**Field Trips and Beyond**

**August 2019**



Things are slowing down on the calendar of events just a little bit as the summer winds down. There are still some excellent opportunities for families to enjoy indoors and outside all around the state. There are some fun events and classes at the Myriad gardens this month, and the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association Rodeo gives a window into the work life of real cowboys. The library events are slowing down as well. Again, I’ve placed them at the end in their own section. Go there first if you are interested in those events – and register fast for any that interest you. Of course you can always go to the listed web sites at the end for even more!

***Note:*** *the web site for the pioneer library system has an easy-to-use calendar of events system at* <http://pioneer.libnet.info/> *. They have a number of really great events planned. Many require advance registration. You’ll want to check out their calendar to learn more.*

**April 6 - August 17, 2019 - Train Rides at the Oklahoma Railway Museum**

Come take a ride at the Oklahoma Railway Museum on our historic MKT mainline track. You will enjoy a train ride in our historic passenger coaches pulled by our vintage diesel locomotives. Train Rides are available for kids of all ages (0 to 99+) every 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, April through August. Train rides last approximately 40 minutes. For more information, schedules, ticket prices, reservations, etc. go to <https://www.oklahomarailwaymuseum.org/events/train-rides/> Additional tickets will be available at the Museum on the Saturday of the ride.

**???????– Star Parties at the OU Observatory**

Regular Wednesday star parties are over until the fall semester, but check the web site for special summer events at [www.observatory.ou.edu](http://www.observatory.ou.edu).

**June 1 - August 31, 2019 - Summer Fun at the Myriad Botanical Gardens!**

Enjoy the “Weekly Walk-ups” classes, “Twilight Concerts”, “Sonic Movie Nights” and more! Bring your swimsuit to play in “Thunder Fountain”! There is a LOT going on at the Myriad Botanical Gardens all through the summer. What is the best way to find out what is coming up? Visit their calendar at <https://calendar.oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com/>

**August 6, 2019 (and every Tuesday) - Art Adventures for Children**

 Every Tuesday from 10:30 – 11:30 A.M. The Fred Jones Junior Museum of Art continues its “Art Adventures” series for aspiring young artists. Young artists are invited to experience art through books and related art projects for children ages 3 to 5 accompanied by an adult. Book themes for this month are: August 6 - *It Looked Like Spilt Milk* by Charles G. Shaw

 August 13 - *Orion and the Dark* by Emma Yarlett

 August 20 - *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh

 August 27 - *Dog’s Colorful Day* by Emma Dodd

 September 3 - *Shape Shift* by Joyce Hesselberth

 September 10 - *Bear Sees Colors* by Karma Wilson, illustrations by Jane Chapman

Art adventures take place at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art on the OU campus at 550 Elm Ave. For more information call (405) 325-3178 or go to <http://www.ou.edu/fjjma>. Admission to the Fred Jones Museum of Art is FREE – all day, every day. (Note! Tuesday Noon Concerts take place immediately following the Art Adventures story time.)

**August 1, 2019 – Back to School Bash at the Oklahoma History Center – Resources from museums and organizations all around the state!**

Educators, get ready for resources galore! This year’s Back to School Bash will be held Thursday, August 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. Come to the Oklahoma History Center for free resources covering everything from science to social studies from museums and organizations around the state. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the evening. This event is free, but we ask that you preregister. For more information, visit <https://www.okhistory.org/calendar/event/back-to-school-bash-3/>

**August 3, 2019 - Saturdays for Kids at the Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum: “Create a Brand”**

Ranchers use brands to show which cattle are theirs. Learn how to read a brand and then create your own design. **Free** for children and accompanying adults. For more information, call (405) 478-2250 ext. 250 or visit <https://nationalcowboymuseum.org/event/saturdays-for-kids-create-a-brand/>

**August 5, 2019 - Free Monday for Kids at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History**

Come to the museum for free today! (Regular admission applies to adults.)

