

BFK Rocket Report

Summer Explorer Camps

Camps designed for students
entering 1st - 5th grade

Summer enrichment at the museum is a great opportunity to explore different themes and making new friends along the way!

Building on the success of our After-School Explorer Camps, we are excited to host our first Summer Explorer Camps, starting in June and running into August. These nine themed weeks of camp provide hands-on learning opportunities for students entering 1st - 5th grade. Each week, campers will participate in a combination of facilitated group programming and open-ended play around the museum, which has been connected with increased social self-confidence and improved academic performance.

Campers can explore their artistic side as they create their own art galleries or learn what it takes to be an entrepreneur as they start their own businesses. We'll also study how robots work, learn about plants and animals, make our own paper, and more!

Camp runs Monday - Thursday with the option to add on an "In the Field Friday," where we'll go on a field trip or invite a special guest to the museum. Current planned field trips include a visit to the History Museum at the Castle, Riverview Gardens, Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, and more. On Wednesdays, we'll also spend time focusing on mindfulness activities. To ensure you can find a camp that meets your family's schedule, half-day and full-day camps are available.

The Building for Kids aims to make Explorer Camps accessible to all families. Please contact us to find out if scholarship funds and other accessibility supports may be available to you. Explorer Camps are sponsored by the Mielke Family Foundation and a Beyond the Classroom grant.



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Check out our full schedule or register at
buildingforkids.org/summer-explorer-camps

BFK Children's Parade

Presented by ThedaCare

It is once again time for wagons to transform into ghost-busting-mobiles and for bikes to take on new lives as superhero transportation. It's time for families to brainstorm together and create lasting summer memories. It is time for the 13th annual BFK Children's Parade presented by ThedaCare!

On Wednesday, July 27, kids and their families are invited to stroll down College Avenue in themed costumes and non-motorized floats in a parade all about them. Awards will be given by our panel of judges for creativity, imagination, and confidence. The parade will kick-off in Houdini Plaza across from the Building for Kids, where we'll be joined by special guests, Pete the Cat and Clifford!

We'll leave Houdini Plaza in waves starting at 6:00pm and make our way to City Park, where families are invited to stay and celebrate with a FREE concert by Randy Peterson, food trucks, and award announcements.



The BFK Children's Parade presented by ThedaCare is a free event, but registration is required.

Learn more or register at
buildingforkids.org/childrens-parade

U.S. Venture Children's Week

The BFK Children's Parade presented by ThedaCare is one of the signature event's of U.S. Venture Children's Week. This community-wide celebration of kids will take place July 24 - 30, 2022. U.S. Venture Children's Week offers **a week full of free or reduced-costs activities for the whole family.**

At the BFK, during Children's Week, we'll also host Children's Week Summer Explorer Camp, where we'll make a group float for the parade and attend other signature events of U.S. Venture Children's Week.

To learn more and check out the whole list of activities, visit www.appletonchildrensweek.com

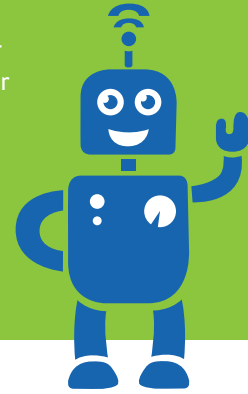


New Digital Membership Cards!

Have you heard? The BFK recently transitioned to digital membership cards. Now, you can easily access your membership cards from your phone, whether you're coming for a trip to the BFK or using your reciprocal benefits at another museum while traveling.

BFK Member Portal

The BFK also launched a new member portal. Here you can access your digital membership cards, update your membership information, and view recent transactions. Check it out at buildingforkids.org/member.



Director's Digest

Happy summer! Whether you're breaking out the camping gear, planning a summer road trip, lounging by the pool, or simply spending more time with family, I hope your summer is off to a great start.

As the weather warms, the team at the Building for Kids and families across the community are gearing up to enjoy long-standing summer traditions like the 13th annual Children's Parade sponsored by ThedaCare and the rest of U.S. Venture Children's Week. Towards the end of summer, we'll also host Music Makers Free Day as part of Appleton's Mile of Music Festival. We hope you and your family can join us in celebrating some of these summer traditions that help make our community unique.

