposition.
- [Artifact Highlight: Emancipation Proclamation and the 54th Massachusetts Regiment](#) (Daily | 12:45 p.m. and 2:45 p.m.)
Join us for an inside look at why President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, what it meant for over 4 million Americans then held in bondage, and how it led to the creation of the first Black regiments in the war. This talk examines a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation signed by President Lincoln and special artifacts, including a ladder badge worn by a volunteer infantryman in the 54th Massachusetts Regiment.
- ["Fun with Flags" Trivia Challenge](#) (Daily | 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
Are you a fan of flag facts? Do you have a favorite? Join this fast-paced trivia game, test your knowledge, and learn more about the 56 state and territorial flags on display along the National Constitution Center's Great Hall Overlook.
- [Revolutionary Philadelphia Artifact Cart](#) (Daily | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.)
As land was cleared to build the National Constitution Center, a massive archaeological excavation occurred, unearthing thousands of artifacts from the 1700s. Come pick up some of these 3D printed replicas and learn about the everyday lives of "We the People" as the new nation developed just blocks away.

- Arts and Crafts Stations (Daily | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
Visit our activity stations to create make-and-take crafts! Put your own twist on historical buttons and banners and show your support for a cause.

Science History Institute

315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

First Friday: Our Plastic Planet (Friday, April 3 | 5–7 p.m.)

Guests are invited to explore the history of synthetic materials, the rise of plastic waste, and its impact on the environment during April's First Friday program at the Science History Institute. Visitors can view early synthetic materials and rare dye sample books from the Othmer Library, explore plastic artifacts in the *Objects That Tell Stories: Recent Acquisitions* ExhibitLab display, and connect with local organizations including ECHO Systems and Circular Philadelphia to learn more about practical solutions and ways to get involved. First Fridays at the Institute are always free and open to the public. Attendees will also receive a 10% discount to National Mechanics restaurant.

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About the Philadelphia Visitor Center:

The Philadelphia Visitor Center (PVC) connects visitors to memorable, authentic, and fun Philly experiences at our four visitor center locations: 6th and Market, City Hall, Love Park, and the Parkway. It facilitates the operation of the Independence Visitor Center, the primary point of orientation for Independence National Historical Park and the official visitor center of the Philadelphia region, including Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties. PVC also operates the Philly PHLASH seasonal public transit service, and The Liberty View, a private event space at The Independence Visitor Center overlooking the Liberty Bell and Independence Mall. For more information, please visit www.phlvisitorcenter.com.