**August 8 – 10, 2019 – Rush Springs Watermelon Festival**

The Rush Springs Watermelon Festival celebrates the local crop of watermelons with watermelon-themed activities and plenty of old-fashioned, family-friendly entertainment. Held continuously since 1948, it has grown to become one of the most popular festivals in Oklahoma, serving upwards of 50,000 pounds of juicy, ripe melon to festival-goers. Celebrate with all-day entertainment and free watermelon in the afternoon on Saturday. Don’t miss the seed-spitting contest, arts and craft fair (featuring over 100 vendors), carnival rides, stage shows, watermelon exhibits and more. Enjoy the festival's annual antique car and motorcycle show while sipping a glass of cool lemonade. Attend the Rush Springs Watermelon Festival on Thursday and Friday evenings for the annual Rush Springs Rodeo. Grab a seat in the stands and enjoy action-packed rodeo events and a calf scramble at nearby Rusty Acres Arena. A parade will also be held Friday evening at 5pm. The carnival runs Thursday and Friday 7-10pm. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For more information call 580-476-3103 or visit <https://www.travelok.com/listings/view.profile/id.17748/event.23020>

**August 9 & 10, 2019 - Firelake Fireflight Balloon Festival**

Watch the Shawnee skyline transform into a mix of bright, brilliant colors as hot air balloons launch from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Powwow Grounds. Embark on a scenic balloon ride in one of twenty balloons on site during the FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival. This two-day festival also features picturesque balloon glows. Kids can also challenge their friends to a round of mini putt, while adults can scope out their food trucks to refuel. 1702 S Gordon Cooper, Shawnee, OK 74801For more information, visit <https://www.firelakeballoonfest.com/>

**August 10, 2019 – Stargazing on the Mesas at Roman Nose State Park**

Meet at the Roman Nose State Park Lodge for a scenic stargazing event. There will be a short hike to the viewing area, where participants will enjoy panoramic views of the sparkling night sky. Wear comfortable, closed-toe hiking shoes and bring water, bug spray and a flashlight. Bring your own telescope or borrow one from the park. Please note: this event is weather permitting. Event starts at 9:00 p.m. For more information, call 580-623-7281 or visit <https://www.travelok.com/listings/view.profile/id.28508/event.23877>

**August 15, 2019 – Family Workshop at the Myriad Botanical Gardens: Pressed Flowers**

We’ll start by learning about, and collecting materials from, the Prairie Garden. Then, we will head inside to preserve our findings. Each attendee will go home with their own small book of pressed flowers and ideas for making crafts year-round. Thursday, August 15, 6-7pm

Garden Classroom & Garden Grounds. Cost: member $10; nonmember $12. Best for ages 6 to 11. For more information and to register , visit <https://calendar.oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com/event/family-workshop-pressed-flowers/?instance_id=9737>

**August 17, 2019 - Family Workshop at the Myriad Botanical Gardens: Garden Story Stones**

In this class we will combine nature, art and storytelling to encourage creative play in your garden space. We’ll start by each creating a set of story stones, and then talk about the types of plants, landscapes and creatures we would encounter in our garden. Using our story stones, we will share tales of our garden adventures with each other. Saturday, August 17, 2-3pm in the Garden Classroom. Cost: member $6; nonmember $8. Best for ages 8 to 12. For more information and to register visit <https://calendar.oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com/event/family-workshop-garden-story-stones/?instance_id=9205>

**August 23 – 24, 2019 - Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Ranch Rodeo**

At the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Ranch Rodeo, 12 different ranch teams from around the state compete in six events that attempt to encompass ranch life including saddle bronc riding, team sorting, wild cow milking, team branding, team penning and wild horse race. Held at the legendary Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, this exciting competition gives spectators an idea of what goes into running a full-fledged ranch. You'll be rooting for your favorites from the edge of your seat as the teams work together to complete difficult tasks. Contestants also compete for individual awards. See who comes out on top and is named "Top Hand," "Top Horse" and "Tough Hand" for the next year. This competition is a Working Ranch Cowboys Association sanctioned event. At the Lazy E Arena, 9600 Lazy E Dr, Guthrie, OK 73044. For more information, call 405-235-4391 or visit <https://www.travelok.com/listings/view.profile/id.20556/event.21213>

