

BFK Rocket Report



Play • Imagination • Inclusion • Connection • Integrity



September is Member Appreciation Month!

September 1 - 30

This September, we're excited to celebrate our incredible members!

Our members are at the very heart of the Building for Kids. Every visit and moment of discovery is enriched because of all the families who choose to be a part of the BFK community. You bring energy, curiosity, and joy into our spaces, and your support allows us to grow, innovate, and continue to create valuable experiences for kids and their grown-ups.

As our way of saying thank you, we're launching Member Appreciation Month, a month of exclusive deals, events, and hours just for members.



Here are all the ways you can take part in the celebrations:

Membership Renewal Bonus:

During September, all members who renew their membership will receive 14 months for the price of 12! Your renewal will extend your expiration date by 14 months, so everyone can take advantage of this offer, regardless of their current expiration date.

Extended Member-Only Hours:

In addition to our regular members-only hours on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 8 - 9am, throughout September, members will enjoy more opportunities for evening play at the BFK! Every Tuesday of the month, we'll be open exclusively to members from 4 - 6pm.

Member Gift Shop Discounts:

All month long, members will receive 20% off any gift shop items. From BFK merchandise to hands-on educational toys, our gift shop is filled with items you won't find anywhere else.

Plus, we have something special in store for every member who walks through our doors in September. See you soon!



Members-Only Preview Night: The Amazing Castle

Friday, September 19: 5 - 7pm

Members are invited to explore our new traveling exhibit for free before it opens to the public! Be some of the first to step inside the immersive world of *The Amazing Castle*™. Turn the page to learn more about the new exhibit!

Register now!



The Amazing Castle

Traveling Exhibit Open September 21 - January 4

Visitors can take a journey back in time with *The Amazing Castle*, an enchanting traveling exhibit coming soon to the Building for Kids!

Featuring costumes, props, and several themed areas, this exhibit immerses families in a medieval castle village, where they'll explore various aspects of community life. Families can enter the Royal Workshops, taking on the roles of tailors, blacksmiths, carpenters, and more. They can also imagine they're entertaining royal guests by putting on a puppet show and preparing a feast over a glowing fire. Kids especially love sounding the trumpets to wake Herald, the sleepy dragon, perched atop his tower!

Through its exploration of various medieval roles, *The Amazing Castle* aims to strengthen awareness among visitors of the interconnectedness of individuals in a community. The exhibit encourages intergenerational play, collaboration, and imagination as kids and their grown-ups work side by side to build a thriving village.

The Amazing Castle will be open at the Building for Kids from September 21 - January 4.

Royal Birthday Parties

Available September 27 - January 4

While *The Amazing Castle* exhibit is visiting the BFK, families can book Royal Birthday Parties! These castle-themed party experiences make birthdays magical with perks like 30 minutes of exclusive access to *The Amazing Castle* exhibit, medieval dress-up and photo opportunities, a royal parade through the museum featuring the birthday guest of honor and their noble entourage, a themed cake, and more.

To learn more
or book a party:



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Building for Grown-ups: Medieval Knight

Saturday, November 8: 6 – 9pm

Hear ye, hear ye! You are hereby invited to Building for Grown-ups: Medieval Knight sponsored by TDS Telecom—an adults-only (21+) night in connection with *The Amazing Castle* exhibit! Attendees shall partake in a majestic evening enriched by themed festivities, a cash bar of noble refreshments, snacks, a lively dance party, raffles, and access to the museum's wondrous halls. Present thyself in the fashion of the medieval ages with thy finest gowns, armor, leather, or whatever attire you fancy.



To learn more or register:



Night at the Castle

Saturday, October 4 at 5pm -
Sunday, October 5 at 7am

In honor of our forthcoming traveling exhibit, we bid thee welcome to Night at the Castle, a lock-in event offering families an immersive journey to *The Amazing Castle* followed by a slumber within our museum walls. The evening shall commence with a hearty supper and a bounty of merry pastimes, including a quest for dragon eggs, telling tales, brewing potions, castle-building contests, and more. When the revels have ended, visitors can choose a cozy spot in the museum to retire for the night.

To learn more or register:

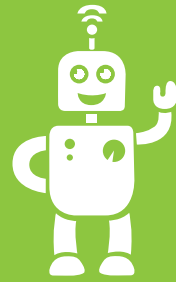


Annual Meeting: October 22 at 8:40am

This is your museum! Help us elect our 2026 Board of Directors and shape the future of the BFK. Your participation helps ensure that our leadership reflects the values and priorities of our community.

