

THE BANISTER

Free Family Fun Activities September to December

Spending time together as a family is an important way to build and strengthen relationships. Below are ideas for weekend fun activities and events from September to December:

Kids' Bird Watch Walk

Last Sunday of the month at 10 a.m.

Adamson House and Malibu Lagoon Museum & Beach

23200 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu

Join a special bird-watching walk for young children and their parents. Binoculars are provided. For more information, call 310-457-2240 or check <http://smbas.atspace.com>.

Live Steamers Miniature Train Rides

First Sunday of the month, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Third Sunday of month, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Wilson Park, 2100 Washington Ave. , Torrance

Climb aboard a miniature train for a free ride the whole family will enjoy. For more information, check www.southerncalifornialivesteamers.com.

Play Dates in the Play Zone

Fourth Saturday of the month, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Westfield Century City Mall, 10250 Santa Monica Blvd., Century City

For more information, call 310-277-3898 or check www.westfield.com/centurycity.

Living History Day

Third Sunday of the month, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Los Encinos State Historic Park, 16756 Moorpark St., Encino

Enjoy an afternoon of traditional children's games, music, a blacksmith, ladies dressed in 1870s fashions, and tours of historic buildings. For more information, call 818-784-4849 or check www.los-encinos.org.

LA Craft Experience

Second Saturday of the month, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Chinatown Central Plaza, Downtown Los Angeles

Vendors selling unique, handmade art, jewelry, home décor, books and gift items.

Hands-on crafts demonstrations, free giveaways, DJs and bands make this a fun and lively day. For more information, check www.laceevent.com.

Hip Hop Jams

Saturdays, Noon – 4 p.m.

MacArthur Park Recreation Center, 2230 W. 6th St, Los Angeles

The program encourages creative expression for children of all ages using hip-hop music, visual art and dance. Artistic mentors provide guidance in a safe, accessible space. For more information, call 213-251-9164 or check www.rampartjuice.com.

Korean Festival

September 21-25, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

3250 San Marino St., Los Angeles

Celebrate Korean culture with traditional music, dancers, concerts and more than 300 food and merchandise booths. For more information, call 213-487-9696 or check www.lakoreanfestival.com.

Thai Cultural Day

September 18, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles

Enjoy Thai classical music, folk dances, fruit and vegetable carving, a costume contest, children's workshops and Thai theater performances. For more information, call 310-650-1531 or check www.thaiculturalcenter.org/events.html.

Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival

September 24, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Watts Towers Campus, 1727 E. 107th St., Watts

See and hear the diversity of drum music from Latin, Japanese, African, Jazz, Native American and many other drummers. Also, take a tour of the Watts Towers. For more information, call 213-847-4646 or check www.culturela.org.

Abbot Kinney Festival

September 25, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Abbot Kinney Blvd. between Venice Blvd. and Main St., Los Angeles

One of the largest community festivals in Southern California featuring hundreds of arts and crafts exhibitors, KidsQuad, gourmet food trucks, and live music on three stages. For more information, call 310-396-3772 or check <http://abbotkinney.org>.

The Angel Festival

October 1, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sierra Madre Park, 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre

Anything and everything to do with angels! Arts and crafts, silly fun and much more. Go wearing an angel costume and you'll get a \$5-off coupon at any booth at the festival. For more information, call 626-794-4458 or check www.theangelfestival.com

Hispanic Heritage Festival

October 2, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

MacArthur Park, 2230 W. 6th St., Los Angeles

Celebrate the rich cultural diversity of Latin America and Spain with folkloric groups, performers, artisans, painters and raffles. For more information, check

www.cervantescenter.org/events.html.

Taste of Encino Festival

October 9, 10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Encino Park, Victory Blvd. between Balboa Blvd. and Amestoy Ave., Encino

Four stages of entertainment of live folk, bluegrass, and other music styles, dancing and creative storytelling. Enjoy a variety of ethnic and American foods, a rock-climbing wall, a moon bounce, arts and crafts fair, health and wellness features and much more. For more information, call 818-789-2485 or check www.encinochamber.org.

Autumn Sea Fair

October 16, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, 3720 Stephen M. White Dr., San Pedro

Celebrate the beauty and bounty of the sea with games, live music, marine exhibits, face painting, a fireboat display, arts and crafts and more. Also featured are a sand sculpture contest, a chance to hunt for buried treasure, pirates and a marine life puppet show. For more information, call 310-548-7562 or check

www.laparks.org/pdf/events.pdf.

Happy Harbor Halloween

October 29, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Promenade near Harbor Blvd. between 3rd and 5th Streets, San Pedro

Carnival-style festival featuring games, crafts, music, face-painting, storytelling, a children's Halloween costume contest and more. For more information, call 800-831-7678 or check www.portoflosangeles.org/community/Calendar.asp.

Sea Scare

October 29, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, 3720 Stephen M. White Dr., San Pedro

Travel to an underwater world of thrills, chills and gills! Come in costume and scare up some yummys as you trick or treat at six goodies stations. Enjoy a haunted house, pirates and a treasure hunt, sea creature feedings, spooky stories, fortune-telling, magic, games, crafts, cookie decorating, dancing, a costume contest and lots of other fun. For more information, call 310-548-7562 or check www.laparks.org/pdf/events.pdf.

Holiday Light Festival

November 22 through December 30, 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Griffith Park, along Crystal Springs Dr., Los Angeles

One of the largest holiday-themed events in Southern California, you can drive or walk a mile-long stretch of lighted displays of various seasonal messages along with displays of City of Los Angeles landmarks. For more information, call 323-913-4688 or check

www.laparks.org/pdf/events.pdf.

Victorian Christmas

December 3-4, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Banning Museum, 401 East M St., Wilmington

This event features authentic, Victorian-style seasonal decorations, including Christmas trees with handmade decorations. Enjoy strolling carolers, readings of Victorian Christmas stories, ornament-making sessions, hot cider and cookies. For more information, call 310-548-777 or check www.thebanningmuseum.org/calendar.pdf.

Christmas on 8th Street

December 17-18, 12:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

8th Street at Normandie Ave., Los Angeles

Celebrate the joy of Christmas and the happiness of children at this festival, considered to be the biggest toy giveaway event in the community. It also includes entertainment on four stages, free toys and products, clowns and small rides. For more information, call 213-388-8291 or check www.calleochola.com.

Downtown on Ice Winter Holiday Festival

December 10-11, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Pershing Square, 532 S. Olive St. Los Angeles

Enjoy a snow zone with real snow, outdoor ice skating, make-it-take-it arts and crafts for kids, live entertainment, food vendors and more. For more information, call 213-847-4970 or check www.laparks.org/pdf/events.pdf.