

# ECFE Summer Fun Ideas

## 2015 Edition

### MUSEUMS/HISTORICAL SITES

JACKSON	Fort Belmont Historic village at fairgrounds - open during the Jackson County Fair
LAKEFIELD	Jackson County Historical Museum
OKOBOJI, IA	Lakes Art Center Dickinson County Museum
CURRIE	End-O-Line Railroad Park and Historical Village
PIPESTONE	Fort Pipestone Pipestone National Monument
JEFFERS	Petroglyphs (ancient red rock carvings)

### ZOOS & ANIMALS

ORLEANS, IA	Fish Hatchery (mid-April) 712-336-1840 Call before you go!
LUVERNE	Blue Mound State Park - buffalo
SIOUX FALLS	Sioux Falls Zoo & Taxidermy Museum
ST. PAUL	Como Park Zoo & Conservatory - free, with suggested donation of \$2/adult, \$1/child

### PARKS

JACKSON COUNTY	Robertson Park, Anderson Park, Brown Park - on Loon Lake, SW of Jackson. Sandy Point Park - on Heron Lake west of Lakefield Kilen Woods State Park - camping, hiking, prairie, observation tower Sparks Park - Lakefield - Small prairie for children to roam & explore!
MANKATO	Minneopa State Park - waterfalls
FAIRMONT	Gomsrud Park - playground & swimming beach Fairmont Aquatic Park - Daily Admission: \$5 per person ages 2 & up. Everyone pays, even if you don't swim! <a href="http://www.fairmont.org/aquaticpark/home.html">http://www.fairmont.org/aquaticpark/home.html</a>
NEW ULM	Flandreau State Park - shallow swimming area
CURRIE	Shetek State Park - beautiful beach
REDWOOD FALLS	Alexander Ramsey Park - waterfalls
ESTHERVILLE, IA	Fort Defiance State Park
MILFORD, IA	Florence Park, Jaycee Park, Milford Memorial Park, Caulkins Park
OKOBOJI, IA	Gull Point State Park, Pikes' Point State Park, Okoboji State Park
LAKE PARK, IA	Trapper's Bay State Park
BIG SPIRIT LAKE	Marble Beach

- ARNOLD'S PARK      City Park  
 SPIRIT LAKE      Gilbert Park, Memorial Park, Little League Park, Center Lake Park  
                          Kenue Park - 1 mile west of Hwy 71 on 170<sup>th</sup> Street.  
                          Picnic area, nature trails, physical fitness course; Oak savanna forest,  
                          meadows and scenic overlook from top of a glacial kame.
- WINDOM              Island Park outdoor pool- For hours & rates, see <http://www.windom-mn.com/depts/parksrec/swimmingpool.htm>
- LAKEFIELD          Family Aquatic Park - Daily pass or season pass. Check the link at  
[www.lakefieldmn.com](http://www.lakefieldmn.com) for hours of operation and costs.

## ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

### TAKE A KID FISHING--- JUNE 5-7 2015

#### **Fish for free during Take-A-Kid Fishing Weekend:**

Minnesotans 16 or older who take a child 15 or younger doesn't need a license that weekend and opportunities for inexperienced, beginning anglers abound throughout Minnesota.

Catch some quality, family time and plan a special fishing day or weekend. There are a variety of organized fishing opportunities throughout the state during Take a Kid Fishing Weekend.

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/takeakidfishing](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/takeakidfishing)

- JACKSON**              Walking/bike trails along the Des Moines River ([www.co.jackson.mn.us](http://www.co.jackson.mn.us)  
                          for maps)  
                          Disc Golf Course  
                          Ashley Park  
                          **"Come Kamp & Care With Us Weekend"** May 8 &9 at Jackson KOA.  
                          Campers who stay as a paying guest on Friday night receive a \$10.00 night  
                          of camping on Saturday night. Reservations: [www.koa.com](http://www.koa.com)  
                          **Superior 71 Drive-in Theater** - south of Jackson at Hwy 71/9  
                          intersection  
                          712-336-0700

LAKES AREA           Boji Bantam Theatre  
Arnold's Park Amusement Park - Friday, May 15- 2 hr. free admission (the day before the park opens) Rest of the summer: One admission/unlimited rides.  
Iowa Great Lakes Bike Trail - Spirit Lake to Milford  
Treasure Village - children's plays, mini-golf

SIOUX FALLS           Terrace Park - pool & waterslides

ST. JAMES             Outdoor pool open daily from 1:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

WORTHINGTON        Centennial Park pool & slide: <http://www.wgtn.net/Parks/pool.htm>

WINDOM              Kastle Kingdom Park  
Island Park outdoor pool - For hours & rates, see <http://www.windom.mn.com/depts./parksrec/swimmingpool.htm>

### FAIRS, FESTIVALS & PARADES

MAY: Jackson - Family Fun Fair, Thursday May 28 3:00 - 6:00 pm @ JCC High School  
Includes activities for kids, free snacks and the Vehicle Rally in the parking lot!