You will have the option to attend this meeting in-person or virtually over Microsoft Teams. Every year, each member family receives one vote.

Please RSVP to events@buildingforkids.org by Monday, October 20 for information on how to join.



Director's Digest

Happy Member Appreciation Month! Though our gratitude for you is constant, this month offers a special opportunity to celebrate your contributions and the meaningful role you play in our community and organization.

Together, our members are the engine that powers the Building for Kids. While your membership gives you valuable benefits like unlimited admission, reciprocal access to partner museums, and invitations to exclusive programs and events, it simultaneously helps us fuel and strengthen the impact of the organization. Your support plays a vital role in the museum's governance and direction, enabling us to expand our offerings, invest in innovation, and continue creating enriching experiences for kids and their grown-ups. I hope you will take part in the celebrations this month as we honor the powerful impact of members like you. If you are not currently a member, we would love for you to join and become a part of the BFK member community.

Later this month, we are also excited to open *The Amazing Castle* traveling exhibit. Traveling exhibits always bring something fresh and exciting to explore, but they also contribute to our mission by introducing new ideas, environments, and content areas that inspire discovery. Through imaginative play, *The Amazing Castle* invites children to explore the working parts of a community, showing how individuals work together to impact a larger system.



Just like the castle village flourishes through the collaboration of individuals, the BFK thrives on the collective support of people like you. To sustain our work, we rely on two important forms of support: membership and philanthropic contributions through our Annual Appeal. As we enter September, we are nearly halfway to our 2025 Annual Appeal goal of \$670,000, which directly supports play-based learning, programming, and additions like *The Amazing Castle*. We invite you to consider helping us reach our goal by making a gift today using the QR code below.

Thank you for your ongoing support! With so much to look forward to this season, I hope you'll join us in celebrating the impact we're creating together.

See you soon!

Oliver Zornow
President
ozornow@buildingforkids.org



Ways to Support

Memberships

Enjoy our member benefits during Member Appreciation Month and beyond by becoming a member today!



Annual Appeal

Support play-based learning by giving to our Annual Appeal today!



Upcoming Events

Rhythms of the World Free Day

Saturday, September 20

Join us for a day of free admission and live performances as we celebrate multicultural music and dance.

Character Playdates

Spend time with some of your favorite storybook characters at the BFK! Enjoy themed activities, photo opportunities, food, and after-hours access to the museum!

Llama Llama - October 10: 5-7pm

Pigeon - November 14: 5-7pm

Grinch - December 5 & 12: 5-7pm

Sensory-Friendly Character Playdates

New this year! Enjoy a lower sensory experience while meeting some well-known storybook characters. These events are free for families in the autism community.

Llama Llama - October 8: 5-7pm

Pigeon - November 12: 5-7pm

Grinch - December 10: 5-7pm

Register now for a Character Playdate!



For more information about these and other upcoming events, visit buildingforkids.org.

Summer Camp Spotlight

We asked our Museum Education Team: what was your favorite memory from Summer Explorer Camp 2025?

"My favorite memory from this year's summer camp was seeing all of the kids who have returned to camp over the past two years and witnessing their growth, whether it be in size or maturity, since the first time I met them. It's amazing seeing them grow into the person they're becoming."

-Jake, Museum Educator



"Some of my favorite memories from summer camp have come from the food sessions. I enjoyed helping campers learn new cooking techniques as they worked together in teams. It was especially awesome to hear campers talking about how much they liked the new foods they have never tried before."

-Austin, Museum Educator



"My favorite part of Summer Explorer Camp was building relationships with campers and their families. It was really meaningful getting to know each child and hearing parents say that they are excited to sign up again next year."

-Jessie, Museum Education Assistant



Meet the Cuhel Family

This summer, the Cuhel triplets joined us for all eight sessions of our Summer Explorer Camp—traveling 1.5 hours each way from Beaver Dam to be part of the experience!

What makes the 3-hour round trip worth it? Their mom, Angela Cuhel, shared:

"We chose to make the drive to attend the Summer Explorer Camps at the Building for Kids because as full-time working parents, we're always looking for meaningful ways to keep our kids engaged during the summer, and this camp offers experiences we wouldn't be able to provide on our own. It gives our kids the chance to try new things, build confidence, and make new friends in a supportive, engaging environment. The hands-on, themed activities—like pottery, robotics, and photography—have sparked their creativity, deepened their learning, and introduced them to new interests."

Board of Directors

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