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April-June  
2025

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Summer  
Camps!





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 <b>CHROMATIC QUEST</b> June 30-July 3	 <b>STEAM STORYTELLING</b> Aug 11-15
 <b>POKEMON ACADEMY</b> July 7-11	 <b>JUNKYARD ORCHESTRA</b> Aug 18-22
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 <b>Arrows Co-op</b> Central Point Infant-8th Grade Enrichment 1 x Weekly (Mon) Parent Led	 <b>Arrows High School</b> Central Point 9th-12th Grade History/Science/Electives 1 x Weekly (Mon) Drop Off



# Making Music Together: Strengthening Bonds Through Shared Experiences

By Deborah Pratt, Music4Kids



As summer approaches, families often search for enjoyable activities that promote quality time together. Engaging in music-making with your child offers unique benefits that extend beyond entertainment. Participating together with your child in activities such as Kindermusik or Summer Ukulele cultivates your child’s musical skills (and yours too), deepens your relationship, and enhances emotional and cognitive growth.

**Creating Shared Experiences** Making music together provides a wonderful platform for creating shared experiences that families can cherish. Whether you

are singing songs and playing instruments together during a Kindermusik class or strumming the chords to a favorite song in a ukulele class, these moments allow you to connect in ways that words alone often cannot capture. In addition, learning together enhances your connection and demonstrates to your child that learning is a lifetime adventure!


**Enhancing Communication and Cooperation** Music is a universal language that promotes expression and understanding as you learn to listen to each other and respond in real time. Engaging in music making together with your child also fosters cooperation and patience, teaching your child about the dynamics of communication.

**Encouraging Confidence and Self-Expression** Playing music together with your child provides a platform for self-expression that can be empowering. As you engage in musical activities together, you show your child that their ideas and creativity are valid and worth sharing. This is especially true in ukulele classes, where your child may play in front of the others in the class, aided by your presence and support. By practicing and playing together, you instill confidence in your child and give them the courage to express themselves not only in music, but in other areas of life as well.

**Fostering a Lifelong Love of Music** When you actively participate in music making with your child, you model a love for music that can instill a similar passion in them. Your enthusiasm can be contagious, and as you learn together, you invite them into a lifelong relationship with music.

In summary, making music together with your child provides a multitude of benefits that extend beyond the music itself. From deepening emotional connections to enhancing communication and encouraging self-expression, the collaborative nature of music fosters opportunities for family bonding.

As you consider summer programs like Kindermusik and ukulele classes, remember the invaluable experiences that await you and your child. Embrace this opportunity to create, learn, and grow together through the joy of music!




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July 29 - August 19

### Summer Ukulele

Parents are welcome to join with their child. (no extra charge)

Thursdays  
Jul 3 - Aug 21

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Ages 13-Adult  
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# SOUTHERN Oregon *family* MAGAZINE



Cover Photo by  
Heather P. Photography

**Contact Us!**

[sofamily@rioua.com](mailto:sofamily@rioua.com)

[Southernoregonfamily.com](http://Southernoregonfamily.com)

**Next issue:**

**Summer Fun &  
Back to School!**

Deadline June 20th



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# The value of social skills

**K**nowing how to behave and what to expect in social situations lessens the anxiety for our children. 85% of future success is dependent upon our social skills. It's reasonable to conclude that we do our children a disservice if we send him out into the world lacking in social skills and exhibiting un-conventional behavior. All behavior that needs to be learned, needs to be taught. Parents, please practice and reinforce basic manners. Why leave manners to chance when social success depends on knowing the basics?

Here are some basic manners:

1. Use the "magic words" that include please, thank you, excuse me and I'm sorry.
2. Polite greetings: Polite greetings include eye contact and a warm smile. Practice a friendly handshake and greet people by name. To model this, greet others in your everyday routine and introduce your child. Ask the adult how he or she would like to be addressed by your child (Mr., Mrs, Ms, and last name shows utmost respect).
3. Table manners: Begin with the basics of dining skills and expand lessons as the child matures. When called to the table, remind to come with clean hands, wait until everyone is seated before eating, not play with the food, not reach over people to get more food, and chew with their mouths closed. Encourage interesting conversations. Model gratitude with a blessing or a genuine thanks to the host and cook. Help with setting and clearing the table and ask to be excused.
4. Patience: Teach your child the importance of patiently waiting to speak when adults are conversing. Perhaps a signal of putting their hand on your arm gives you an indication that they are waiting to tell you something. Without interrupting your conversation or changing your eye contact, you could simply place your hand over theirs. This lets them know that as soon as you can politely break away you will address their needs.
5. Fair play: Teach your child to respect others by taking turns, and being a good sport.
6. Additional notes: Asking permission to use items that are not theirs, understand that "NO" means no.



