

TODAY'S family

March 2026

Lake Geauga

Girl Scout
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Womankind Prenatal and Maternal Care Center

Walking with women
through pregnancy
and beyond

Beers & Hymns

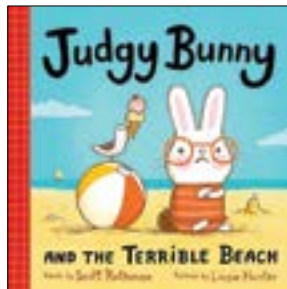
Polka concert collects warming
items to help the homeless

The benefits of outdoor play

Rain, snow and all



Today's Family BOOK CLUB



Judgy Bunny and the Terrible Beach

Scott Rothman (author)

Linzie Hunter (illustrator)

For this judgy bunny, nothing's worse than a day at the beach. The sun? Too bright. That view of the blue sky and gleaming sand? Awful. Sand castles? Ugh. Ice cream? Yucky.

Yep. Everything is TERRIBLE. It has to be, right? There's no way she could EVER have a good time. Not with the inexplicably friendly bunny who's offered to fly kites with her, or the ice cream cone that possibly isn't a flavor she detests, or boogie boarding, which she actually... isn't bad at?! Okay. MAYBE it's fun. But she'll be the judge of that. Ages 4–8. On sale March 24, 2026.



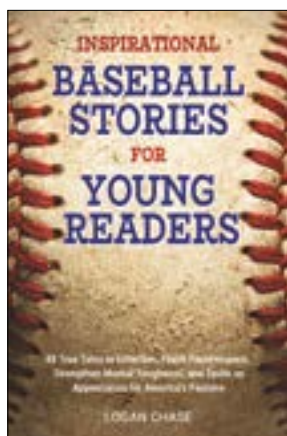
Leo's Lobo

Melissa Cristina Márquez (author)

Maria Gabriela Gama (illustrator)

Leo is thrilled when he and his family enter a shelter so he can adopt a new pet, but after searching for a while, Leo doesn't feel the connection he had hoped for and leaves feeling disappointed. On the way home, he and his family see a busy marketplace and

find another shelter hidden inside: one for magical creatures! There Leo connects with an alebrije, their bond forming before they can even leave the shelter. But he quickly learns just how much responsibility comes with raising a pet. Ages K–3.



Inspirational Baseball Stories for Young Readers

Logan Chase (author)

This inspiring collection explores the powerful stories behind baseball's greatest legends and most pivotal moments. From early trailblazers of the 1800s to today's standout stars, young readers will discover how determination, resilience, and courage shaped the game—and the people who played it. The book highlights legendary teams, unforgettable milestones, and the struggles athletes faced, including discrimination and adversity,

as they broke barriers and changed history. Along the way, readers learn valuable lessons about sportsmanship, mental toughness, and character. More than just a sports book, it shows how baseball's heroes continue to inspire new generations on and off the field. Ages 9+.

Do you know someone who deserves the SPOTLIGHT?

We're always looking to share inspiring, heartwarming stories. If you know someone whose story would inspire or uplift Today's Family readers, please send us an email and tell us about them!

SCAN TO EMAIL US!



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Womankind Prenatal and Maternal Care Center

Walking with women through pregnancy and beyond

For nearly 50 years, Womankind Prenatal and Maternal Care Center has quietly and steadily walked alongside women during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. Founded in 1975, this Northeast Ohio nonprofit provides free prenatal care to women without health insurance, along with personal support and essential resources—always in a compassionate, nonjudgmental environment.

At the heart of Womankind's mission is a simple but powerful belief: every woman deserves respectful care, every family deserves support, and every baby deserves a healthy start. Clients are welcomed into a safe, inclusive space where dignity, kindness, and collaboration guide every interaction. Medical care is paired with emotional support and practical assistance, ensuring women are not navigating pregnancy—or early parenthood—alone.

Womankind was founded by Michele Rogers, a nurse and mother who saw firsthand the gaps faced by pregnant women without insurance, medical care, or social support. While working in pregnancy counseling, Rogers realized that encouragement alone wasn't enough—women needed access to prenatal care and real resources. With the help of her family and a small group of supporters, she set out to create a place where medical care and social services could exist under one roof. Her vision helped shape Womankind into what it is today: a trusted partner for women and families across the region.

Over the years, Womankind has expanded its services to meet the evolving needs of the community. In addition to prenatal care, the organization assists clients with applications for insurance, WIC, SNAP, housing, and employment resources. Families can also receive diapers, wipes, clothing, formula, and baby equipment for children from newborn through toddlerhood. Partnerships with hospitals, physicians, and community agencies allow Womankind to provide high-quality

care while focusing on the individual needs of each client.

The impact of this work is best seen through the lives it touches.

Julie first came to Womankind in 2012 as a 17-year-old expecting her first child. With limited resources, she turned to Womankind for help and found far more than medical care. Staff supported her throughout her pregnancy, provided maternity clothing and baby supplies, and encouraged her to continue her education. During that time, Julie earned her GED and graduated from Ohio Media School—famously covering her baby bump with her diploma.

Years later, Julie returned while pregnant with her third child, facing homelessness, no medical insurance, and serious health complications. Once again, Womankind surrounded her with care. Doctors and nurses closely monitored her pregnancy, staff helped keep her older children engaged during appointments, and the team worked together to ensure a safe delivery. On Mother's Day 2021, Julie welcomed her daughter. Today, while working two jobs, Julie continues to rely on Womankind for diapers and necessities—and credits the organization with helping her through what once felt impossible.

Another powerful example of Womankind's impact is Erica's story—one that reminds us that life's greatest gifts sometimes arrive unexpectedly. At 42, Erica felt settled in life, with a career she loved and a nine-year-old son. When she found herself unexpectedly pregnant, uncertainty set in. After visiting an ultrasound mobile unit, she was encouraged to seek care at Womankind and was reassured she would be supported every step of the way.

From her first visit, Erica felt genuinely cared for. She was especially touched by the warmth of volunteers who greeted her by name and helped keep her older son company during appointments. Any fears about how he would adjust quickly faded, replaced by excitement as he proudly shared the news that he was going to be a big brother. On February



Photo credit: Adobe Stock / By Syda Productions

20, 2024, Erica welcomed her son, a healthy baby. Now proudly sharing her story, Erica hopes to encourage other women—especially those over 40—to see unexpected journeys as opportunities for joy. “Womankind takes great care of you,” she says. “Every mom should know that.”

Today, Womankind continues to grow Michele Rogers' original vision—meeting women where they are, surrounding them with care, and helping families build a strong foundation for the future. With the

support of dedicated volunteers, community partners, and generous donors, Womankind remains a place where women are seen, supported, and reminded they are never alone. One healthy family at a time, Womankind is helping turn uncertainty into hope.

For more information on receiving support, donating, or volunteering please visit womankind-cleveland.org or call (216) 662-5700.

~Article by Dan Miller

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A school bus and a bobcat

Mommy CHRONICLES

By Stacy Turner

Picture, if you will, a small, quiet girl with glasses, wearing an ugly blue plaid school jumper and knee socks, her hair pulled back in a long ponytail. Of the 6–8 kids at the bus stop, only her two older sisters were dressed like her. All the other kids wore regular clothes and attended public school. When the bus arrived, the pecking order ensured that the older kids rode in the back of the bus, with eighth graders holding court in the very back row. Kids in other grade levels spaced themselves in descending grade order, with the youngest kids nearest the driver. As a second grader, my seat was closer to the front, under the watchful eye of our bus driver, a silent man who seemed to keep order with just a purposeful glance in the rearview mirror.

