

Literacy Activities for Students

Book Stores

- Check your local book stores for Story Time hours and special events

History / Cultural

- Bird watching tour at the Torrey Pines State Reserve on Saturday and Sunday mornings
- Point Loma Tide Pools, when tides are low and the pools are visible to see some of the magnificent creatures of the sea. Point Loma tide pools are located just short of the tip of Cabrillo Point
- San Elijo Lagoon, 2710 Manchester Avenue; 760-436-3944; www.sanelijo.org. Visit the newly remodeled Nature Center, designed with natural and recycled materials. Free bird and nature walks every Second Saturday of each month
- Magee House and Gardens. 258 Beech Avenue, at Magee Park; 760-434-9189; www.carlsbadhistoricalsociety.org. Learn about life in 1900's Carlsbad. Take a tour through a historic home constructed in 1887, its beautiful rose and herb gardens and barn. Free
- Oceanside Historical Society, 305 North Nevada Street, 760-722-4786. www.oceansidehistoricalsociety.org. Learn about Oceanside's rich history during free Summer History Walks on

Visual / Performing Arts

- Alpine Summer Concert Series at 6pm on Select Sundays at 1834 Alpine Blvd.
- Annual Coronado Promenade Concerts at 6pm on Sundays at Spreckels Park
- Annual Encinitas Sunday Concerts by the Sea from 3-5pm on Sundays at Moonlight Beach
- Annual Lemon Grove Concerts in the Park from 6:30 – 8pm on Thursdays at Berry Street Park
- Carlsbad Jazz-in-the-Park Series at 6pm on Fridays in different park locations throughout Carlsbad
- Chula Vista Music in the Park at 4pm on Sundays at the Memorial Bowl Park
- Santee Summer Concerts from 6:30-8pm on Thursdays at Santee Trolley Square Amphitheater
- Summer in the Park Concerts from 6-8pm at Trolley Barn Park on Adams Avenue
- Twilight in the Park Summer Concerts from 6:15-7:15pm on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park
- Seaport Village, 849 West Harbor Drive, 619-235-4014. www.seaportvillage.com. A historic carousel and one of the most idyllic spots on San Diego Bay, Seaport

Museums

- Reuben H. Fleet Space Theater on the first Wednesday of every month for "Stars in the Park." The San Diego Astronomy Association sets up huge telescopes and offers guests a great view of our magnificent outer space. Free the fourth Tuesday of the month
- California Surf Museum, 223 North Coast Hwy.; 760-721-6876. www.surfmuseum.org. Showcases a large collection of vintage boards, photographs and memorabilia related to the surfing lifestyle. Exhibits rotate annually. Open daily, except for major holidays. Free
- Solana Beach Heritage Museum, 715 Valley Avenue (La Colonia Park); 858-755-2937. www.solanabeachcivichistoricalociety.org. This museum contrasts Solana Beach life in 1900 with 1930, with its hand-cranked sink pump, wind up a phonograph, treadle sewing machine and its electric counterparts. Open afternoons and the first and third Saturdays of each month. Free.
- Museum of Contemporary Art, 1001 and 1100 Kettner Blvd.; 858-454-3541. www.mcasd.org. The museum's permanent collection displays more than 4,000 works of art from 1950 to the present. The two downtown facilities are across the street from one another. An education room offers hands-on, interactive exhibits. Free admission for those 25 and under
- San Diego Union Museum,

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History / Cultural cont...

the second Saturday of each month.

May through September

- Old Town Trolley Barn Neighborhood Park, 1400 Adams Avenue, www.normalheights.org/parks/trolleybarnpark. Located in what was once the night quarters for the electric street cars running along bustling Adams Avenue in the early 1900's, this park is a grassy, shaded reception area with a playground and picnic tables. Two stone pillars and a plaque at the park's entrance greet visitors and relate the area's history. Free concerts in the summer months
- Centro Cultural de la Raza, 2125 Park Blvd; 619-235-6135; www.centroraza.com. Established in 1970, the Centro is dedicated to creating, promoting and preserving Chicano, Mexican and Indigenous art and culture. View colorful murals and rotating exhibits, and watch live theatre, dance, music and film/video programs in the performance space. Free the first Tuesday of the month
- Japanese Friendship Garden, 2125 Park Blvd, 619-232-2721; www.niwa.org. The Garden originated as a teahouse in 1915 and now lies on two acres near the Spreckles Organ Pavilion. Enjoy the Zen garden, exhibit house, bonsai

Visual / Performing Arts...

Village is a family-friendly, fun place to spend the day. New is the Rip Squeak and Friends Gallery, filled with artwork, books and puzzles. Free concerts are held in the East Plaza

- Alpine Summer Concert Series. Alpine Community Center Park, 1830 Alpine Blvd, 619-445-7330. Enjoy free concerts June through July on Sundays at 6pm
- Santee Summer Concerts, Santee Tolley Square Amphitheatre, 619-258-4100 ext. 201; www.ci.santee.ca.us/index.htm. From June through August, the city of Santee plays host to free concerts featuring live music and fun for the entire family. Evening concerts provide opportunity to dance and get food and refreshments from nearby restaurants at the San Diego Trolley Center
- Coronado Playhouse, 1835 Strand Way, 619-435-4856; www.coronadoplayhouse.com. This theatre features classic comedies, dramas, musicals, original works by local authors and offers free Shakespearian plays during the summer

Museums, cont. . .