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Remember there is more about manners than knowing which fork to use. The basis of good manners is respect and consideration for others. Teaching manners in a fun and positive environment creates a lasting lesson. To ensure a healthy culture integrating life skills; If taught effectively, polite society will embrace your child's kindness and your children will eventually thank you.

*Anna Martinez-Minter (AKA Ms Annie) who encourages children to be courteous, confident and considerate through fun, interactive and educational activities. You can follow her on FB @ Miss Annie Presents.*



## SUMMER CAMP 2025!

**541.955.CLUB EXT 2**

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**Weekly Themes**

**Ages 5-13**

**Starts June 9th, Mon-Fri 9am to 6pm**



**KIDS**  
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Learn more about summer & after-school programs, and see how you can help:  
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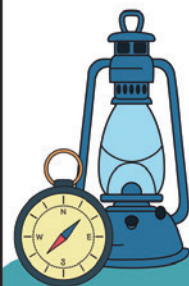
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### INFORMATION

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AshlandOutdoorSchool@gmail.com

[www.NatureSkills.org](http://www.NatureSkills.org)

## Summer Vacation is a Time for Learning

compiled by Diana Bennington, Community Resources Specialist from Parents.com

Summer vacation is a much-awaited time for students, as it brings a break from the routine school days and a chance to enjoy some leisure time. While some kids may look forward to this time to relax and unwind, others may feel bored and unsure of how to make the most of their time. As a parent, it is important to recognize the significance of summer vacation and play a role in making it an enjoyable and productive time for your child to avoid Summer Slide and keep their academic skills in tip top shape.

Summer vacations offer a range of benefits to students, both in terms of their academic and personal development. Here are some reasons why summer vacations are important:

**Mental and physical rest:** There are many mental and physical demands of school. Rest is essential for recharging their batteries, reducing stress, and enhancing their overall well-being.

**Opportunities for exploration and learning:** Explore new interests, try new activities, and learn new skills that may not be possible during the school year.

**Time for family bonding:** Quality time together strengthens family bonds and creates lasting memories.

How can you help kids make the best out of their break? Summer vacation can be a great time for kids to explore new interests, develop new skills, and engage in activities they enjoy. Here are some ideas for how kids can make the most of their summer vacation:



**Read:** Reading is a great way to enhance vocabulary, improve comprehension, and develop critical thinking skills. Encourage your child to read books of their interest and discuss what they have read. Don't forget to join your local Library's Summer Reading Program.

**Explore the outdoors:** Summer is a great time to get outdoors and explore nature. Take your child on hikes, camping trips, or beach outings.

**Learn a new skill:** Summer vacation can be a great time to learn a new skill, such as cooking, coding, or playing a musical instrument. Enroll your child in a summer camp (ScienceWorks, Boys & Girls Club, Talent Maker City, CraterWorks, and YMCA have great ones!) or a workshop that aligns with their interests.

**Volunteer:** Volunteering can be a fulfilling way to spend summer vacation. Encourage your child to participate in community service projects or volunteer at a local charity.



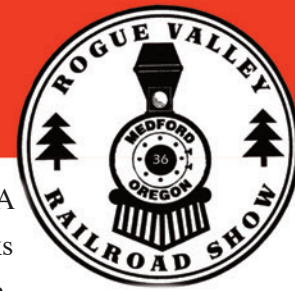
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FOR ATHLETES AGES 4 THROUGH 18!



# City of Medford Railroad Park Opens for the Season



## All aboard for opening day at Medford's Railroad Park on Sunday, April 13!

Volunteers from four railroad clubs have been working hard to prepare the park for its 44th season of operation. Bring the whole family, pack a lunch or eat at the park, and spend the day. It's fun for all ages, and admission is FREE.

**Medford Garden Railroaders:** See G-scale trains on their expansive layout where model trains are integrated with garden landscaping. The youngest railroad fans will love a separate Thomas and Friends garden layout, while a third layout allows them to run miniature trains by themselves. Older children can run the Hogwarts Express train by remote control in Harry Potter's Hogwarts layout.

**Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club:** HO-scale trains operate across hundreds of scale miles of track, with realistic sounds, working signals, and crossing gates. The club recreates the railroad trip from Medford to Klamath Falls on the Pacific and Eastern Railroad, including the heavily-forested climb out of Keno along the Klamath River.

**Southern Oregon Live Steamers:** Locomotives pull passengers on nearly two miles of track, a nine-minute ride through bridges and over tunnels and hills. A separate track features Thomas and Percy pulling special trains built for small kids only.