The din of boisterous kids grew

louder the further back you traveled. If it began getting out of hand, the bus driver would threaten to hand out demerits, effectively kicking troublemakers off the bus for a few days. That was before kids were regularly driven to school, so it would be an inconvenience for busy parents. The bigger kids in the back were caught up in their own conversations. This is where my sisters sat, joining in and trying to blend in.

So every school day, I'd make my way to my seat four rows behind the driver. And every day, the annoying older boy in the seat behind mine would poke and prod, and eventually grab my hair and give it a good yank. When I'd turn around and tell him to stop, he'd laugh, mimic me, and laugh some more. This went on every morning, without fail. I stopped wearing two pigtails, as he'd grab them with both hands, smacking my head against the back of the seat with more force than one would expect.

As a middle child, I was used to fighting my own battles, but this kid was relentless. When I finally told my mom what was happening, she



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told me I should just ignore it, and he'd lose interest. She said he was probably doing it for attention and that he probably liked me. She told my sisters to watch out for me. I wondered why I was expected to just put up with having some jerk pull my hair until he grew tired of the game.

The next day after school, right after I took my seat, Mr. Grabby Hands gave my hair another big yank. When my head hit the back of the seat, I snapped. I jumped out of my seat and whipped around—52 pounds of pure anger—flailing fists of fury at whatever parts of him I could reach. He was completely caught off guard, too shocked to even cover his face, getting hit by a small, angry girl in glasses, knee socks, and a plaid jumper. My frenzy wasn't over until the bus driver, who unbeknownst to me had stopped the bus, forcibly pulled me away. With angry tears streaming down my face and fists swinging in the air, I said through clenched teeth, "I told you to stop pulling my hair!" My little fists caused more embarrassment than physical injury, but that outburst had been a long time in the making.

Without a word, the driver moved me to the seat directly behind him. The rest of the ride home was quiet, except for the big kids in the back, who were far enough away to speak in hushed tones. As I got off the bus, the driver gave me the usual nod, but no demerit. I assumed my mom would be getting a call, so I walked slowly home from the bus stop, certain I'd be in enough trouble to merit the use of my middle name.

"Stacy Lynn, you're in big trouble. Wait 'til your father hears about this!"

But no call ever came—not then.

Not ever. My sisters didn't tell, as they would have gotten in trouble for not looking out for me. In hindsight, I bet the bus driver was a girl dad, because he didn't seem to take issue with my actions.

The next morning, the ride to school was equally subdued. It wasn't until after school that day when the neighbor boys, who were my sisters' age, began chanting with raised fists as we walked toward our houses, "Bobcat Lynn! Bobcat Lynn!" Apparently, they delighted in sharing the story of how a fierce little girl seemingly jumped out of nowhere, like an angry little bobcat, and beat up a kid much bigger than herself. Before long, the excitement died down, and normal order returned to the neighborhood.

If that whole exchange had happened today, I wonder how it would have been handled. Would the kid have been stopped sooner? Would I have? And would we both have been held accountable? While some believe that violence is never justified, it was my last resort when other options failed. It's important to note that my violent streak ended there. Maybe it was because once I proved I wasn't an easy target, I didn't get picked on anymore.

Back in those days, kids were encouraged to handle things on their own on playgrounds and buses, and in many ways, it helped make us resilient. As parents today, our roles have become very different from what was expected back then. The world seems bigger now, and threats loom larger. And there's no denying that today is full of more dire things than hair-pulling and fistfights.

Interestingly, bobcats were an endangered species when I was young. Today, the species has recovered—so maybe there's hope for us, too.



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A Community of Support

Lake County families don't have to navigate developmental disabilities alone

When you or someone you love is diagnosed with a developmental disability, it can feel overwhelming. There are many questions that need answers, and answers that can create more questions. You can take comfort in knowing that the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD)/Deepwood can guide you every step of the way.

As a first step to find answers, the LCBDD's Service and Support Administration (SSA) team helps identify and review services needed for a safe, healthy, and enriched life. The process begins with determining eligibility and assessing an individual's specific needs. The SSA team collects information to assist with completing assessments and identifying available resources.

Broadmoor School is the educational component of the LCBDD and provides services for children from birth to 22 years. This includes early intervention, an integrated preschool program, and instruction for school-age students (with an option to

attend the Lake Education and Employment Program for students age 16–22 years). Starting services earlier can lead to significant improvements in development, setting students on a path towards a brighter future.

Individualized services focus on advancing social, leisure, employment, and independent living skills to help eligible individuals obtain desired outcomes. Whether it's a service supported by the County Board or provided by a Home and Community Based-Services (HCBS) Waiver Provider partner, the goal is to promote choices and skill-building experiences.

For example, connections can be made with businesses that embrace inclusive hiring. By leveraging employment navigation supports from the LCBDD and receiving guidance from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), Andrew Vogt thrives as he coordinates menu orders from patients at University Hospitals.

The LCBDD's vision is to offer



Andrew at his workspace alongside University Hospitals Clinical Nutrition Manager Crystal Seals.

Lake County citizens the highest-quality, most-inclusive, collaborative, and person-centered services and supports available within available resources.

To learn more, visit www.LakeBDD.org, connect on social media @DeepwoodLakeDD, or call (440) 350-5100.

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We help individuals of all ages and their families to identify and receive the services and supports they need to lead safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives.



The mission of the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to empower individuals with developmental disabilities to engage in activities that enrich their lives and contribute to their community.

Join our team to make a difference in someone's life ... and your own.

Visit www.LakeBDD.org, call 440-350-5100, email Info@LakeBDD.org or connect on social media @DeepwoodLakeDD.

Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities
EMPOWER | ENGAGE | ENRICH

Why children need outdoor play — rain, snow, and all

It's no secret that outdoor play is good for kids—but the benefits are deeper and broader than many families realize. Whether it's sunshine, snow flurries, or a light drizzle, giving children regular time outside can boost their physical, mental, emotional, and social development in powerful ways.

More movement, more health

One of the clearest advantages of outdoor play is the physical activity it naturally encourages. Kids who play outside tend to run, jump, climb, and explore in ways that indoor play simply doesn't offer. According to health experts, outdoor play fosters higher levels of physical activity, which supports cardiovascular health, muscle development, coordination, and balance. It also helps maintain a healthy weight—an important factor in preventing chronic conditions later in life.

Being in the sun, even briefly, helps the body produce vitamin D, which is essential for strong bones, a healthy immune system, and good mood regulation. Unless conditions are dangerous, getting children outside helps fill a vital nutritional gap many kids face today.

Brain and behavior benefits

Outdoor environments offer sensory experiences that indoor settings simply can't replicate. The sounds, textures, and changing terrain of nature stimulate children's brains in ways that improve focus, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. Studies show that unstructured outdoor play supports cognitive development and can improve attention spans.

Time outdoors has also been linked with reduced stress, anxiety, and symptoms of attention-deficit challenges. The open air and natural surroundings act as a sort of reset button for young minds, helping kids return from play calmer and more attentive than they were before.

Social skills and resilience

Playing with other children outdoors encourages cooperation, communication, and empathy. Without rigid rules or screens to dictate interaction, kids learn to negotiate, share, and resolve conflicts on their own. These experiences build important social skills that follow them into school and beyond.