***(Note: See related children’s event below.)***

**August 24, 2019 - LongRange© Kids Dummy Roping Contest**

The Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association in partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim, is excited to invite young cowboys and cowgirls to participate in the LongRange©kids dummy roping contest on Saturday, Aug. 24. Kids can partake in a roping competition where they will rope a stationary steer until one final winner it announced. The LongRange©kids dummy roping contest is held in conjunction with the 35th Anniversary OCA Ranch Rodeo and will be held in the outdoor covered arena at the Lazy E in Guthrie, Okla. Contest participants should arrive at 11 a.m. for check-in and a free lunch. The contest begins at noon. There is no entry fee to participate. Register your little roper at: okcattlemen.org/dummyroping

**August 24, 2019 - Kitchen Scrap Gardening workshop at the Myriad Gardens**

Join us in the Children’s Garden as we learn about plant propagation and how to grow plants from common fruit and vegetable scraps that can be found in our homes. Participants will observe seed starting techniques and pot up three different plant scraps to take home and grow! Saturday, August 24, 10-11am at the Children’s Garden Porch. Cost: member $10; nonmember $12. Best for ages 7 to 11. Fpr more information and to register, visit <https://calendar.oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com/event/kitchen-scrap-gardening/?instance_id=9206>

**August 24, 2019 - Maker Faire**

Maker Faire Tulsa is an award-winning, family-friendly event celebrating technology, education, science, arts, crafts, engineering, food, sustainability, and making of all kinds. Makers and inventors of all stripes fill Central Park Hall of the Tulsa Expo Square with amazing projects and ideas. Many projects combine creativity and resourcefulness to create products that are useful and appealing. The day includes demonstrations from makers and fun, interactive shows that put their passions to the test. Come see what people are creating to make the world a better place, and arrive early to have enough time to see all of the exhibits and shows. Events take place at Central Park Hall at Expo Square, 1701 S Sandusky Ave, Tulsa, OK 74112 For more information, visit <https://www.travelok.com/listings/view.profile/id.21717/event.21211> OR <https://tulsa.makerfaire.com/>

**August 30 – September 1, 2019 – Cherokee National Holiday**

A celebration of Cherokee heritage and cultural awareness, the Cherokee National Holiday attracts visitors from across the United States as well as from around the world. The four-day holiday is full of activities for all ages, from traditional Native American games like cornstalk and blowgun shooting, marbles and stickball to tournaments in sports like basketball and softball. Many other events will take place during the Cherokee National Holiday, including a parade, children's events, a quilt show and a car show. Vendors will be on hand offering authentic Native American products such as food, artwork, pottery, blankets and other unique items. The highlights of the celebration will be the intertribal powwows, held on both Friday night and Saturday night. Events held in various locations in Tahlequah, OK 74464. For more information, visit <https://www.travelok.com/listings/view.profile/id.18809/event.22768> or call 918-453-5536.

**September 6, 2019 – Woodland Terrariums Workshop at the myriad Gardens**

Create a fall terrarium to last all winter long. Learn a bit about woodland creatures as we make a woodland theme glass globe planter using easy-to-care-for succulents and mini woodland animals and flora. Friday, September 6, 6-7pm in the Garden Classroom. Cost: member $12; nonmember $15. Best for ages 6 to 12. For more information and to register, visit <https://calendar.oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com/event/woodland-terrariums/?instance_id=9193>

**September 7, 2019 – “Septemberfest” at the Oklahoma History Center**

Grab the family and head to Oklahoma City's Oklahoma History Center for a fun-filled day at Septemberfest, a free festival exploring the rich heritage and diversity for which Oklahoma is known. This event features crafts, music, storytelling, historical re-enactments, agricultural exhibits, theater, face-painting and everything in between. Visitors may see a cowboy, a Civil War soldier or a silversmith as re-enactors present living history programs. Septemberfest include tours of the Governor's Mansion and free admission to the Oklahoma History Center. Along the Red River Journey to the Oklahoma History Center, visitors will enjoy interaction with living historians representing WWII, cowboys, land run participants, nineteenth century American Indians, antebellum musicians, the Civil War and more. The past will be brought to life with learning stations, hands-on activities and demonstrations. The history adventure continues inside the History Center with live performances, storytelling and unique exhibits about Oklahoma. Come early and stay late and celebrate Oklahoma at Septemberfest. Saturday, September 7, from 10 am to 3 pm at the Oklahoma History Center. For more information, go to <https://www.travelok.com/listings/view.profile/id.20804/event.21104>

