Dear Parents!

Summer is fast approaching. In effort to assist you with planning for that time off from school—and to avoid the dreaded “brain drain”—we have compiled a list of opportunities you might consider. This document is divided into two sections: camps and day trips. Those listed as programs or camps indicate a program of study that is more than a day or two in length, rather than a stand-alone experience. Some are residential; most are not. The words day trips are used lightly; while most of those listed here are a day’s journey away, some may certainly be more appropriate for an extended weekend or a series of days. Finally, in most cases we have attempted to give you an overview of these opportunities by using the description on the sites themselves as the source. As of the date of this publication, it is possible that these might have changed a bit. Apologies in advance for any confusion this may cause.

NOTE: This collection of information is updated every year by the Salem City School gifted department. Some programs that may have been listed in years’ past may have been removed since they are no longer in business or have otherwise discontinued their services.

Additionally... we are not personally acquainted with all of these camps and therefore we do not necessarily endorse them. It is always wise to investigate before making a decision about whether or not it is a good match for your child. The following questions may serve as a guide to help you decide.

- What are the camp’s philosophy and goals?
- What does a typical day at the camp look like? Is it relevant/appropriate for your child’s age and personality?
- How much supervision is there and how are the counselors/instructors selected?
- How are issues such as discipline and homesickness addressed?
- Are the children divided into similar age or grade groups, (i.e., are 4th and 7th graders together in groups)?
- Is there any financial assistance available (if the cost would prevent your child from attending)?

We hope this helps you plan for your summer months.

Sincerely,

Salem City Schools Gifted Department

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Summer Enrichment Programs and Camps

Note: In all cases we have tried to make sure that the links included below are active as of this publication, but sometimes websites change link descriptors on their end without our knowledge. If a link is not working properly, try copying the entire address into a new window and proceed from there. In most cases, this seems to do the trick!

**Taubman Museum of Art**: Stretch the imagination and expand art skills through summer camps at the Taubman Museum of Art! Participants will draw inspiration from the galleries, guest artist demonstrations, and creative exercises while exploring a variety of artistic techniques, styles, and materials. Art made will be displayed at the end of each week for friends and families to enjoy. Various camps are offered for ages 5-14 throughout the summer and need-based scholarships are available. Check out this link for details. [http://www.taubmanmuseum.org/programs/summer-camps-temp](http://www.taubmanmuseum.org/programs/summer-camps-temp)

**Roanoke Children’s Theatre**: RCT knows summer! Your student will spend a week at Roanoke’s only professional theatre for kids! Students will learn theatre skills, build friendships, gain confidence and have an unforgettable summer experience! Our camps are perfect for the new and veteran student alike. For preschool through 12th grade. [http://www.roanokechildrenstheatre.org/academy.html#camps](http://www.roanokechildrenstheatre.org/academy.html#camps)

**YMCA**: Summer just wouldn’t be the same without the excitement and adventure of a Kirk Family or Salem YMCA Camp. Each themed week is designed for children ages 4-11 years and includes swim lessons, music, water fun, Y-Arcade, games, arts & crafts and more! Financial aid is available! [http://ymcaroanoke.org/camp](http://ymcaroanoke.org/camp)

**PLEASE NOTE**: Programs are offered at both the Salem and Roanoke City locations. It might be worth a look to check out both!

**Mill Mountain Zoo**: Mill Mountain Zoo’s popular summer camps are a terrific way to introduce your child to the animal kingdom or to foster an existing interest in the feathered, furry and scaly critters we share the planet with. Each camp is designed to encourage a child’s respect and enthusiasm for the natural world through hands-on, fun and educational activities. Every week is chocked full of great experiences, including up-close animal encounters, talks with zookeepers, games, arts and crafts, scavenger hunts, scientific explorations and OH, SO MUCH MORE! There are camps available for ages 8-13. Scroll down halfway and you’ll see the summer camps described. [http://www.mmzoo.org/experiences/events/](http://www.mmzoo.org/experiences/events/)

**Amazement Square (Lynchburg)**: Amazement Square offers a variety of different interactive educational activities during the summer months. Regardless if you are looking for a week-long day camp or a quick drop-in activity, we have you covered! Our camps cover a variety of subjects from culture, to science, to art,
Summer Enrichment Opportunities

to history and are offered seven different times throughout the summer. For a full look at the programs we offer be sure to go to http://www.amazementsquare.org/camps-and-workshops/ and sign up for our newsletter!