Outdoor play also teaches resilience. Weather changes, terrain challenges, and open-ended scenarios—especially in cooler or snowy conditions—help children adapt, persevere, and solve real problems. Overcoming a slippery slope or figuring out how to build a snow fort stretches physical and emotional confidence in ways perfectly safe indoor play never can.



Why cold, rainy, or snowy days still count

Many parents hesitate to let children play outside when the weather isn't perfect—but the evidence suggests that appropriate outdoor play in rain or snow can be just as beneficial as sunny days. Fresh air and natural light still boost mood and immune function, and moving to stay warm in cool weather helps build strength and cardiovascular fitness. Cold-weather play also teaches adaptability and persistence—essential life skills—while offering new sensory experiences, from crunching snow to spotting frost on leaves.

Contrary to a common misconception, being outdoors does not make kids catch colds. In fact, spending excessive time indoors—where viruses spread more easily—can increase the risk of illness. Getting outside, properly dressed for the weather, exposes children to fresh air and natural environments that support resilience rather than fragility.

Practical tips for year-round outdoor play

To make the most of outdoor play in all seasons:

- Dress children in weather-appropriate layers and waterproof gear in snow or drizzle.
- Keep play sessions age-appropriate and flexible—even 20–30 minutes is beneficial.
- Make it fun: scavenger hunts, snow-sculpting, puddle-jumping, and nature observation all make memories.
- Join in! Play with kids when you can—it strengthens bonds and models healthy habits.

In our screen-saturated world, outdoor play gives children something irreplaceable: space to explore, move, imagine, connect, and grow. Rain or snow shouldn't be a barrier—with a little planning, the outdoors becomes a classroom, a playground, and a workshop for lifelong well-being.

~Article by Dan Miller



Greater Cleveland Aquarium

Makes a big deal about small species during Spring Discovery Days, March 13 – April 12

Have you noticed the bold split coloring of a Boesemani rainbowfish or watched a red cleaner shrimp wave its white antennae to invite passing fish in for a cleaning? Did you know cuckoo catfish rely on a remarkable egg-swapping strategy to raise their young, or that Northern clingfish use a suction-cup-like disc to hold fast in rushing water?

Greater Cleveland Aquarium highlights these and other diminutive animals during Spring Discovery Days, March 13 – April 12, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily. Animal encounters, small species shoutouts, a “Spot a Spotted” challenge, interactive Discovery Carts, a fill-in booklet and short videos are all part of this celebration of nature's hidden influencers and are included with regular Aquarium admission.

While standing beneath sandtiger sharks gliding through 230,000 gallons of saltwater is a defining Aquarium moment, Curator Ray Popik hopes Spring Discovery Days encourages guests to linger on some of the Aquarium's more understated standouts. Details like a clownfish's specialized mucus coating, the bristlenose pleco's suction-cup mouth, the bark-like texture of Vietnamese mossy frogs or the spade-shaped snout of an Eastern spiny softshell turtle reveal how small features help animals navigate a big world.

“Our unique design makes those details easier to see,” says Popik. Set on the ground floor of a historic brick powerhouse, the Aquarium's retrofit habitats feature floor-to-ceiling, overhead and 180- to 360-degree views that bring guests closer to the action.

Visit greaterclevelandaquarium.com or call (216) 862-8803 for more information.



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Polka, Hymns, and a Helping Hand

A community concert that warms hearts and lives

Each winter, as temperatures drop across Northeast Ohio, a unique partnership comes together to bring warmth, music, and hope to those in need. For the past five years, the Chardon Polka Band, Celebration Lutheran Church, and Sub Zero Mission have joined forces to present Beer & Hymns, a free community concert that raises funds and collects vital winter supplies for people experiencing homelessness.

What began as a simple idea has grown into an annual tradition that many families now look forward to each year.

A friendship that sparked a movement

For band leader Jake, the connection began through an unexpected friendship.

"I met a great guy named Dave Bethel while working at an automotive restoration shop," Jake said. "He was involved with Sub Zero Mission and talked about it with such enthusiasm that we decided to check it out for ourselves. From there, we built an event around it with Celebration Lutheran Church."

That early connection laid the foundation for what would become a lasting community effort.

Music with a purpose

The Chardon Polka Band brings more than just lively tunes to the afternoon. Their performance blends traditional polka energy with meaningful worship.

"We do hymns in our polka style in the church's sanctuary," Jake explained. "We're playing them in

a way folks might not have experienced before."

"It's often said that polka music is happy music," he added. "What could make you happier than helping with a great cause?"

Only a few times each year does the band focus on hymn-based performances, making this event especially meaningful for both musicians and attendees.

Making a real impact

For Sub Zero Mission, the annual concert marks an important milestone in their outreach season.

"This is an event we all look forward to," said Nick Adjinovich of Sub Zero Mission. "It closes our fundraising season. Our volunteers love working it, and it's a tradition for us."

Over five years, the partnership has generated remarkable results. Adjinovich estimates the event has collected more than 2,000 warming items and \$15,000 in donations.

"These items go directly to the homeless population we serve," he said. "They help fuel our missions."

Each winter, Sub Zero Mission distributes approximately 30,000 warming items to more than 1,400 people, requiring about \$135,000 annually to sustain operations.

From donation to distribution

Every coat, hat, glove, and sleeping bag donated at the event is carefully handled.

"Each item is inspected and cleaned if necessary," Adjinovich explained. "We inventory everything and prepare it for distribution before it goes out on a mission."



Those missions are carried out by dedicated volunteer teams known as the Blue Coat Missionaries.

"They know these items may be the difference between someone surviving a winter night or not," he said. "That knowledge fuels what we call 'Blue Fire.'"

In addition, Sub Zero's fundraising volunteers—known as "The Bears"—ensure events like this one run smoothly. Together, the organization relies on more than 120 volunteers.

Strength through partnership

Both Jake and Adjinovich emphasize that the success of the event depends on strong collaboration.

"Celebration works with us a couple times a year, and we love them," Jake said. "They help make these polka-rific happenings possible."

Adjinovich agrees. "Local groups and churches form the backbone of our collections," he said. "Without them, we wouldn't be able to complete our winter missions."

Changing perspectives

Beyond supplies and funding, the event helps build understanding and compassion.

"The homeless population is very diverse," Adjinovich said. "Some

have struggled with addiction. Some have fallen on hard times. Some lack family support. But they all deserve help—and they are always grateful."

For Jake, that message is central. "I hope events like this remind us that not everyone is as fortunate as we might be," he said. "It's our duty as neighbors and fellow humans to take care of each other."

An invitation to the community

For first-time attendees, both organizations extend a warm welcome.

"Come out and have some food, drink, and fun," Jake said. "You don't have to sing hymns or drink beer to enjoy it."

Adjinovich echoed that invitation. "More importantly come for some great food, enjoy a great band, have a fun afternoon and BYOB."

Together, the Chardon Polka Band, Celebration Lutheran Church, and Sub Zero Mission have created something special—an event where music, generosity, and compassion come together to make winter a little warmer for everyone.

Beers & Hymns takes place on Sunday, March 15, 2026 from 3–5:30 p.m. at Celebration Lutheran Church, 10621 Auburn Road in Chardon.

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Kid Logic: The Rules of Childhood (According to Kids)

Trying to understand kids? Don't. Just observe.