**Southern Oregon Railway Historical Society:** A full-size motor car pulls passengers on railroad tracks lining the perimeter of the park. Visitors can tour re-

stored cabooses and view a 1959 flanger (snow plow). Volunteers are also restoring a local 1925 steam locomotive, the Medco 4. Local train artifacts and history are on display in the Learning Caboose and in their museum. Be sure to ring the real steam locomotive bell and operate the authentic wigwag signal.

The Railroad Park is open to the public from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from April through October. Parking and admission are free, and no tax monies are used in the operation of the park. All four clubs rely on donations to help offset the various costs involved in maintain this unique attraction, a collaboration between the City of Medford and the four volunteer-based clubs. The park is a popular spot to hold birthday parties, family or church picnics, school field trips, and reunions. A summary of the options is available on the park's Facebook page.

The Railroad Park is located at 799 Berrydale Ave., Medford, 97501. Parking at the park is limited. Volunteer opportunities and more information can be found at the park's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Medfordrailroadpark/>.

**For Ages 3-12**

Open to ALL  
Rogue Valley kids

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CAMP 2: JUNE 24,25,26 (AGES 9+)

CAMP 3: JULY 22,23,24 (AGES 5-9)

CAMP 4: JULY 29,30,31 (AGES 9+)

Email: [hello@higsacademy.com](mailto:hello@higsacademy.com)  
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# ROGUE VALLEY MENTORING

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f @rvmentoring @rvmentoring.org



# Dive into SUMMER!



@ **Daniel Meyer Pool**  
Ashland's Favorite Outdoor Public Pool



Photo Credit: Bob Palermi

**Make a splash this Summer!**

With plenty of ways to enjoy the water, there's something for everyone at the pool this season. Find the perfect activity for you & your family at [ashlandoregon.gov/swim](http://ashlandoregon.gov/swim)

- ★ SAI Swim Lessons & Private Lessons
- ★ Open Swim
- ★ All In! Adapted Swimming Events & Programs
- ★ Water Aerobics & Lap Swim
- ★ Senior Programs & Much More!



Scan the QR code for more info.

1705 Homes Ave, Ashland OR 97520 | 541.488.0313 | [ashlandoregon.gov/swim](http://ashlandoregon.gov/swim)

games | goats | hikes | farm animals | nature explorations | crafts | science | friends

CULTIVATING CONNECTION TO FARM, FOREST, WATER AND EACH OTHER



## The Crest Nature Day Camps!

**Summer 2025**  
**June 16th - August 1st**  
**7 Weekly Sessions**  
**at Willow-Witt Ranch**

**Ages 6-11**

**Monday - Friday**  
**9 AM - 3 PM**

**Free bus transport**  
**from Medford, Talent & Ashland**

**Weekly garden produce boxes,**  
**birds, turtles, wetlands,**  
**forests and gardens**

**Wednesdays, campers explore**  
**incredible biodiversity**  
**with interpretive rangers from**  
**Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou**  
**National Monument**



**\$450 EARLY BIRD**  
**SPECIAL IN EFFECT**  
**UNTIL MAY 31ST**

**\$500/week**  
**Regular Price**

**Limited Scholarships**  
**Available**

Register via QR code  
or online at  
[www.thecrestatwillowwitt.org](http://www.thecrestatwillowwitt.org)



## Orthodontic Care for Children & Adults

- ✓ Complimentary Exam & Consultation
- ✓ No Referral Needed
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For over 50 years, Jackson County WIC has provided families with healthy foods, nutrition education and breastfeeding support.

Jackson County families with SNAP and OHP are income-eligible!



Check out WIC at:  
[jacksoncountyor.gov/wic](https://jacksoncountyor.gov/wic)



*Jackson County WIC is an equal opportunity provider*

## DELICIOUS WAYS TO *Get Together* AND SHARE YOUR LOVE

Come visit us at the Harry & David Country Village—our local flagship store full of premium items from our family of brands and more. Find gourmet treats for birthdays, family dinners, and all of life's special occasions. There's plenty to discover, like Moose Munch® Premium Popcorn, gift baskets, chocolate truffles, fresh produce, artisanal cheeses, and other fantastic fare. You can even go online to explore our full assortment.

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mounthermon  
KIDDER CREEK

# KIDDER CREEK

## Overnight Christian Adventure Camps in Northern California

Only 90 minutes from Medford!

**Join us for the biggest adventure of your summer.** With many programs to choose from, campers can enjoy white water rafting, horseback riding, backpacking, rock climbing, ziplining, and more. All while encountering Jesus and growing in their faith.

**Give your child the chance to disconnect from their screens, engage in meaningful community, and experience the best week of their life.**



SCAN ME

Register today at [kiddercreek.org](http://kiddercreek.org)