**Ferrum College Summer Enrichment Camps:** At FCSEC, we believe that a healthy self-concept is essential for fully developing one’s talents and skills. The daily academic program is balanced with a variety of social and recreational activities designed to promote personal growth, team-building and an appreciation of individual differences and abilities. The camp motto is reinforced daily in a variety of ways as campers are encouraged to approach new learning situations with an “I-CAN-DO-IT” attitude. Classes involve ACTIVE PARTICIPATION with a variety of daily projects and group activities. Instructors are specially chosen for their unique abilities to make learning come alive. Average class size is 12 participants. Campers are enrolled in four classes. http://www2.ferrum.edu/fcsec/index.html

**Roanoke Area Library Summer Programs:** We all pay taxes to support them... why not use them, too?! Their mission statement: “The Roanoke Public Libraries will enhance the quality of life and promote the well-being of the community by providing a wide range of informational, educational and cultural services, resources, and programming.” See what they offer and also visit your local library to join their summer reading program. http://host4.evanced.info/roanoke/evanced/eventcalendar.asp

**Camp Roanoke:** Nestled within 700 acres of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, Camp Roanoke is conveniently located just off Interstate 81 exit 132. Since 1925, our campers have enjoyed outdoor adventures such as canoeing, field games, hiking, campfires and a challenge course complete with a 44-foot climbing tower. Older campers will enjoy off-site excursions like rock climbing and caving. Younger campers can stay for just the day with free satellite transportation. All our programs are accredited by the American Camp Association. Programs are offered for grades K-11. Check them out here. http://www.camproanoke.com/220/Summer-Programs

**CHECK THIS OUT!** This is a link to all of the summer camps that Roanoke County offers (a huge resource!) http://www.roanokecountyparks.com/293/Summer-Camps#guide
**Green Ridge Recreation Park:** Roanoke County’s 76,000-square-foot recreation center offers healthy fun for everyone with programs throughout the summer--- and you don't have to be a member to enjoy it. Visit for the day, participate in recreation programs, rent a room for your next birthday party, or become a member for even more benefits.


**4-H:** 4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. 4-H, the largest comprehensive youth development program in the nation, educates young people, ages 9 -18, through a variety of experiential techniques that encourage hands-on, active learning.

http://retreatatsmithmountainlake.com/summercamp/

**The Studio School:** For over 25 years, The Studio School has provided an exceptional level of art education and exploration to thousands of art enthusiasts. They continue to be a thriving, energetic art organization and are always adding additional classes and programs. Check them out and see what might interest you by going here.

http://thestudioschool.biz/

**The Phoebe Needles Center:** Our programs are for rising fifth through twelfth graders. We operate nine camp sessions during the summer. In addition to our basic camp activities like hiking, arts and crafts, swimming, campfires, etc., we also have special camps focused on nature and the environment, rock climbing and repelling, community service, backpacking and camping, caving and climbing.

All of these[http://phoebeneedles.org/camps-summer-camps-overview.html](http://phoebeneedles.org/camps-summer-camps-overview.html)

**VWCC:** Each year Virginia Western Community College hosts a kids’ college for students in grades 4 - 12. Topics include digital photography, girls in construction, keyboarding, horticulture, video game design, health technology, robotics and more! Check them out here to sign up!

http://www.virginiawestern.edu/kidscollege/summercamps.php

**The Music Lab:** Our primary program serves area 6th-12th graders. The Music Lab represents an innovative model of experiential learning in music business, technology, and performance as an extension of the education area schools provide. We are preparing local youth for future education, careers, and interests in the music and entertainment industries. [http://www.jeffcenter.org/education/music-lab/classes](http://www.jeffcenter.org/education/music-lab/classes)

**Hollins Summer Camps:** Three camps combine learning and fun for rising 9th-12th-grade girls at one of Virginia’s most beautiful
Summer Enrichment Opportunities