Adults spend a lot of time trying to teach kids how the world works. Kids, meanwhile, are quietly developing their own system. It's surprisingly consistent—and often hilarious.

For example, a toy that hasn't been touched in six months becomes priceless the exact moment you consider giving it away.

Water tastes dramatically different depending on which parent poured it. The same goes for toast, apples, and anything cut into the "wrong" shape.

Fairness is a very serious matter. If a sibling gets even slightly more of something—one extra cracker, a bigger scoop of ice cream—the entire justice system has failed.

The word later means "ask again in 30 seconds."

Car rides trigger instant biological emergencies. A child who had no interest in the bathroom suddenly cannot survive another mile.

Parents' food is always better, even when it is literally the same food from the same pan.

Privacy is suspicious. Whisper to another adult and someone under four feet tall will immediately appear to ask, "What are you talking about?"

The color of the cup absolutely affects the taste



of the drink.

The dentist is terrifying, but a loose tooth must be wiggled 4,000 times a day.

Children can remember something unfair that happened in 2019 but cannot remember where they put their shoes five minutes ago.

And perhaps the most reliable rule of kid logic: the moment a parent finally sits down, a child will remember something extremely important they forgot to mention all day.

Kids may not follow adult logic yet—but their system works perfectly well for them. And if we're being honest, life might be a little less fun if it didn't.

~Article by Dan Miller

**Coming in April – Parent Logic:
The Things Moms and Dads Know Are True**



"First time at Tennis Camp?"

Summer Camp Humor

My kid said he wanted to learn leadership at summer camp. So far he's really good at leading everyone to the snack table.

I asked my daughter what she learned at camp. She said, "Mostly how to get sand out of places sand shouldn't be."

I sent my kid to summer camp to unplug from screens. Now he just stares into the campfire for six hours.



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Protection from life's storms: the personal umbrella policy

Most personal insurance policies provide liability coverage to protect you if you are sued as a result of an injury you are responsible for, whether it is bodily injury or personal injury. Lawsuits can stem from auto accidents, boating accidents, slip and falls, libel, slander, etc. I have discussed the importance of liability coverage in previous posts, but what happens when the liability on your auto, boat, or home insurance policy isn't enough to satisfy a judgment against you? If you carry a personal umbrella policy, you potentially have coverage for the amount of the judgment above your normal limits that would otherwise come out of your own pocket.

What is a personal umbrella policy you ask? It's an excess liability policy above and beyond your personal insurance policies. Like an "umbrella" to protect you from the proverbial rainy day, this policy is specifically designed to provide additional liability coverage for those instances where the coverage on your primary policies (auto, home, boat, dwelling fire, etc.) is simply not enough to satisfy a judgment against you.

Here's an example...let's say you are at fault in an auto accident and have bodily injury coverage with a limit of \$250,000 per person/\$500,000 per accident. You are sued by the injured party and the judgment is \$1,000,000. Your auto policy will cover \$250,000 of the judgment. The remaining \$750,000 will be paid through other means such as a lien on



your home (if you own one), wage garnishment, etc., unless you have a personal umbrella policy. If you have a personal umbrella policy with a limit of \$1,000,000, then this policy will kick in after your auto policy is exhausted and cover the remaining \$750,000.

There are certain requirements you must meet to purchase a personal umbrella policy. The biggest of these requirements is the minimum liability coverage you are required to carry on all of your underlying policies. Most carriers will require that you carry no less than \$250,000 per person/\$500,000 per accident on all auto policies. Home policies are typically required to have at least \$300,000 in liability coverage. Boats and recreational vehicles are required to be insured and will also have to carry similar limits on the policies to those of the auto and home policies. Another requirement is good

driving. Insurance carriers will look at the driving experience and driving record of those being covered on the policy, and can increase their rates or outright deny coverage based on these factors.

Personal umbrella policies can be purchased in increments of \$1,000,000 and are relatively inexpensive. Prices will vary based on the amount of risks being covered. The more homes, autos, boats, and recreational vehicles you own, the higher the premium will be.

You should contact your insurance agent to obtain more information on personal umbrella policies and see if you qualify for one. Anyone can be sued and being without enough liability coverage can be financially devastating.

Contact the Corsaro Insurance Group and ask how you can further protect yourself, your family and your future with a personal umbrella policy. Anyone can be sued and being without enough liability coverage can be financially devastating.

Courtesy of the Corsaro Insurance Group and Central Insurance Companies

Matthew Corsaro is the president and owner of the Corsaro Insurance Group in Mentor, Ohio. His company and staff have been providing insurance solutions to families and business owners for over 40 years. Corsaro Insurance Group represents over 20 insurance companies. As well they have expertise in all areas of auto, home and business insurance. They can be reached at 440-946-4950.

A photograph of a family enjoying a sunny day in a field. A young boy is playing with a white dog, and a woman is lying on the grass, looking up at the sky. The scene is bright and cheerful, representing the quality of life that insurance provides.

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with Rebecca Fellenbaum

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Second-guessing everything

Dear Rebecca: Lately, I've been second-guessing myself. I question how to handle everything with my kids.

Between advice online and hearing what other people are doing, I'm wondering if I'm getting it wrong. How can I feel more confident about my choices when there doesn't seem to be one right way?

— *Melanie, Mentor*

Dear Melanie: I resonate with outside advice leaving you feeling less than (and I realize the irony of an advice column - ha!). But hopefully this reframe will help. The work is to learn to listen to YOUR inner voice.

First, I want you to take inventory. When did you start second-guessing? What triggered it? Does second-guessing appear in other areas of your life or just in parenting? I want you to get to know that inner voice or physical feeling that causes you to second-guess. If you can objectively look at the second-guessing from your healthy adult mind, you can then work with it.

Now let's look at the moment of second-guessing. What happens right before you second-guess? What feelings or thoughts or physical sensations do you have when you think you're "getting it wrong"? Can you choose to let those thoughts go?

Next, you can unpack what feeling more confident in your choices would be like. Imagine having confidence in your parenting choices. What are you thinking? Who are you surrounding yourself with? What does confidence feel like in your body?

These exercises involve playing with your thoughts and mindset. As author Byron Katie teaches, our thoughts create our suffering. The next step, then, is to change your thoughts.

I recommend starting by patting yourself on the back for all of the little successes you achieve throughout the day. Start telling yourself,

"great job" when you finish packing lunches, help with homework, or tuck your kid in at night. If you're looking for the ways you're getting it wrong, you will see more of that. If you look for the ways you're already thoughtful and confident, you will see more of that.

Finally, when I was going through this, I took a hiatus from parenting books, podcasts, and social media accounts. If it feels like that would help, I recommend tweaking your environment so you're getting helpful, reinforcing information, at least for now.

You've asked this question and are here reading the answer. That's a great parent right there!

Waking up exhausted

Dear Rebecca: I'm a mom of four young kids, and mornings are a huge struggle. One of my kids needs constant reminders to do things I think he's old enough to handle, like getting dressed or putting his shoes on, and I can't tend to him while also getting his younger siblings ready.

I start the day frustrated, and I don't want to keep nagging or making threats just to get out the door. How can I set our mornings up for more ease?

— *Katie, Solon*

Dear Katie: Mornings are hard! Especially with young kids. The reality is the current dynamic isn't working. That awareness alone opens up lots of options to explore how to improve it.