JUNE: **Jackson** - Franks-a-Lot **FREE HOTDOGS** all over downtown Thursday evening, June 18  
Fairmont - Interlaken Heritage Days June 12-14 Parade Saturday  
Lakefield - Summerfest June 17-21 Family Fun Night, Friday, 6 pm. Parade, Saturday, 2 pm  
Mountain Lake - Pow Wow - Parade, Monday, June 15, 7 pm  
St. James - Railroad Days June 26-29 Parade on Saturday  
Sherburn - Holiday Festival, June 19-21 Parade Sunday 3 pm  
Worthington-Regatta on Lake Okabena- June 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

**JACKSON - Town & Country Days - June 26 & 27 ; Parade Saturday at 11? am**  
**Rhythm of the River "Rockin' on the River" Music Festival,**  
**July 10 & 11<sup>th</sup> , on the banks of the Des Moines River**  
**County Fair- July 21-26<sup>th</sup>**

JULY: Fairmont - July 4<sup>th</sup> Blue Grass Music Festival at Heritage Acres  
Spectacular fireworks over Lake Sisseton at 10 pm Bring lawn chairs & bug spray.  
Okabena -July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration - afternoon parade, evening fireworks

**Jackson County Fair, July 21-26** . Lots of 4-H, FFA and open class animals, carnival, free entertainment, 4-H exhibits, 4-H food stand (cheap eats)!

**Nobles County Fair** - Worthington - August 12-16

**Martin County Fair** - Fairmont, (bigger carnival than most) August 13-19. Concerts are free with gate admission.

**Cottonwood County Fair** - Windom, August 19-22

**Butterfield Threshing Bee** - Voss Park August 14-16

**Minnesota State Fair** - St. Paul, Aug 27 - Sept. 7. (Reduced price on admissions and carnival rides on Kids' Days) [www.mnstatefair.org](http://www.mnstatefair.org) Check out "Park & Ride" instead of driving to the fair.

To locate other county fairs: [www.mfcf.com](http://www.mfcf.com) MN Federation of County Fairs

SEPTEMBER: Clay County Fair, Spencer, Iowa Sept. 12-20<sup>th</sup> "*The World's Greatest County Fair*"

## PAGEANTS

WALNUT GROVE WILDER PAGEANT - Outdoor drama based on "Little House on the Prairie" books. <http://www.walnutgrove.org/index.html>

TICKETS: 1-888-859-3102. \$14 reserved; \$12 general admission. Under 5 free or kids can sit on your lap. **July 6-7, 13-14, 20-21**. Bring lawn chairs and BUG SPRAY. Not for very young children because of late hour and a real "prairie fire."

Laura-Nellie Look Alike Contests at Walnut Grove. Sat. July 7. \$5 to enter. Based on appearance and knowledge of these characters from the Laura Ingalls Wilder books. For girls ages 8-12.

## FARMERS' MARKETS

- JACKSON Farmer's market at Ashley Park. Thursday 2:00-6:00 p.m.  
Lots of great local produce and crafts!
- HERON LAKE Schumacher's Nursery & Berry Farm - pick your own strawberries. 6:30 a.m.-noon. Call to confirm they are open. 507-793-2288. Bring your own containers.  
Mid- to late-June.
- SPIRIT LAKE Lakes Area Farmers' Market - Wednesdays & Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. - noon  
Dickinson County Fairgrounds
- BUTTERFIELD Hall's Across the Prairie - Home of grass-fed prairie raised beef, free range chicken, eggs & lamb. 507-956-2657.
- WORTHINGTON Indian Lake Berry Farm Pick-your-own or pre-picked raspberries & black currants, and free containers. July-December. Call for hours 507-376-4316.  
Ocheda Orchard - Apples, Pumpkins, Sweet Corn. Open early August 507-376-3255

For more information on events in Minnesota: [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com) or call  
1-888-TOURISM

More produce stands & orchards at: <http://www3.mda.state.mn.us/mngrown/home.aspx>