Camps cover topics from horseback riding, to writing, to theater. [https://www.hollins.edu/academics/hollinsummer/](https://www.hollins.edu/academics/hollinsummer/)

**Imagination** is a hands-on science and engineering summer day camp for rising 7th and 8th graders. If you get tired of doing the same old thing all summer, then you may want to consider attending Imagination 2016. You will be introduced to the exciting and fun "stuff" we do at Virginia Tech. We have engineers, scientists, and college students who are ready to help you explore the world of technology, engineering, and science—not by watching, but by DOING! [https://www.eng.vt.edu/imagination](https://www.eng.vt.edu/imagination)

**The Apple Ridge Farm Academic Summer Camp:** Founded in 1989, it offers Roanoke’s youth ages 6-16 an opportunity to enjoy a mountain camp experience and gain life skills that will serve them in their home environments. Away from the heat and noise of city streets, young people engage in activities designed to provide challenges, stimulate trust and cooperation, and build self-esteem. [http://phoebeneedles.org/camps-summer-camps-overview.html](http://phoebeneedles.org/camps-summer-camps-overview.html)

Kids need more dirt in their life, or so we think. These clubs and organizations will ensure your kids get less screen time and more time with Mother Nature. From adventure clubs to camps to one-times events, there is something happening to get your kids outside — and off the couch — almost every day of the week (even in the rain). Go here to find an option that suits your child best. [http://www.roanokeoutside.com/guides-and-gear/find-groups/kid-clubs/](http://www.roanokeoutside.com/guides-and-gear/find-groups/kid-clubs/)

Summer is just around the corner, and it’s time to think about sending the kids campin’! When you sign the youngsters up for any one of our **Roanoke Parks and Recreation camps**, they’ll explore, throw, kick, jump, paddle and play their way to a memorable and educational summer vacation. The link for “camps” is at the top right of this page. [http://www.playroanoke.com/](http://www.playroanoke.com/)

In conjunction with the **Curry School of Education**, the University of Virginia enters the 39th year of its residential summer program for gifted and/or high ability students. Students enrolled in grades 4-10 during the 2016/2017 school year may apply to attend a twelve day session. SEP offers three summer sessions to choose from. Learning experiences are designed to foster critical thinking, creative thinking, and inquiry processes. Instruction is differentiated to meet the individual readiness, learning profile, and interests of each student. [http://curry.virginia.edu/community-programs/student-enrichment/sep/summer](http://curry.virginia.edu/community-programs/student-enrichment/sep/summer)
The Salem Art Center is not only an award winning Art Education Facility, it is also the premier Arts Education Facility in the Roanoke Valley. It is the mission of the Salem Art Center to provide a safe and welcoming environment for students of all ages to express themselves through the visual arts. We want students to learn how to be creative and free with their ideas while being respectful to the boundaries of others. We offer art education programs to all abilities and ages. Through interactive presentations, involved workshops and thought provoking classes the Salem Art Center will continue to motivate, inspire and enrich the lives of its community for years to come. [http://www.salemartcenter.com/summer-camps](http://www.salemartcenter.com/summer-camps)

Each summer, as part of our mission to serve as a community resource, North Cross School hosts summer programs for hundreds of children from ages 4 to 15 from across the Roanoke Valley and beyond. The program allows participants to choose from a broad range of enrichment programs and sports camps designed to provide students of all ages with safe activities that are interesting, challenging, and fun. These offerings are intended to improve the social, mental, and physical skills of participants and allow them to make new friends, as well as develop new interests and revisit old ones. The School has been hosting these summer programs for more than 30 years. Programs run June through mid-August. [http://www.northcross.org/summer-programs.html](http://www.northcross.org/summer-programs.html)

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research’s PreK-12 programs provide wonderful opportunities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), from summer camps and field trips, to STEM mobile lab visits that allow you to explore STEM at the convenience of your location. The Advanced Learning department will update these pages with new information and programs as they develop, so be sure to review these pages often. [http://www.ialr.org/index.php/advanced-learning/k-12-programs](http://www.ialr.org/index.php/advanced-learning/k-12-programs)