Right now, you're waking up already bracing for a struggle. That anticipation can put your nervous system on high alert before you've even gotten out of bed. Our kids co-regulate with us, meaning they often respond to our internal state more than our words. When you're tense, rushed, or frustrated, they feel it. Shifting your energy can start to change the tone of the entire morning. That could look like: taking a minute before you get out of bed to set your intention for a calm morn-

ing, taking a deep breath before you start the morning routine, and placing your hand on your heart and telling yourself, "I'm safe" and "I'm okay." You can even practice these with your kids.

Next, let's look at how to set both of you up for success. You could problem-solve together. Without promising anything, ask him what he needs in the morning. Is he craving a few minutes of your undivided attention? A quieter transition into the day? When I went through something similar with my son, letting him eat breakfast by himself in a different room helped him start the day better.

It's also worth questioning the belief that he should be able to be more independent in the morning.

Kids can have the skills and still need closeness or support, especially during transitions. If it helps, you can add "for now" to your thoughts about this and tell yourself, "For now, my son needs more hands-on support in the morning." This can help the mental spiral of thinking you're always going to have to do everything for him.

Finally, try viewing this dynamic as the problem, not your child. Imagine linking arms with your son and facing the morning as a team. I'll be here cheering the two of you on!

Rebecca Fellenbaum is a certified life coach, writer, and Cleveland area mom who helps parents enjoy this time in their lives. You can find her at rebeccafellenbaum.com.

Curiosity starts small.



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6 tips to help save money

Common HVAC & plumbing bad habits

Taking proper care of your HVAC and plumbing is essential to maintaining high efficiency and future costly maintenance. There are a variety of bad habits that homeowners can unintentionally have regarding their HVAC system and plumbing. These common mistakes can add up over time if you are not careful. Completing annual maintenance and taking proactive steps to fight against future costly issues are one of the most important things that you can do to save money on plumbing and HVAC.

Not changing your filter: There are a variety of issues that stem from not changing your filter—inefficiency, and rising energy bills among them.

No regular maintenance: Forgoing regular maintenance on your HVAC & plumbing system may seem like an easy way to cut costs, but the damage of doing so can quickly add up over time.

Blocking airflow: Proper airflow is one of the most important things that your HVAC system requires to

function efficiently. If this airflow is blocked, multiple issues can arise.

Actively look for drips: Drips add up over time—and can also signal a larger problem at hand. Loose valves, cracked pipes, or even flooding are all issues that a few small drips can warn homeowners about.

Upgrade your water heater: Heating water requires a lot of energy; by upgrading to a more effective, energy-efficient model, you can save a lot of money over time.

Check your water meter: Take a quick look over your water meter to be sure that your water flow is running normally.

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Visit www.Debordinc.com or see the ad below for additional information and special offers!



Girl Scout Cookie season is here

Each cookie season, Girl Scouts develop important life skills like goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics through the Girl Scout Cookie Program. All proceeds from cookie sales stay local to power Northeast Ohio Girl Scouts' amazing experiences year-round.

Exploremores™, a rocky road ice cream-inspired sandwich cookie, will join the legendary lineup for the 2026 Girl Scout Cookie season. Filled with delicious flavors of chocolate, marshmallow and toasted almond-flavored crème, Exploremores reflect the spirit of exploration at the heart of every Girl Scout. In addition to the exciting new cookie, the 2026 cookie lineup will include fan favorites such as Thin Mints®,

Samoas®, Tagalongs®, and more.

In 2025, more than 12,000 Girl Scouts participated in the Girl Scout Cookie Program in Northeast Ohio, with over two million boxes sold.

How to purchase Girl Scout Cookies this year

- If you know a registered Girl Scout, reach out to her to find out how she's selling cookies.
- Enter your zip code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder at www.gsneo.org/findcookies to purchase cookies online from a local troop for direct shipment.
- From March 6–29, enter your zip code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder at www.gsneo.org/find cookies to find a local cookie booth occurring in your community.



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Snow days: then and now

Were we tougher... or just colder?

If you are between the ages of 50 and 70, chances are you share a common memory: trudging to school through snow, ice, and temperatures that today would trigger three emergency alerts and a press conference. And yet... we went.

Today, snow is predicted, and by 8 p.m. the night before, schools are already closed. Sometimes for a whole week. Sometimes because it might get cold. Possibly. Eventually. Which raises an important question: Were we tougher back then, or were we just mildly frozen?

When we were kids in the '80s and '90s "school cancellation" was an extremely rare and magical event. It usually required at least a foot of snow, winds strong enough to relocate barns, and possibly a blizzard named after a president. Even then, there was no guarantee. We woke up early, turned on the TV, and stared intensely at the scrolling school list. If our district didn't appear, we sighed, layered up, and headed out anyway—often in boots that leaked, coats that were "water-resistant" in theory, and gloves that mysteriously disappeared every January.

Waiting for the bus was its own extreme sport. We stood in snowbanks, stamped our feet, blew on our hands, and pretended not to notice our eyelashes freezing. Somehow, no adults seemed

concerned. Today, if a child is exposed to single-digit wind chills for more than 90 seconds, three agencies are notified. Back then, our parents just said, "You'll be fine. The bus is coming." And usually, it was.

Despite what we sometimes like to think, modern kids are not weaker. They are just living in a different world. School transportation now covers larger areas, meaning longer waits in more remote spots. Safety standards are higher, and districts must consider frostbite risk, road conditions, power outages, and liability concerns. If there's real danger, administrators would rather cancel than take the risk—which, honestly, makes sense, even if it hurts our "we walked uphill both ways" pride.

Another big change is forecasting. When we were kids, weather reports were basically: "Snow. Maybe. Good luck." Now, administrators can see storms coming days in advance. They know when roads will ice and when wind chills will drop dangerously low. So they cancel early. It's practical, even if it's deeply disappointing to parents who already made coffee.

No, most of us did not lose fingers at the bus stop. But we were definitely colder than we admit. We just didn't have social media to document it. If Instagram had existed in 1982, it would have been



full of posts like, "Day 47 of winter. Can't feel my toes. Send help."

Yes, schools close more often now. Yes, it sometimes feels excessive. And yes, we survived worse. But we also didn't have seat belts in every car, helmets for every sport, or sunscreen in every backpack. Progress often looks soft—until you realize it's mostly about keeping kids safe.

Still, we're allowed to miss the thrill of waiting for our school name to scroll by. And we're definitely allowed to mutter, "Back in my day..." Because some traditions should never disappear.

~Article by Dan Miller



Visit our Spring Open House

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* Learn about our challenging curriculums for both preschool and K-8th grade

* Collect information on the various scholarships we have available, including EdChoice

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The Fine Arts Association presents Jesus Christ Superstar

Production runs Friday, March 13 through Sunday, March 29

The Fine Arts Association (FAA) proudly announces its upcoming production, Jesus Christ Superstar, opening on Friday, March 13, 2026.

What's the buzz? Jesus Christ Superstar, the first musical by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, produced for the professional stage, has wowed audiences for over 50 years. A timeless work, the rock opera is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary and universally known series of events but seen, unusually, through the eyes of Judas Iscariot. Loosely based on the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Superstar follows the last week of Jesus Christ's life. The story, told entirely through song, explores the personal relationships and struggles between Jesus, Judas, Mary Magdalene, his disciples, his followers and the Roman Empire.



