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Great family outings in Philly this week, including pop-up art in parks and Chestnut Hill's 'Night of Lights'

by [Lauren McCutcheon, For The Inquirer](#), Posted: October 4, 2020



BRADLEY MAULE FOR THE CHESTNUT HILL CONSERVANCY



That saying about parents' days being long and the years being short is relevant only in hindsight. Days during COVID aren't just long. They're grueling. Grueling enough to make you want to do absolutely nothing when the kids aren't doing school and you're not doing work — or dishes, or laundry, or paying bills, or pick your obligation.

Then again, we all need to get out of the confinement of home. All of us.

Escapes this week include a walk along lit-up Germantown Avenue in Chestnut Hill, a free art class in one of four parks, an exploration of a fascinating local glitch in women's voting history, and a chance to breathe among the birds and trees outside the Wagner Free Institute, and a drive-in classic movie outside the South Philly IKEA. If you're reading this Sunday, escape virtually with an afternoon of free circus classes on Zoom.

Circus Midway on Zoom

11 a.m.–4 p.m. Sunday, free online, [registration required at fringearts.com/2020-fringe-festival](https://fringearts.com/2020-fringe-festival), (ages 3 and up)



COURTESY OF PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL OF CIRCUS ARTS

The Fringe Festival ends with free classes and a performance --all virtual -- by the Philadelphia School of Circus Arts on Sunday, October 4.

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The Philadelphia School of Circus Arts brings you the Fringe Festivals's free, family-friendly virtual finale. At-home Zoom classes — juggling at 11 a.m., acro-dance at noon, hula hooping at 1 p.m., and clowning at 2 p.m. — culminate in a free, no-participation-required performance of all of the above by Philadelphia School of Circus Arts' Youth & Teen Troupe and Circadium School of Contemporary Circus at 3 p.m.

Art Start in the Park



COURTESY OF THE WAGNER FREE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

During Friday afternoons "in the field," kids and their grown-ups can explore the nature that surround the Wagner Free Institute of Science.

The Wagner Free Institute's outside is nearly as alluring as its inside (which is temporarily closed, so it's not like there's a choice at the moment). On Fridays, the Victorian-era museum invites chaperoned kids onto its big-as-the-building lawn. The tree-lined site is a certified Monarch Watch Monarch Waystation, National Wildlife Federation wildlife habitat, Audubon-recognized bird habitat, and a native plant garden. A family guide offers help identifying birds, bees, butterflies, and trees. It's a perfect spot for some plein-air art-making, too.

Night of Lights

7-10 p.m. nightly, Oct. 9-25, free, [information at chconservancy.org/night-of-lights](https://www.chconservancy.org/night-of-lights), (all ages)



BRADLEY MAULE FOR THE CHESTNUT HILL CONSERVANCY

Chestnut Hill lights its facades this month for nightly strolls along Germantown Avenue.

At the end of some days, the family just needs out of the house. Chestnut Hill offers a great — and free — excuse to go for an evening walk, with lights and photographs projected along Germantown between Rex and Willow Grove Avenues and a [mobile scavenger hunt](#) and a “pastport” to be virtually stamped. The objects: Teach a bit of local history; appreciate some architecture; have a walk.

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“A League of Their Own” Drive-In

6:30–9:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, donations of \$40/car and up, [reserve at pspca.org/drivein2020](https://pspca.org/drivein2020), (ages 10 & up)