**September 7, 2019 - Saturdays for Kids at the Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum: “Native American Games”**

Many modern games have Native American roots. Test your skills as you play traditional games like Game of Grace, ring toss, and more. **Free** for children and accompanying adults. 10:00 a.m. - noon. For more information, call (405) 478-2250 ext. 250. For more information, visit <https://nationalcowboymuseum.org/event/saturdays-for-kids-native-american-games/>

**September 5 - 8, 2019 – Cleveland County Free Fair**

 Don’t miss this! The annual Cleveland County Free Fair in Norman offers four days of non-stop family fun. Come to this traditional county fair for everything from goat roping to carnival rides. There are also many opportunities for our kids to show off their skills in baking, canning, arts, crafts etc. Enjoy some of my favorite activities and events: the farm animal petting zoo, livestock contests, and the stick horse race for the little ones, and plenty of fun contests throughout the fair. Thu 6pm-9pm, Fri-Sat 9am-11pm at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds. Call 360-4721 or go online at <http://www.clevelandcountyfair.org/101/County-Fair> (***NOTE: See the special article about the Cleveland Co. Free Fair below)***

**September 7, 2019 - Garden Tea Party at the Myriad Botanical Gardens**

Join us for a stroll around the Children’s Garden to observe the SCENTsational herbs that are growing there before returning to the porch for some afternoon herbal tea, lemonade and a snack to complete the sensory experience! Each participant will also be able to plant an herb seed to take home and grow for their next tea party. Saturday, September 7, 1-2pm on the Children’s Garden Porch. Cost: member $8; nonmember $10. Best for ages 6 to 10. For more information and to register, visit <https://calendar.oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com/event/garden-tea-party/?instance_id=9194>

**September 14, 2019 - Sprouting Chefs: Healthful Mug Cakes: A Family workshop at the Myriad Botanical Gardens**

Learn how to make quick and healthful mug cakes without the hassle and time of using an oven. We’ll talk about simple ingredients, like flour, sugar and fruit and then get to creating and eating these tasty cakes. Everyone will get to decorate and take their mug home to continue the fun. Saturday, September 14, 10-11:30am in The Garden Classroom. Cost: member $15; nonmember $17. For families, preferably kids ages 7 and up. For more information and to register, visit. <https://calendar.oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com/event/sprouting-chefs-healthful-mug-cakes/?instance_id=9198>

**September 21, 2019 – Canning and Preserving Class**

Come learn how to can and preserve jelly with Extension Educator Taylor Conner at the Oklahoma State University Oklahoma County Extension Center on Saturday, September 21, from 1 to 4 p.m. This class is for ages twelve and older, and registration is $20 for OHS members and $30 for the general public. Registration opens August 10. For more information or to receive a reminder when registration opens, please email education@okhistory.org. For more information, visit <https://www.okhistory.org/calendar/event/canning-and-preserving/>

**Great Possibilities at Area Libraries!**

**August 5, 2019 – Citizen Science at South OKC Library: Mosquitoes (For ages 8-11)**

How many eggs does a mosquito lay? How much blood can it hold? Become a citizen scientist as we explore mosquitoes and their habitats. Bring a smartphone! Program takes place from 4:30pm - 5:30pm. Registration required. To register and for more information, visit <http://pioneer.libnet.info/event/2946141>

**August 5, 2019 (and every Monday this summer) - “Far Out Explorers” at Norman Library East**

Get ready for some out of this world fun and join us for stellar explorations of STEAM related topics every Monday this summer! This program is designed for children ages 6-11. Registration is requested. For more information and to register, visit <http://pioneer.libnet.info/event/1822041>

**June 29 - August 18, 2019 - Water/Ways: A Smithsonian Exhibit: Visit the Smithsonian in East Norman (East Norman Library)**

Visit the Norman Public Library East June 29 through August 18 to experience a Smithsonian exhibit! Water/Ways, an exhibition from the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street, explores the relationship between people and water. During regular business hours, walk through this self-guided exhibit throughout the library to learn more about how water impacts our every day.