Ticket prices:

(not including processing fees)

- Adult: \$29
- Senior (60+): \$27
- Student (11–18 yrs.) - \$27
- Child (10 and under): \$19

Tickets are on sale at www.fineartsassociation.org or by calling (440) 951-7500, ext. 2.

Production dates and times:

- Fridays: March 13, 20, 27 @ 7:30 p.m.
- Saturdays: March 14, 21, 28 @ 7:30 p.m.
- Sundays: March 15, 22, 29 @ 2:00 p.m. Note – the March 29 performance will be sign interpreted.

Additional information:

- The production is rated PG
- Running time: 120 minutes with a 15-minute intermission
- The Corning Auditorium is barrier-free. Free on-site parking is available.

HOW SWEET IT IS!

Geauga Park District's 40th annual Sap's-a-Risin'

It's hands-on, educational, inspirational and celebrational—good times this maple sugaring season won't get much more family-friendly than Geauga Park District's 40th Annual Sap's-a-Risin' at Swine Creek Reservation in Middlefield!

Free festivities from noon–4 p.m. on Sundays, February 22, March 1 and March 8 will include sap-gathering in the sugarbush with a horse-drawn sap sled, sugar house tours with sample tastes of fresh syrup, and historical stations with costumed interpreters displaying and demonstrating maple sugaring methods from prehistoric to modern day.

Plus, visit Swine Creek Lodge to warm up with free maple treats and live music. Maple syrup produced right onsite will also be available for sale as supplies last.

With a stop here, you can also make a day of it to see other sugaring operations in the area. Swine Creek Reservation is one of many featured



stops on two drive-it-yourself tours on March 8: the Ohio Maple Producers' Maple Madness Tour and the more local Maple Tour of Northeast Ohio.

For tour maps with complete lists of participating sugar houses, visit ohiomaple.org and mpneoh.com.

For more on Geauga Park District offerings, call (440) 286-9516 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or visit Geauga Park District online via www.geaugaparkdistrict.org.

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10 tips for choosing a summer day camp

Choosing the perfect summer day camp for your child can feel overwhelming with so many options available. A well-chosen camp provides children with a safe environment to learn, grow, and have fun, while also giving parents peace of mind. Here are some essential tips to help you navigate this decision and find the best fit for your family.

1. Identify your goals and priorities

Before diving into camp brochures or websites, take time to identify what you and your child hope to gain from the experience. Are you looking for a camp that focuses on academics, sports, arts, or outdoor adventures? Does your child want to make new friends or improve a specific skill? Clarifying these priorities will help narrow down your options and ensure you choose a camp that aligns with your expectations.

2. Consider your child's interests and personality

Each child is unique, and their preferences and personality should play a significant role in selecting a camp. For example, an introverted child might thrive in a smaller, quieter setting, while an extroverted child may enjoy a bustling camp with diverse group activities. Engaging your child in the decision-making process can also help them feel excited and invested in the experience.

3. Research camp options thoroughly

Begin your search by gathering recommendations from friends, family, and online reviews. Many camps have websites or social media pages where you can find detailed information about their programs, schedules, and staff. Look for camps accredited by organizations like the Ameri-

can Camp Association (ACA), which ensures they meet high safety and quality standards.

4. Assess safety and supervision

Safety is paramount when choosing a day camp. Check the camper-to-staff ratio and ensure it aligns with industry standards. Ask about staff qualifications, including background checks, certifications in first aid and CPR, and relevant training. Inquire about the camp's protocols for handling emergencies, illnesses, and injuries.

5. Evaluate the schedule and activities

Review the daily schedule and activity options to ensure they align with your child's interests and energy levels. A good camp will offer a balance of structured activities and free time, catering to various age groups and skill levels. If your child has special interests, such as coding, dance, or swimming, look for camps with specialized programs in those areas.

6. Consider the location and hours

Logistics are an essential factor in choosing a summer day camp. Consider the camp's proximity to your home or workplace and whether the hours fit your family's schedule. Some camps offer extended care options, which can be a lifesaver for working parents.

7. Visit the camp in person

If possible, arrange a visit to the camp before enrolling your child. A tour allows you to see the facilities, meet the staff, and observe the environment. Pay attention to cleanliness, the condition of equipment, and whether the atmosphere feels

welcoming and inclusive. This firsthand experience can provide valuable insights that you won't get from brochures or online descriptions.

8. Review costs and budget

Day camp fees can vary widely, so it's essential to understand the costs upfront. Ask about what the tuition covers and whether there are additional fees for meals, field trips, or supplies. Some camps offer discounts for early registration or multiple children, as well as financial aid for families in need.

9. Seek feedback from other parents

Talking to other parents who have experience with the camp can provide honest insights. Ask about their child's experience, the camp's strengths and weaknesses, and whether they would recommend it. Online parenting forums and local community groups can also be valuable resources for reviews and recommendations.

10. Trust your instincts

Finally, trust your gut feeling. If something about a camp doesn't feel right, keep looking. The right camp should give you confidence in its ability to provide a safe, enriching, and enjoyable experience for your child.

Choosing a summer day camp is an important decision that requires careful consideration. By identifying your goals, understanding your child's needs, and thoroughly researching your options, you can find a camp that offers a rewarding and memorable summer experience. With the right preparation, summer day camp can become a highlight of your child's year, fostering growth, learning, and lifelong memories.

~Article by Justin Daniels



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MIKE MORAN: Inducted into Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame in 2020; former head coach at John Carroll University w/ 459 career wins; guided JCU to 14 OAC titles, 12 trips to the NCAA Tournament & one Final Four appearance; former VASJ head coach where his teams won two state championships.

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With access to excellent facilities, dedicated educators and coaches, and programs designed to challenge and inspire, students develop independence, discipline, and curiosity. Most importantly,

these camps blend education and fun, creating memorable experiences that spark motivation and encourage future success both academically and athletically.

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five half days per week. Children must be between ages of 6–13 (your child must have completed kindergarten and know how to cut with scissors).

Each day of the week revolves around a specific medium. Your child will create one to three pieces of artwork each day using, but not limited to, the following mediums; resin, clay, pottery, glass fusing, and mosaics pieces. When they are not creating, they are candle making, playing games, journaling, and having lots of fun! Space is limited. Sign up now!

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ships, achieve new skills, and experience a strong sense of belonging (FAB). These moments foster resilience, self-confidence, and independence. Camper surveys consistently show that friendships, counselor connections, and engaging activities are top reasons families return.

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Overnight sessions run weekly from June 14 – August 1. Register today and give your child the opportunity of a lifetime!



Camp Invention

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invent.org/save/summer-camp

The all-new 2026 Camp Invention program, Spark, is coming to curious kids in the Lake, Geauga and Cuyahoga county community this summer! Inspire innovative thinking with fun-filled STEM experiences designed to spark creativity and a love for learning. Rising K–6 campers will collaborate with friends to tackle hands-on, open-ended challenges. They'll team up with robotic capybaras, ride the waves of entrepreneurship, uncover the power of protecting their ideas and build their own DIY space rocket! Each experience is designed to spark confidence, build persistence and create unforgettable summer memories. Visit invent.org/save/summer-camp to secure your spot! Use promo code MYCAMP25 to save \$25! Interest-free payment plans are available to make camp affordable for all families.



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(216) 687-6080
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The Odyssey Program at Cleveland State University's School of Film & Media Arts offers a variety of immersive summer camps for high school students (aged 13–18) interested in filmmaking.

