MATPRA

MID-ATLANTIC TOURISM PUBLIC RELATIONS ALLIANCE

Family Members of All Ages Find Fun in the Mid-Atlantic

(Mid-Atlantic Region, USA, July 8, 2016) - There's fun for visitors of every age in the Mid-Atlantic! Whether it's a weekend getaway or a lengthy vacation, families who visit the region seek a variety of activities they can do together while away. Members of the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) have compiled a list the region's most exciting and family-friendly events and pastimes.

Interested in learning more about a destination or event listed in the release? Contact the visitors bureau in the description for information.

Delaware

Kent County

Killens Pond Water Park is a summer fun experience for the whole family. From the Mushroom Fountain to the adventure-filled Floating Lily Pad Fun Walk, the pool's exciting interactive water features give visitors of all ages plenty of reasons to head for the park. Camping is also available. *Kent County Tourism, Justine Zimny, jzimny@visitdover.com, VisitDover.com*

Wilmington

A trip to the new 18-hole Riverwalk Mini Golf Course is an outing the whole family can enjoy. After a fun round of golf on the course on Wilmington's bustling Riverfront, head to the golf shack where everyone's taste can be satisfied with nine flavors of soft serve ice cream. *Greater Wilmington Convention & Visitors Bureau, Lyn Lewis, lynlewis@visitwilmingtonde.com, VisitWilmingtonDE.com*

Maryland

Calvert County

Calvert County offers a host of free and almost-free activities for families. Experience the Chesapeake Bay lifestyle through sailing, fishing, boating, kayaking, swimming, and shark teeth hunting. Explore engaging museums, natural parks, historical sites, and more. Catch our drift. *Calvert County Department of Economic Development, Joyce Baki, bakija@co.cal.md.us, ChooseCalvert.com*

Frederick County

Go wild in Frederick County! Adventure awaits at Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo, home to hundreds of exotic animals. Take a safari ride through 50 wooded acres or explore the animal habitats on your own. Along the way, enjoy interactive presentations, special feeding encounters, and much more! *Visit Frederick, Melissa Joseph Muntz, mmuntz@fredco-md.net, VisitFrederick.org*

Harford County

Summer is family time in Harford County with free outdoor concerts and movies; canoe trips and more at Eden Mill Nature Center and Anita C. Leight Estuary Center; and the Cal Ripken World Series at Ripken Stadium. Don't miss the Maryland State BBQ Bash, and Fish, Fowl & Folk Festival. *Harford County, Maryland, Greg Pizzuto, greg@visitharford.com, VisitHarford.com*

Howard County

Venture to the annual Howard County Fair if you're looking for family friendly fun in Maryland this August. Make lasting memories on fun rides, playing games and awing over cute critters. Plan your visit around some of the great entertainment including Richie Fields, the PRCA All American Rodeo and more! *Howard County Tourism & Promotion, Sarah Kurtanich, sarah@visithowardcounty.com, VisitHowardCounty.com*

Montgomery County

Montgomery County is a great place to explore with kids. Enjoy a wide range of family-friendly attractions and events! From children's festivals such as Imagination Bethesda and Maker Faire, to outdoor adventures like kayaking and zip-lining, and the best county fair in the area, there's something for everyone. *Visit Montgomery, Bethany Manimbo, bmanimbo@visitmontgomery.com, VisitMontgomery.com*

St. Mary's County

St. Mary's County is full of family fun! Help tend a plantation at Historic St. Mary's City, fly thrilling mock air combat simulators at the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum, climb to the top of Piney Point Lighthouse, or try your hand at crabbing & oyster tonging on a Waterman Heritage Tour. *St. Mary's County Tourism, Andrew Ponti, andrew.ponti@stmarysmd.com, VisitStMarysMD.com*

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Tourism Office

Whether your group prefers the thrill of coasters at Knoebels or a relaxing trip to Woodloch Pines Resort, Pennsylvania has family fun for every style. Check out the lineup at Bethlehem's iconic Musikfest, travel back to the 16th century at the Renaissance Faire or enjoy chocolatey history in Hershey. *Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Jenna Lefever, jlefever@tierneyagency.com, VisitPA.com*

Bucks County

Spend time together as a family in Bucks! Get back to nature at one of six campgrounds. Book tickets for the Family Dinner Train Ride on the New Hope &

