



Office of the Mayor

David H. Bieter
Mayor

City Council

President
Maryanne Jordan

Council Pro Tem
Alan W. Shealy

Vernon L. Bisterfeldt
Elaine Clegg
David Eberle
Jim Tibbs

Boise City Hall
Third Floor
150 N. Capitol Boulevard

Mailing Address
P. O. Box 500
Boise, Idaho 83701-0500

Phone
208/384-4422

Fax
208/384-4420

TDD/TTY
800/377-3529

Web
www.cityofboise.org/mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009

Contact: Adam Park
384-4402 [/apark@cityofboise.org](mailto:apark@cityofboise.org)

CITY OF BOISE OFFERS FREE OR LOW-COST ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES THIS WINTER

If you are a parent who is having trouble finding affordable activities for your family this winter, the City of Boise has many free or low-cost alternatives. Whether your children are interested in sports, learning or public art, the City has a wide variety of fun opportunities to help families trying to save money during the cold-weather months.

“During difficult economic times, parents are often forced to find new and creative ways to occupy their kids’ time productively and inexpensively,” Mayor David Bieter said. “Whether it’s through the Dept. of Arts & History, Parks & Recreation, or Library, the City of Boise has many opportunities to keep your kids happy and your wallet intact.”

Below are a list of activities and resources to entertain the whole family. If you don’t see something that meets your needs, visit www.cityofboise.org for additional opportunities, or go to www.cityofboise.org/After3 to find additional kid-friendly options for after school.

City of Boise Free or Low-Cost Family Activities Winter 2009

Open Gyms

Kids in elementary school and junior high can stay busy this winter at free Open Gym sessions at nine Boise schools. Boise Parks & Recreation provides supervision.

For children in kindergarten to sixth grade, Open Gyms are available at these elementary schools:

- Hawthorne, 2401 Targee, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays
- Liberty, 1740 E. Bergeson, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays & 1-4 p.m. Sundays
- Koelsch, 2015 N. Curtis, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays & Sundays
- Valley View, 3555 Milwaukee, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays & 1-4 p.m. Sundays

For kids in grades 7-12, Open Gyms are offered at these junior high schools:

- Les Bois, 4150 E. Grand Forest Drive, 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays & 1-4 p.m. Sundays
- Hillside, 3536 Hill Road, 8-11 a.m. Saturdays & 1-4 p.m. Sundays
- East, 5600 Warm Springs Ave, 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays
- West, 8371 W. Salt Creek Court, 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays
- South, 3101 W. Cassia St, 9 a.m. -noon Saturdays

Provided by Boise Parks & Recreation in partnership with the Boise Independent School District. For information, see www.cityofboise.org/parks or contact Sara Crawford at scrawford@cityofboise.org or (208) 384-4256.

Cost: Free

Downtown Guided Public Art Tours

The Department of Arts and History invites you to experience downtown Boise's public art through informative guided tours. Please call in advance to make reservations for your group. The tours are available 8am until 5pm/ Monday thru Friday (Not available on City observed holidays). Group sizes must be minimum 5 and maximum 30 people.

Cost: Free

Self Guided Public Art and History Tours

Not into a guided group tour? Well, grab a Public Art and History Locations Guide at the kiosk on 8th and Idaho, 8th and Broad, at the Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial, or City Hall. Pick up a hot chocolate and hits the streets. If you need assistance in finding a location guide please contact us!

Cost: Free

Neighborhood Libraries

Take your child to a program, use a computer or check out a book or movie at one of Boise's four neighborhood libraries. Programs and activities include preschool storytimes, school-age and teen programs, computer classes, book groups and senior fitness classes. Special series such as Arts for Kids, Waterwise Landscaping, and Energy Efficiency are offered through community partnerships. Libraries are located in the Collister Shopping Center at Collister and State Streets; in the Library Plaza at Cole & Ustick; in the Hillcrest Shopping Center at Orchard Street and Overland Road; and in downtown Boise at 715 S. Capitol Boulevard. For information, go to www.boisepubliclibrary.org/News_and_Events/.

Cost: Free

The Boise WaterShed Environmental Education Center

Located near the Boise River, The Boise WaterShed is Idaho's first education center dedicated to the preservation and conservation of water. The family friendly facility features an array of high tech, hands-on exhibits designed to give visitors of all ages a fun and educational experience. Visitors can take a classroom lesson, tour to the river, tour the exhibit hall, or spend a whole afternoon doing all the above. The Boise WaterShed is at the West Boise Wastewater Treatment plant on 11818 W. Joplin Road. Hours are 9:00am to 4:30pm, Monday-Friday, with a special Family event from 10-2pm on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Visit www.boiseenvironmentaleducation.org or Call 489-1284 for more information.

Cost: Free

Winter Windows Gallery Stroll

December 3-31, All hours in Downtown Boise.