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(330) 627-4269
www.falconcamp.com

Falcon Camp is recognized throughout the Midwest as Ohio's premier summer camp. This award-winning program offers a beautiful lakefront setting, talented staff and wide variety of activities. Boys and girls ages 6–16 choose their own schedule within a general framework, and daily activities are gender separate with planned coed events.

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Falcon has a strong reputation for making sure a camper's first overnight experience is very positive. The noncompetitive environment is inviting to new campers while the awards system challenges more experienced campers. The 1:4 staff/camper ratio allows

individual instruction and attention. Most of all it's great fun!

Falcon has a special intro program for campers ages 6–10. American Camp Association accredited since 1959, many references available. Falcon is an outstanding opportunity for fun and learning.

Fine Arts Association

38660 Mentor Avenue, Willoughby
(440) 951-7500
www.fineartsassociation.org

Summer is the perfect time to explore, create, and shine at The Fine Arts Association! Their engaging summer camps and classes inspire students of all ages to discover their creativity in a fun, supportive environment. From theatre and dance to music, visual arts, and creative arts therapies, there's something for every interest and experience level.

Young performers can take the stage in exciting theatre camps, budding artists can experiment with new techniques, and musicians can build skills and confidence through hands-on instruc-

tion. Whether your child wants to try something new or continue growing in a favorite discipline, their experienced instructors provide personalized attention that helps each student thrive.

With flexible camp options and classes designed to spark imagination, summer at FAA is more than just learning it's about building friendships, expressing creativity, and creating memories that last long after the season ends. Join them and make this summer a masterpiece!

Register at fineartsassociation.org or call (440) 951-7500.

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio

(800) 852-4474
gsneo.org/summercamp

Summer is almost here—and adventure is calling! It's the perfect time to start planning your girl's next big experience. The best news? All girls are welcome—no Girl Scout experience required!

At Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO), camp is more than just a



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WEST END Y	CENTRAL Y	EAST END Y
Willoughby	Painesville	Madison
440.946.1160	440.352.3303	440.428.5125

www.lakecountyyymca.org



Camp 2026 Registration Now Open!



Girl Scouts cont'd

summer activity—it's a place where campers shine, make friends, and feel confident being themselves. From overnight camps, day camps, family camps, travel, to educational and STEM camps, there's truly something for EVERY camper.

Whether exploring space and innovation with Cosmic Explorers, building confidence outdoors with Dare to Do It, or trying camp for the very first time at Very Fairy Extraordinary Day Camp, campers will find programs designed to meet them where they are and help them to grow.

Whichever camp theme she chooses, fun is sure to follow!

Greater Cleveland Cross Country Camp

(440) 290-0185

www.gcxcrcracing.com

The Greater Cleveland Cross Country Camp is geared for the beginner to the advanced runner, who is looking to have a better focus pertaining to the fundamentals of cross country running and

conditioning, to obtain maximum benefit.

Through group runs, guest speakers and group activities, each runner will leave with a positive attitude, tools to become an improved runner, and a better understanding of running.

This is the 22nd annual cross country camp and will be held Tuesday, July 21 through Saturday, July 25 from 8 a.m.–11:30 a.m. at Shore Middle School in Mentor. The last day is a cross country race for all campers based on grade level. The camp is open to boys and girls K–12th grade.

The Greater Cleveland Cross Country Camp is organized by Mentor High School boys/girls head cross country coach, Bill Dennison, with the support of other local coaches and college runners. They hope each camper leaves with the love and passion that the staff at the Greater Cleveland Cross Country Camp has.



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Rabbit Run
Community Arts Association

Art Camps

Campers get elbow deep in paint, pastels & more as they create unique works of art.
Ages 5 - 11

Theater Camps

Have a blast learning all about theater arts in a fun and traditional camp setting.
Ages 4- 12

Dance Classes

Dance classes for all ages in Tap, Jazz, Ballet and Creative Movement

Private Music Lessons

Lessons available in brass, guitar, voice, percussion, piano/keyboard/organ, violin/viola/cello, woodwinds

**Summer Fun at
Rabbit Run**

... Week-long camps and more!

Camp dates to be announced
the end of Feb.

Call 440-428-5913

49 Park St., Madison, OH
www.rabbitrun.org • rabbitrunoffice@rabbitrun.org



SYNERGY EQUESTRIAN SUMMER CAMP



Synergy Equestrian is excited to offer several summer camps open to all levels of riders ages 5 through high school. Those attending will enjoy focused riding sessions each day in addition to expanding their equine knowledge and horsemanship.

2026 Camp Dates

Saddle Stars (7 & up)
Monday - Friday
9am - 2pm

- June 1 - 5
- July 13 - 17
- August 3 - 7

Camp Pricing:

- Early Bird \$415 - Registration & deposit completed by 3/31
- Standard \$465 - Registration & deposit completed by 5/31
- Late \$515 - Registration and deposit 6/1 or later

Interested in multiple camps? Receive \$25 off additional weeks.

Pony Pals (age 5 - 7)
Monday - Thursday
9am - noon

- June 29 - July 2

Camp Pricing:

- Early Bird \$300 - Registration & deposit completed by 3/31
- Standard \$340 - Registration & deposit completed by 5/31
- Late \$380 - Registration and deposit 6/1 or later



Registration & More Information



11550 Aquilla Road | Chardon, Ohio 44024



Hawken Summer Programs

Gates Mills and Lyndhurst

(440) 423-2940

summerprograms@hawken.edu

summer.hawken.edu

Hawken Summer Programs Camp offerings include a variety of exciting activities led by experienced professionals for boys and girls ages 3–18. While your child is enrolled, you'll rest assured knowing he or she is in a safe, nurturing environment. Camp offerings include Hawkings, Boys, Girls, and Co-Ed Day Camps, Boys Sports Camp, and Girls Lifetime Adventure Camp.

Passport Camps offer week-long, full and half-day opportunities to learn, create, and explore. Hawken Athletics Camps offer skill-driven instruction and provide young athletes the opportunity to hone their skills, improve team play, and learn from the best. Hawken Summer Studies Program, open to public and private school students, is a six-week program for credit and enrichment for students entering grades 9-12.

Camps run at varying intervals between June and August.

Lake County YMCA

(440) 354-5656

www.lakecountyyymca.org

The Lake County YMCA Day Camp is designed for kids of all ages. Their day camp offers a fun, safe, and nurturing environment where children can explore their interests, build confidence, and create lifelong friendships.

Every child deserves a summer filled with exciting activities and personal growth. From arts and crafts to swimming, and nature exploration, there's something for everyone. Their experienced staff are dedicated to fostering a sense of belonging and ensuring each camper has a positive and enriching experience.

Conveniently located in Painesville, Madison and Willoughby along with flexible scheduling options, the Lake County YMCA Day Camp is the perfect solution for busy families. Their affordable rates and financial assistance programs make summer camp accessible to everyone. Join the Lake County YMCA Day Camp today by visiting lakecountyyymca.org.

Mike Moran

Basketball Camps

(Held at Lost Nation Sports Park in Willoughby)

(216) 276-5387

www.morancamps.com

Session #1: June 15–19

Session #2: June 22–26

The Mike Moran Basketball Camps are the longest running basketball camps in northern Ohio, with over 40 years of operation. All instructors are successful college & high school head coaches.

