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# Eight Local Cultural Institutions Provide a Linked Learning Experience

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Posted: Wednesday, April 8, 2015 11:56 am

by [Cassandra Palmyra](#) | 0 comments

The consortium of eight institutions that make up the Ithaca Discovery Trail ensure one summer song, the kids' "I'm bored. There's nothing to do-o-o-" chant, can be retired. Throughout the season, whatever the weather, there's something interesting going on every day.

The Sciencenter and the Cayuga Nature Center both offer one-or two-week camp sessions focused by age and preferred activities of participants. Whether you want to explore life on the forest floor or in space, build rockets or learn more about the animals and bugs that share our environment, these camps are an opportunity for learning disguised as fun. All are rich in hands-on experiences for kids. "They're so much fun, I've enjoyed taking pictures of the kids there each year," says Teresa Bell of the Sciencenter.



For visitors and others who want to decide on activities one day at a time, Discovery Trail Coordinator Nancy Grossman advised, "The best way to find out what's going on at the eight locations are the Discovery Trail website ([discoverytrail.net](#)) and our Facebook page ([facebook.com/discoverytrail](#)). These are updated weekly, and every exhibit that comes up is included." Links on the web page can take the Internet visitor to that institution's own website for more information.

"There are events and happenings daily," Grossman said. "There's so, so, so much to do!" For example, even if summer camp is not on the horizon, a visit to the Sciencenter (admission charged) could include a round or two of "Galaxy Golf," and a self-guided tour of hands-on science exhibits. The six-story tree house at the Cayuga Nature Center (admission charged) might be on many kids' summer bucket-lists.

The Tompkins County Public Library takes part in a nation-wide summer reading program called "Fizz! Boom! Read!" There is reading log online or at the library. Summer reading-related programs will be happening throughout the summer.

Other summer library programs include Tuesday Stories in DeWitt Park, at 11:30 am each week; Yoga Storytime, family movie nights, a school readiness series for prospective kindergarten and pre-kindergarten students and a sensory story time for children with sensory processing issues. More information will be posted, as it becomes available, at the library website [tcpu.org](#). All library programs are free and open to all.

The Cayuga Nature Center is run by the Museum of the Earth. This summer the museum will be offering "Layers of Life" at the nature center, an outdoor exploration of how plants, animals, and the geology combine to create habitats. At the museum itself they will be mounting an exhibit of photographs of the very small ... blown up into very large image.

The History Center's exhibit "Switched on—the Birth of the Moog Synthesizer" is a tribute to the ground-breaking work of local musical inventor Robert Moog, builder of one of the first electronic instruments. The exhibit includes keyboards that you are allowed to play.

Wide open spaces and intimate planned gardens can be enjoyed at the Cornell Plantations, which schedules regular guided walks, classes and other special events through the year. A schedule for the Shakespeare in the Park programs will be available soon. Learn more on their website ([cornellplantations.org](#)).

## Calendar

April 2015						
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The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has a group of volunteers who lead bird walks in Sapsucker Woods every Saturday and Sunday morning. In the summer months these begin at 7:30 a.m. after April 1.

The Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University has an eclectic permanent exhibit, to which special temporary exhibits are frequently added. These often come with family-friendly programming, exhibit tours with a docent, and lectures by an artist or curator. The best way to find out about these as they occur is to check the Discovery Trail website and the museum website (museum.cornell.edu). Admission is free to the museum and many programs.

"The fact that we have so many resources in a community the size of Ithaca is such a gift," Grossman says. "You can always look and find something." §

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