- www.oldtownsandiego.org. Old Town San Diego Historic Park Originally built in Maine, this wood-framed building was shipped around the Horn in 1851 to become the first office of the San Diego Union newspaper. Now it's been restored to its original condition, as it was when the first newspaper was printed in 1868. View the original Washington press in the print room and see the editor's office. Free admission
- Museum of San Diego History, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park, 619-232-6203; www.sandiegohistory.org. The Museum of San Diego History showcases the region's unique, colorful history exhibiting artifacts, costumes, textiles, art, furniture and photographs. Exhibits detail the life and development of San Diego County through historical and contemporary topics. Families can also explore our youth gallery, featuring exhibits that are developed in collaboration with regional school and youth groups. Free the second Tuesday of the month
- San Diego Air & Space Museum, 2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park, 619-234-8291; www.sandiegoairandspace.org. A hit for kids of all ages, the San Diego Air & Space Museum is where "dreams take flight" on the journey from the dawn of flight to the space age. Free the 4th Tuesday of the month to San Diego County residents and active duty military

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and a wisteria arbor. Free the third Tuesday of the month

- Heritage of the Americas Museum, 12110 Cuyamaca College Drive West, 619-670-5194. Take a journey through time in this educational and cultural center focused on the history of the Americas. Visit the museum's natural history, archeology, anthropology, art and education displays. Under age 17 are free
- Barona Cultural Center and Museum, 1095 Barona Road, 619-443-7003, ext. 219; www.baronamuseum.org. This museum allows a unique educational journey for the entire family. You'll find thousands of years of history of the first inhabitants, the Kumeyaay/Diegueño people. Come see the exhibits and visit the library. Free

Sports

- Arco Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista for a free tour of the 150-acre facility. Tours offered daily starting at the Copley Visiting Center
- The 29th Annual U.S. Open Sandcastle Competition, July 18 & 19, 2009, Imperial Beach, CA
- Carlsbad Skate Park, 2560 Orion Way, www.socalskateparks.com/park/Carlsbad. This free, un-staffed park offers a mix of street and transition skateboarding. Good for skate boarders and roller bladers at all levels. Safety gear required
- San Diego Polo Club. 14555 El Camino Real; 858-481-9217; www.sandiegopolo.com. International "Game of Kings" combines golf, football and hockey on a horse. Kids under 12 free with a paid adult. Children's activities include: a bounce house, snow, mallet / ball hitting, photos with polo ponies and artist's corner
- Little Italy Stickball League, Columbia Street, between Ash and Cedar Streets; www.westcoaststickball.com or www.littleitaly.sd.com/StickballLeague.asp. The stickball capital of the West Coast, San Diego host league play the

Museums, cont. . .

- Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado, 619-239-0003; www.mingei.org. See objects of daily use from world cultures: tools, utensils, apparel, adornment, ceremonial objects, musical instruments, dolls and toys. Families love the fairy dwelling, the 1750's Goulden Baby House, and the 1820 Roderick Baby House. Free the third Tuesday of the month
- Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado, 619-238-7559; www.mopa.org. Houses more than 7,000 works, representing the entire history of photography, its aesthetic movements, and technical advancements. Youth programs and classes explore techniques in film, photography and other media. Free the second Tuesday of the month
- San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1439 El Prado, 619-696-0199; www.sdmodelrailroadm.com. At 28,000 square feet, the museum is the world's largest operating model museum with four enormous scale and model layouts depicting railroads of the Southwest. Free the first Tuesday of the month
- San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, 619-232-7931; www.sdmart.org. Visit SDMA's collections via the Family portal at www.carearts.org, which lists upcoming family-friendly events and children's art

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Sports, cont. . .

- first Sunday of the month from February through June and championship play in September through October. Be a spectator or join in on the fun in the Bronx-inspired game involving a stick, a ball, and whatever. The ball may bounce off of streetlights, parking meters, even pedestrians
- U.S. Olympic Training Center, 2800 Olympic Parkway, 619-656-1500; www.usoc.org. One of three such facilities in the U.S., the center offers free, guided walking tours. Watch world-class athletes train for archery, canoe/kayak, cycling, field hockey, rowing, soccer, softball and track and field.

Museums, cont. . .

- classes. Free the third Tuesday of the month
- San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado, 619-232-3821; www.sdnhm.org. This active research institution is the oldest scientific institution in Southern California. Features exhibitions on the animals, plants and minerals of Southern and Baja California. Fossil Mysteries is an interactive multi-sensory treat for all ages. Free the first Tuesday of the month
 - Victoria's Gardens, 13120 Willow Road, 619-390-9571; www.victoriagardens.us. Visit a real working farm to pick your own strawberries, watermelon, pumpkins and Christmas trees depending on the season. Picnic Tables, a bounce jump, petting zoo and more are available. Free