Because it is always well attended, participants will be working with other players of their same age group and ability level. The Moran Camp has always stressed the teaching and drilling of fundamentals. It is truly a camp designed for young players who want to improve their skills and be able to play competitive basketball. The camp runs all day, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.–3:15 p.m. Over the years it has been acclaimed by many newspapers and organizations as the top basketball camp in the area!

Camps fill up quickly. Take advantage of the early registration discount. Visit their new website, morancamps.com, for easy registration. Call for a free brochure!

Rabbit Run Community Arts Association

49 Park Street, Madison

(440) 428-5913

www.rabbitrun.org

So much summer fun is in store for campers as they discover hidden talents in many different fine arts camps available at Rabbit Run Community Arts Association.

Youth Art Camp is for anyone who likes to be creative and make a mess in the process. In these one-week camps, campers, ages 5–11, get elbow deep in paint, pastels and other mediums as they create original works of art.

Campers delve into all areas of theater including drama, music, dance, costumes, make-up, and stage craft in both the Junior Theater Camp for ages 4–8 and Explorer's Theater Camp for ages 4–12. Both camps are a two-week experience.

A six-week dance session offers classes in jazz, tap, ballet and creative movement.

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Synergy Equestrian Summer Camp

11550 Aquilla Road, Chardon
(440) 477-4825
www.synergiequestrian.co

Get ready for an unforgettable summer at Synergy Equestrian's Summer Camp! This unique experience combines focused riding sessions with hands-on equine knowledge and horsemanship. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced rider, they've got you covered. New riders will take an evaluation lesson or submit a train-

er's outline to ensure personalized attention.

Camp starts with stretching and goal setting, followed by an exciting mix of riding, learning, and fun! Dive into the anatomy of horses, tack up, and master the art of riding. In the afternoon, explore barn care and horse management, then enjoy games and activities before wrapping up the day with clean-up and horse care.

Join them for an action-packed, educational, and fun-filled summer at Synergy Equestrian – where every rider's journey begins!

Camp Humor

The Real Summer Camp Achievement Badge

Not archery or swimming. Getting a fitted sheet back onto a bunk mattress.



Campfire Science

No matter how many marshmallows you bring, the correct number is always one more.

A Proven Camp Fact

Kids pack for summer camp like they're moving out. They come home with two socks and a mysterious rock.

How You Know Camp Was Successful

Your child comes home exhausted, dirty, hoarse... and asking if they can go back next week.



Ready, Set, Adventure!

Sign her up for a lifetime of memories this summer at Girl Scout Camp.



To learn more visit gsneo.org/summercamp

girl scouts
of north east ohio



Summer Art Camp Registration is Open!

Includes:

- All materials/supplies for projects
- Small class sizes
- Introduction to various types of art
- Sign up by the week
- Full week, full day 9 am–4 pm; \$499
- Full week, half day 9 am–noon OR 1 pm–4 pm; \$249

**Ages
6–13**

For details and registration visit:

<https://bit.ly/21artcamp>

Promo Code CAMP35 to get \$35 off!

Great Lakes Mall, Mentor
440-290-7767

www.mentor.busybeesart.com
mentor@busybeesart.com



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\$35 off per week

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Or visit <https://bit.ly/21artcamp>

Promo Code: **CAMP35**

**NEW FOR
2026
CAMP!**

- Resin
- Pottery Wheel Throwing



10 things every camper learns (Whether they expect to or not)

1. You can make a best friend in about ten minutes—sometimes while waiting in line for lunch.
2. Bugs look scarier than they really are. (Mostly.)
3. Life without Wi-Fi is not only possible—it can actually be fun.
4. Singing loudly in public becomes completely normal.
5. Flashlights are essential life tools after dark.
6. You're braver than you think, especially when trying something new.
7. Sharing snacks is the fastest way to make allies.
8. Teamwork matters—whether you're playing games or cleaning up cabins.
9. Being away from home helps you appreciate it even more.
10. The best memories usually happen when you're not expecting them.



Summer camp isn't just about activities and schedules. It's about

learning independence, building confidence, and discovering strengths kids didn't even know they had. Somewhere between crafts, campfires, and late-night laughs, campers grow in ways that last long after summer ends.

And years later, when they're grown, they'll still remember that one friend, that one song, and that one amazing summer.

ATTENTION: Cross Country Runners

XC Camp is offering a camp to boys and girls entering kindergarten through grade 12 who are interested in becoming a better cross country runner. Any skill level is welcome!



July 21–July 25, 2026
8–11:30 a.m.

Shore Middle School
5670 Hopkins Road • Mentor

Sponsored By:



www.gcxcrcing.com



ODYSSEY PRE-COLLEGE FILM & MEDIA ARTS PROGRAM SUMMER 2026

5-DAY FILM CHALLENGE

June 7–12
Create a short film from start to finish
\$1,200 Day Program
\$1,600 Residential Program

FILMMAKERS INTENSIVE (2 WEEKS)

June 14–26
Directing, cinematography, editing and storytelling
\$2,400 Day Program
\$3,200 Residential Program

ACTING AND DIRECTING

July 13–17
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\$1,200 Day Program

ANIMATION

July 13–17
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\$1,200 Day Program



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CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY



Is your child ready for summer camp?

Questions every parent should ask

While summer may still feel far away, many popular camps begin filling up as early as February. For families hoping to secure a spot, now is the perfect time to think not only about where to send children—but whether they are truly ready for the camp experience.

For many kids, summer camp is a wonderful opportunity to build independence, confidence, and new friendships. For others, especially first-timers, being away from home can feel overwhelming. Taking time to assess readiness can help ensure camp is a positive and memorable experience for everyone.

Start with age and maturity

Age alone doesn't determine readiness, but it can be a helpful guide. Many experts suggest that children under age seven may have a harder time adjusting to overnight camp. Younger campers often do better starting with day camps, which allow them to experience camp activities while still returning home each evening. This can be a great stepping stone toward longer stays in the future.

Consider your child's interest level

Is camp something your child is excited about—or something you're more enthusiastic about than they are? Children who regularly talk about camp, ask questions, and show interest in activities tend to adjust more easily. If heavy persuasion is required, it may be worth waiting another year.

Reflect on past overnight experiences

Think about how your child has handled time away from home in the past. Have they stayed overnight with grandparents, cousins, or friends? Were those experiences smooth or stressful? Positive past separations often indicate a child is better prepared for the independence camp requires.

Talk about expectations

Before camp begins, make sure your child understands what camp will be like. Will there be cabins? Group meals? Outdoor activities? Limited phone access? Learning about daily routines and rules helps reduce anxiety and builds confidence.



Looking at photos, videos, or schedules together can make the experience feel more familiar.

Evaluate emotional readiness

Beyond age and experience, emotional maturity matters. Is your child able to communicate needs, handle minor disappointments, and solve small problems independently? These skills play an important role in adjusting to life at camp.

When in doubt, start small

If you're unsure, consider shorter sessions or specialty camps that last just a few days. These options allow children to build independence gradually without feeling overwhelmed.

With thoughtful planning and honest conversations, parents can help set their children up for a successful camp experience. When a child is truly ready, summer camp can become one of the most rewarding—and confidence-building—memories of childhood.

CAMP FITCH YMCA



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Contact the LCDJFS to learn more about becoming a foster parent.



Call our Foster Care Hotline:

(440) 350-4218

or visit our website:

www.lakecountyfostercare.com

Lake County Department of Job and Family Services