This exhibit explores the centrality of water in our lives including its effect on the environment and climate, its practical role in agriculture and economic planning, and its impact on culture and spirituality. “Water/Ways” is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions. To learn more visit [www.museumonmainstreet.org](http://www.museumonmainstreet.org). For more information about this exhibit, visit <http://pioneer.libnet.info/event/2454127>

**August 10, 2019 - Water Animals and Wildlife Conservation with Lake Thunderbird Naturalist Ernie Martin – Norman Library East**

Naturalist Ernie Martin from Lake Thunderbird State Park will bring animals that make their homes in water for discussion about the importance of water and wildlife conservation. Children will learn more about the relatedness of the natural world and strategies for protecting our land and water quality. 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Registration required. For more information and to register, visit <http://pioneer.libnet.info/event/2009200>

**August 13, 2019 - DIY Scrunchies – at Norman Library East**

Sew a cute scrunchie to add to your back-to-school outfit while also learning basic sewing skills! Supplies provided and registration is required. This is geared for ages 9-18. 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. For more information and to register, visit <http://pioneer.libnet.info/event/2738259>

**August 17, 2019 – Teen Community Project: Paracord Bracelets for Troops – Southwest OKC Library**

OTTER (Outstanding Teens Taking Extra Responsibility) welcomes teens to help their community through creative projects! This month teens will create paracord bracelets to send to our troops overseas. (OTTER) will complete creative projects intended to impact our local and global community. Any teens are welcome & will receive community service credit for their participation. Teens will take on a new project every other month. This month's project, paracord bracelets, will benefit troops stationed overseas through the organization, Operation Gratitude.1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Registration required. For more information and to register, visit <http://pioneer.libnet.info/event/2875595>

**September 5, 2019 - Tween STEAM at South OKC Library: Crash Testing**

Join us in designing and building cars that can survive our obstacle courses and learn about different STEAM topics through hands on exploration and experimentation! 4:30pm - 5:30pm at South OKC Library. Geared for ages 8-11, registration is required. To register or to get more information, visit <http://pioneer.libnet.info/event/2777301> (*Note that registration for this event opens on August 22.)*

**September 5, 2019 - Teen STEAM at South OKC Library: Robotics**

Engage with different STEAM topics through hands-on exploration for ages 12-18. This month we will focus on Robotics, utilizing scientific inquiry to experiment and learn. 4:30pm - 5:30pm at South OKC Library. Geared for ages 12 – 18, and registration is required. For more information and to register, visit <http://pioneer.libnet.info/event/2913168>

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The Pioneer Library System Events Calendar <http://plsok.evanced.info/signup/EventCalendar.aspx>

The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History <http://www.snomnh.ou.edu> (Go to the “Programs” tab on the top) KGOU Community Calendar [www.kgou.org](http://www.kgou.org) (Go to “Events” on the top menu bar)

Oklahoma History Center [www.okhistory.org](http://www.okhistory.org) (Go to “Calendar”)

National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum <http://nationalcowboymuseum.org/events/month/>

Myriad Gardens (select “Events” for the events calendar) <https://oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com/>

**AND** – my personal favorite – Oklahoma Travel Guide [www.travelok.com](http://www.travelok.com) (Go to “What to Do”  “Events”) \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**It’s County Fair Time Again!**

And you don’t want to miss it! There are so many great activities; I can’t even begin to list them all!

The fair is fun for all ages. There are animals galore from rabbits to goats to cows and more. The celebrity milking contest and the stick horse races are such a hoot! Don’t miss the petting zoo with its ducks and goats and rabbits and many more animals to see, hold and pet. For the more crafty family members or the gardeners, the quilts, photography, canning, and vegetables offer plenty to see.

Best of all, YOU can be a part of the fair by entering baking, arts, crafts, vegetables or any of the many possible exhibit categories. There are competitive exhibits of all ages and general, non-competitive entry categories for the young ones. To find out more go online to <http://www.clevelandcountyfair.org/DocumentCenter/View/57/County-Fair-Book-PDF?bidId=> Or you can go by the fair offices at 615 East Robinson here in Norman, and pick up a book to read at your convenience. Entries will be received on Wednesday, September 4 from 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds buildings, and the helpful people there can lead you to the appropriate category for your possible entry. More questions? Call them at 360-4721.

It’s no fair if you’re not there . . . so be there!