Local artists and businesses have teamed up to create fantastic holiday window art for the 4th Annual Winter Window Gallery Stroll, beginning on First Thursday, December 3rd. The Arts and History sponsored event features the work of many local artists who have loaned their creative talent to dress downtown Boise in holiday style. To add to this unique outdoor art experience on First Thursday, carolers and musical entertainment will be at each location to lift your spirits and lend holiday cheer. Visit www.downtownboise.org for more information.

Cost: Free

Arts for Kids

November 2009 through May 2010. A partnership between Boise City's Department of Arts & History, Boise Public Library, and Treasure Valley Institute of Children's Art (TriCA) Arts for Kids is moving to the four Boise Public Library branches from November 2009 through May 2010. The sessions emphasize cross-pollination of arts and culture disciplines and encourage children to find art in unexpected places. For schedule details go to BoiseArtsAndHistory.org or call 384-4200.

Cost: Free

Boise River Greenbelt

The 23-mile Greenbelt is a favorite destination for walking, biking or jogging. Enjoy the serenity of the natural area along the Bethine Church River Trail, a gravel section of pathway in Southeast Boise that is open only to hikers. Three new interpretive signs will help you learn about birds along the Boise River. For a map, see www.cityofboise.org/parks.

Cost: Free

Parks & Playgrounds

Did you know that no two playgrounds are the same in city parks? Each playground is uniquely designed by staff members with input from neighbors and local kids. Some of the coolest new playgrounds in the city are located at Fairmont Park on Northview, Sycamore on Braddock in West Boise and Borah Park on Latah. For a list of the city's 107 parks, see the Parks & Facilities page at www.cityofboise.org/parks.

Cost: Free

Foothills Learning Center

Science comes alive for students and other visitors to the Foothills Learning Center. Operated by the Boise Parks & Recreation Department, the Foothills Learning Center focuses on education and information about the Boise foothills and the surrounding high-desert environment. Our instructors offer free hands-on family programs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month.

The programs are open to all ages; no preregistration is required. Or take a stroll on the nature trail and you can learn about plants, geology and animals in this beautiful area. The center is located at 3188 Sunset Peak Road in Hulls Gulch Reserve. Take 8th Street north from downtown. Watch for the parking lot 1/3 mile past the end of the pavement. For information, go to

www.boiseenvironmentaleducation/org.

Cost: Free

Ridge to Rivers Trails

If you like to hike, walk your dog, mountain bike or horseback ride, we've got the trail for you! More than 125 miles of trails traverse a variety of terrain in the city and the mountains. The trails are maintained by Ridge to Rivers, a partnership between the City of Boise, Ada County, Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Department of Fish & Game. Maps are available at local bike shops. For details, see www.ridgetorivers.org.

Cost: Free

Warm Springs Golf Course

Children and adults will enjoy a fun and inexpensive way to golf together this winter at Warm Springs Golf Course, the city's 18-hole municipal course. Clubs are available free for youth up to age 18. Warm Springs Golf Course is located at 2495 E. Warm Springs Ave. Call us for a tee time at 343-5661. To sign up for our monthly newsletter, see www.cityofboise.org/WSGC.org.

Cost: After 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, the family rate is \$8 per person.

Zoo Boise

Lions and tigers and bear, oh my! Zoo Boise is also home to giraffes, Magellanic penguins, a Komodo dragon and many other fascinating animals. Located in Julia Davis Park, Zoo Boise is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. year round. Learn about animal conservation, have a snack and enjoy our zoo store too!. For more information, see www.zooboise.org or call (208) 384-4260.

Thursday Discount Day

Adults (12 - 61)	\$3.75
Seniors (62 & over)	\$3.75
Children (4 - 11)	\$2.50
Children (3 & under)	Free

Regular Hours

Adults (12 - 61)	\$6.50
Seniors (62 & over)	\$4.00
Children (4 - 11)	\$3.75
Children (3 & under)	Free

Boise Depot

Take a photo from atop the bell tower at the Boise Depot! The former Union Pacific train station is open for free public hours from noon-4 p.m. Sundays and 2-6 p.m. Mondays during winter months. Tour the Great Hall, learn about the building's colorful history and pick up a free coloring page with games, puzzles and train facts for kids. The historic Boise Depot is one of city's most photographed sites. For information, see www.cityofboise.org/parks or call (208) 384-4240.

Cost: Free

AiR Project

In the heart of Boise's cultural district visit the 8th Street Marketplace AiR program. This is an ongoing Artist in Residence program that provides free studio spaces for emerging and established artists. The AiR studios will be open to the public on First Thursdays so that the community can interact with the artists and experience their new work.

Three locations:

- **8th Street Marketplace in BoDo at 8th and Broad Streets, Second Floor**
- **8th Street and Fulton, under Renewal**
- **Alaska Building at Main and 11th Street, Second Floor**

Cost: Free