Bricks 4 Kidz® camps are a fresh and fun way for kids to spend their school or holiday break! Children will enjoy using LEGO® Bricks to build specially-designed models, play games, explore the world of engineering, architecture and movie-making. [http://www.bricks4kidz.com/virginia-roanoke-salem/program-events/camps/](http://www.bricks4kidz.com/virginia-roanoke-salem/program-events/camps/)

Looking for something completely different? We have just the thing at the River Rock! Indoor rock climbing promotes confidence, coordination and balance, muscle development, teamwork, and problem solving skills. The social and athletic skills acquired through climbing will last a lifetime. [http://www.riverrockclimbing.com/summer-camps/](http://www.riverrockclimbing.com/summer-camps/)

The Glazed Bisque-It. Our colorful studio is for your convenience and flat-out fun! We offer over 300 different ceramic pieces to choose from to create your own ceramic masterpiece. Adults, teens, and children of all ages are welcome and there’s no experience
necessary. We provide everything: stamps, stencils, sponges, idea books, a little coaching and a lot of encouragement! Drop in any time or schedule a painting party. We even have a summer camp!

http://glazedbisqueit.com/summer-camp/
SUMMER TRIP POSSIBILITIES

In many cases, there are locations within a few hours’ drive that might be perfect for your family. (If a link does not open, try pasting it into a new window and proceed from there.)

Science Trips

**Science Museum of Western Virginia**, Roanoke VA
There’s a lot to do and see here (some are even free!) including Space Saturdays, Storybook Science, a butterfly garden, and ever-changing exhibits. Plus, it’s close by! See what interests you and keep yourself in the loop by visiting this site: [http://smwv.org/events/](http://smwv.org/events/)

**Amazement Square**, Lynchburg, VA
Completely hands-on--and trust me, your kid will be TIRED by the time you’re done! [http://www.amazementsquare.org/](http://www.amazementsquare.org/)

**Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum**, Washington, DC
Admission to all Smithsonian Museums is free!! [http://www.si.edu/Museums/air-and-space-museum](http://www.si.edu/Museums/air-and-space-museum)

**National Zoo**, Washington, DC
An amazing zoo with lots of walking! [http://www.si.edu/Museums/national-zoo](http://www.si.edu/Museums/national-zoo)

**North Carolina Zoo**, Asheboro, NC
Again, a terrific zoo but lots of walking. [http://www.nczoo.org/](http://www.nczoo.org/)

**Safari Park**, Natural Bridge, VA
Enjoy a safari without leaving Virginia! Virginia Safari Park is Virginia’s only drive-thru zoo! The 180-acre park is home to over 1,000 exotic animals from 6 continents! [http://www.virginiasafaripark.com/](http://www.virginiasafaripark.com/)

**Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center**, Virginia Beach, VA
Any budding oceanographer will love this trip! [https://www.virginiaaquarium.com/visit](https://www.virginiaaquarium.com/visit)
Science Museum of Virginia, Richmond, VA
Many hands-on exhibits for children to explore various scientific concepts. The museum also offers IMAX movies.
http://www.smv.org/

McCormick Observatory, Charlottesville, VA (grounds of UVA)
Open on the first and third Friday night of each month (except holidays) for public night, which includes observing with all of the telescopes (weather permitting), audio-visual presentations, museum exhibits, and tours of the Observatory.

State Parks
Enjoy Virginia’s natural beauty in one of our state parks! There are many nearby to choose from.

Blue Ridge Parkway
Hikes, picnics, wild-flower finding, bird-watching...endless possibilities...
http://www.blueridgeparkway.org/

Cultural or History Oriented Trips

Natural Bridge, Natural Bridge, VA
A short and pleasant hike takes you to the bridge and an Indian village to explore.
http://www.naturalbridgeva.com/