Ivyland Railroad. This one-hour round trip around the countryside offers a three-course Italian dinner, and cocktails for adults. *Visit Bucks County, Alexa Johnson, alexaj@visitbuckscounty.com, VisitBucksCounty.com*

Butler County

Fun Fore All is one of the largest, year-round family entertainment centers in Butler. Bring the kids for mini golf, batting practice, go-carting, and more. The Regatta at Lake Arthur features free-learning experiences such as kayaking, archery, fishing, and paddle boarding. *Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau, Kimberly Windisch, kimberly@krolmedia.com, VisitButlerCounty.com*

Chester County

Longwood Gardens' Children's Garden is a wonderland filled with imaginative of one-of-a-kind, handcrafted garden elements. At The American Helicopter Museum families can "takeoff" for a one of a kind adventure. Herr's Snack Factory's free tour is a must -see and a must taste! Bring the family to the Brandywine Valley. *Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau, Nina Kelly, nina@brandywinevalley.com, BrandywineValley.com*

Cumberland Valley

The Cumberland Valley has something for everyone in the family, including eight of the biggest and most unique car shows in the world, the Carlisle Sports Emporium, the interactive U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center Museum, three state parks with the midway point of the Appalachian Trail. *Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, Aaron Jumper, aaron@visitcumberlandvalley.com, VisitCumberlandValley.com*

Endless Mountains

The campgrounds of the Endless Mountains offer families a chance to put down hand-held devices to pick up sticks for toasting marshmallows around a campfire, share binoculars to view eaglets in a nest or to paddle along on a summer sojourn on the Susquehanna - Pennsylvania's River of the Year. *Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher, sales@endlessmountains.org, EndlessMountains.org*

Huntingdon County

Families can enjoy leisurely rides through the scenic countryside on restored historic trolley cars at the Rockhill Trolley Museum. The all-day pass allows visitors to ride on multiple cars running each weekend. *Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau, Ed Stoddard, estoddard@raystown.org, Raystown.org*

Indiana County

New family adventures include Escape Room, and FootGolf ... soccer's version of golf! Bike the scenic Ghost Town Trail and kayak the meandering river. Fireworks or parades at Hoodlebug Fall Fest. Graze the Indiana County Fair and embrace farm-life! NA Folk Festival has Children's Alley, craft workshops, and great music! *Indiana County Tourist Bureau, Maria Jack, mjack@visitindianacountypa.org, VisitIndianaCountyPA.org*

Lancaster County

The Amazing Maize Maze and 50 other fun farm activities at Cherry Crest Adventure Farm offer fantastic family time, set amidst the rolling Amish farmlands of Lancaster County. Enjoy great food and numerous special events, too. You can even ride the historic Strasburg Rail Road to and from the property. *Discover Lancaster, Joel Cliff, jcliff@discoverlancaster.com, DiscoverLancaster.com*

Laurel Highlands

Since 1878, Idlewild has been providing smiles, laughter, and memories longer than almost any other amusement park in the United States. Nestled in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands, the park is rich in tradition, nostalgia, and natural beauty, and has long been recognized as one of the country's top destinations for fun. *Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, Anna Weltz, aweltz@laurelhighlands.org, LaurelHighlands.org*

Lehigh Valley

Discover unbeatable sources of affordable, family fun in Lehigh Valley. Enjoy the magic of color at the Crayola Experience,™ go wild at the Lehigh Valley Zoo, explore hands-on learning at the Da Vinci Science Center, make a splash at Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom, and so much more. *Discover Lehigh Valley, Kaitie Burger, kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com, DiscoverLehighValley.com*

Poconos Mountains

The Pocono Mountains offers year-round fun for all ages. The kids will always remember their Poconos family vacation skiing, hiking, splashing in a lake, zip lining through the trees, and playing games at a family resort. Their parents will always be grateful for the time spent reconnecting. *Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Elizabeth Richardson, erichardson@poconos.org, PoconoMountains.com*

Tioga County

Ole Covered Wagon Tours along Pine Creek Trail in the heart of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon region is an opportunity for families to connect while experiencing the fun of a horse-drawn wagon ride through some of the state's most beautiful scenery! *Tioga County Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher, morgan@visittiogapa.com, VisitTioga.com*