In addition, there are lots of opportunities to create new memories and make new friends through the launch of our BFK Summer Explorer Camps series. Building on the success of this year's Afterschool Explorer Camps, these drop off camps (available in both half and full day options) provide early elementary school age children with opportunities for hands-on learning and discovery, while also providing families with the care support they need during the extended break.

Also new this summer, the Building for Kids is piloting special Summer Hours. We will now be open for family visits seven days a week from 8am-4pm. We know that summer can mean a busy schedule, so this will allow more time to meet up with friends and family at the museum on whichever day is convenient for you.

All of these opportunities stem from the core of our strategic plan which is to expand the opportunities for



intergenerational play-based learning and exploration of the arts, sciences, and humanities here in the Fox Cities.

Thank you for your support in making these moments possible. We are so grateful to be part of this community, and we look forward to seeing you at the museum sometime soon!

Have a wonderful summer,

Oliver Zornow
Executive Director
ozornow@buildingforkids.org



Summer Explorer Camp Schedule

Week 1:

Mindful Masters

June 6 – 10

Week 2:

Follow Your Art

June 13 – 17

Week 3:

Nourished by Nature

June 20 – 24

Week 4:

Early Entrepreneurs

June 27 – July 1

Week 5:

Print & Papermaking

July 11 – 15

Week 6:

Robotics

July 18 – 22

Week 7:

Children's Week

July 25 – 29

Week 8:

Music Makers

August 1 – 5

Week 9:

Nature Exploration

August 22 – 26

Learn more at
[buildingforkids.org/
summer-explorer-camps](http://buildingforkids.org/summer-explorer-camps)

Meet the Board

Tom Hardwick

Secretary, BFK Board of Directors

1. How long have you been a member of the BFK Board of Directors?

I have been a member of the Board for two and a half years now and am currently serving in the role of Board Secretary.

2. Why did you join the Board?

I joined the BFK Board of Directors because I have twin girls and was looking for a way to give back that would have an impact not only on my community, but also specifically on my family. Even before I joined the Board, I knew that the Building for Kids prioritized the needs of kids and families and I wanted a role in continuing to make Appleton a great place to live and visit for families.

3. What has kept you engaged on the Board?

The passion that the staff at the BFK have for their mission is just amazing. They are always brainstorming new ways to serve the kids in our community. In my time with the BFK, every goal they have set, they have exceeded and that is saying a lot considering the environment we have gone through over the last couple of years. I feel fortunate to be able to engage with such a group of professionals and be able to support their mission of inspiring discovery and building resilience through intergenerational play-based learning and exploration of the arts, sciences, and humanities.

4. What do you enjoy most about your role as a Board member?

One of my favorite aspects of being a Board member is the relationships I have built with the BFK staff and other Board members. I appreciate being able to work with and learn from people who work in different fields or come from different walks of life than I do.



5. Why does the BFK matter to the community?

The BFK supports the kids of today and the kids of tomorrow. Over the past three decades, it has become a tradition for generations of families. No matter one's gender, ethnicity, education, or economic standing, the BFK is there for the members of our community and beyond. In everything they do, they strive to make the museum accessible to all families through different memberships options, scholarships for field trips and Explorer Camps, and more. Through this work, they create a safe place for every family to come together, create memories, and learn through play.

6. How has the BFK impacted your life?

Being able to take my girls to the place I contribute to and support is such a great feeling. It allows me to experience first-hand how powerful of an impact the BFK can have as I watch my daughters develop and grow before my eyes. As both a local parent and a Board member, I am so proud to have myself and my family connected to an organization that is doing so much for the little ones (and their grown-ups) in our community. I can only imagine how much more the BFK will impact my families, and other families in our community, over the coming years.

Board of Directors

Eric Lempke, *Chair* - BMO Harris Bank, N.A.

Kristen Trimberger, *Vice Chair* - Reach Counseling

Barb Gonnering, *Treasurer* - Wipfli LLP

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Empowered Children. • Engaged Parents. • Energized Communities.

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