The Blue Ridge Farm Institute, Ferrum College
For over 40 years Ferrum College's Blue Ridge Institute & Museum has documented the folkways of the people living in and around the Blue Ridge Mountains. Through gallery exhibitions, the Blue Ridge Folklife Festival, the Blue Ridge Farm Museum, the Blue Ridge Heritage Archives, and innovative outreach programming, the BRI promotes a special understanding of regional folklife for all ages and audiences.
http://www.blueridgeinstitute.org/
The Reynolds Homestead, Critz, Virginia.
The birthplace and boyhood home of tobacco manufacturer R.J. Reynolds, it features Rock Spring Plantation and the Reynolds Homestead Community Enrichment Center, which hosts a variety of programs and workshops for all ages and interests. Music, art workshops, lectures, children’s activities, fitness programs and movies are among events offered. All events are open to the public, and many require no admission fee. For a current Calendar of Events go here:
http://www.reynoldshomestead.vt.edu/programs-events/

Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington, DC
Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world’s largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities.
http://www.si.edu/Museums/american-history-museum

Poplar Forest, Forest, VA
Thomas Jefferson’s retreat home--if you’re a fan of Mr. Jefferson, you will not want to miss his other home!
http://www.poplarforest.org/

Frontier Culture Museum, Staunton, VA
Your children ARE encouraged to touch everything here to learn about the roots and early history of America. This is an outdoor experience, so go on a nice day.
http://www.frontiermuseum.org/

Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library & Museum, Staunton, VA
They offer a hands-on kids’ corner and scavenger hunt to help young visitors learn about Virginia’s only president from the twentieth century.
http://www.woodrowwilson.org/

Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello, Charlottesville, VA
I highly recommend the Family Tour geared towards children as well as the Children’s Discovery Room!
http://www.monticello.org/

Ashlawn-Highland, James Monroe’s Home, Charlottesville, VA
This home is a bit off the beaten path but is truly one of our favorite presidential homes to visit. It is located only two miles from Monticello.
http://www.ashlawnhighland.org/
Montpelier, James Madison's Home, Orange, VA
Explore the home of the Father of the Constitution and America's greatest hostess.
http://www.montpelier.org/

George Washington's Mount Vernon, Alexandria, VA
Mount Vernon has an outstanding children's museum and 4-D movie theater! It's an all-day affair but well worth the time and distance!
http://www.mountvernon.org/

Lexington
Stonewall Jackson's Home; Virginia Military Institute Museum; Lee Chapel, Lexington, VA
Learn about the Civil War era in a place that has much history to share.
https://lexingtonvirginia.com/directory/historic-attractions

Jamestown and Williamsburg, VA
Enough said! If you have never visited, now's the time.
http://www.history.org/

Yorktown, VA (near Williamsburg)
For those Revolutionary War buffs!
http://www.nps.gov/yonb/index.htm

Manassas Battlefield, Manassas, VA
The Civil War will come alive for those who are especially interested in the military strategy and maneuvers of the war.
http://www.nps.gov/mana/index.htm

American Civil War Museum, Richmond, VA
Learn about the life and times of President Jefferson Davis, the Confederate army and Southern families during the Civil War. https://acwm.org/

Appomattox Court House, Appomattox, VA
You will see where our country reunited! Much to see indoors and outdoors. Plan to go on a nice weather day.
http://www.nps.gov/apco/index.htm

Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA
Plan your visit to see the changing of the guard at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Lee Mansion tour is also interesting! You can walk it or ride a tram, but of course, go during pleasant weather.
http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/
**Booker T. Washington National Monument**, Bedford, VA
A great outdoor experience with farm animals, too!
http://www.nps.gov/bowa/index.htm

**Mabry Mill**, Meadows of Dan, VA
This restored grist-mill and blacksmith shop offers a beautiful setting in which to view demonstrations of old-time skills such as basket weaving and spinning.
http://www.virginia.org/Listings/HistoricSites/MabryMill/

**Harvester Performance Center**, Rocky Mount, VA
The Harvester Performance Center is a new, mid-sized music venue serving Rocky Mount, VA, and surrounding areas with great live performances in all kinds of genres.
http://harvester-music.com/About

**General Links to Cities for Visitors**

**Richmond, Virginia**

**Washington D.C.**
http://dc.gov/page/visitors-resource-center

**Charlottesville, Virginia**
http://www.charlottesville.org/visitors

**Williamsburg, Virginia**

**Roanoke, VA**
http://www.roanokeva.gov/148/Visiting