York County

The York Fair, "America's First Fair®," returns to York County each September with traditional family fun. Chow down on delicious festival food while enjoying entertainment for all ages, including racing pigs, kid-friendly rides, live music and livestock exhibits that put you face-to-face with cows, goats, pigs, and more. *York County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Andrew Staub, astaub@yorkpa.org, YorkPA.org*

Virginia

Alexandria

Feel like you're in Harry Potter's world as you step into an apothecary museum filled

with historic and "magical" ingredients like dragon's blood. See George Washington's Mount Vernon by bike and boat. Families love visiting Old Town Alexandria, located minutes from Washington, DC, and so will yours. *Visit Alexandria, Leah Spellman, lspellman@visitalexva.com, VisitAlexandriaVA.com*

Charlottesville

Charlottesville and Albemarle County offer wonderful opportunities to learn together by visiting many historical attractions such as Thomas Jefferson's Monticello or James Monroe's Highland. Playing in the area's great outdoors while hiking, floating on a river, or playing a round of golf is another way families can share quality time. *Bri Warner, Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau, warnerb@charlottesville.org, VisitCharlottesville.org*

Fairfax County

Connect as a family when visiting Fairfax County! From educational attractions like Mount Vernon and the Air and Space Museum to water parks, farms, and science centers, boredom will never be an option. Outdoors lovers? Hike along the river at Great Falls or watch for bald eagles at Mason Neck. *Visit Fairfax, Ali Morris, amorris@fxva.com, FXVA.com*

Hampton

Hampton is an extraordinary city in the heart of Coastal Virginia. The 400-year-old settlement is multi-faceted; rich in Civil War history, African American heritage, water recreation, and abundant shopping and dining. Families will love a spin on our antique carousel or browsing galleries at Virginia Air & Space Center. *Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau, Ryan Downey, ryan@hamptoncvb.com, VisitHampton.com*

Harrisonburg

A family-friendly travel destination, Harrisonburg boasts an extensive selection of museums, parks, and playgrounds. Explore More Discovery Museum is a must-visit destination! Children of all ages can dive into the museum's numerous exhibits. Visit one of the city's parks, which offer a variety of walking trails, playgrounds, and picnic areas. *Harrisonburg Tourism & Visitor Services, Jessica Williams, jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov, VisitHarrisonburgVA.com*

Lexington and Rockbridge

Natural Bridge is the perfect venue for families to reconnect. Visitors will experience the Monacan Indian Living History Exhibit, nature walks and caverns. Live entertainment, the Surf & Turf Buffet and nearby attractions and historic sites compliments the park's amenities. *Lexington and Rockbridge Area Tourism, Patty Williams, marketing@lexingtonvirgina.com, LexingtonVirginia.com*

Loudoun County

Bring the family to Loudoun for outdoor adventures and a taste of life on the farm. Soar through the tree tops on two zip line courses or tackle the aerial adventure park at Harpers Ferry Adventure. Mingle with animals and fish and pick your own produce

at Great Country Farms. *Visit Loudoun, Jennifer Buske-Sigal, sigal@visitloudoun.org, VisitLoudoun.org*

Prince William and Manassas

The Bull Run Region AACA Edgar Rohr Memorial Car Show in September features over 150 antique vehicles and street rods on display at the Manassas Museum lawn. The Marine Corp Turkey Trot in November leads runners, along a 10k or one-mile trail near the Quantico Marine Corp base. *Prince William & Manassas, Nicole Warner, nwarner@discoverpwm.com, DiscoverPWM.com*

Roanoke

Break the mold, not the bank with a trip to Virginia's Blue Ridge. Enjoy economical family fun at Explore Park off the Blue Ridge Parkway, hike up Mill Mountain for a breathtaking view, get hands on at the Science Museum or back in time at Booker T. Washington National Monument! *Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Catherine Fox, cfox@visitvablueridge.com, VisitVABlueRidge.com*

About Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance

The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) is a cohesive unit of regional tourism partners encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. The group serves travel journalists by creating a regional resource that ignores geographical boundaries. The Alliance promotes common threads and offers saleable stories to journalists about the mid-Atlantic destination as a whole. For more information, visit www.matpra.org.

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