

Free Family Winter Activities

Visit our local Fairfax County public parks and nature centers. **Huntley Meadows** (3701 Lockheed Blvd, Alexandria, VA 22306) has well maintained, wooded trails and a long boardwalk over a wetland teeming with wildlife. There is also a nature center open daily (except for Tuesdays).

Attend a free event at the **Martha Washington Library** (6614 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22307). Check out the [library calendar](#) for preschool, school age and teen events. Registration is required for some events. Call or visit the library for more information.

Participate in the **Fairfax County Public Library Winter Reading Program**. Sign up on Beanstack (after November 24) or visit your local public library branch to pick up a paper log (available Dec 1). When you complete the reading goal for your age/grade visit the library and receive prizes for finishing the program.

Take a First Day Hike. A family hike is the perfect way to start the new year. All Virginia State Parks celebrate the new year with free park entry and special programs. **Mason Neck State Park** in Lorton has a fun collection of trails from easy to moderate. The Fairfax County Park Authority joins in the fun with a January 1st photo contest. Find more information and photo contest rules [online](#).

The **Smithsonian Museums** and the **National Zoo** are free (four locations require free entry tickets or passes) and open everyday of break except December 25. The **National Museum of the United States Army** (in Fort Belvoir) and **Planet Word Museum** (925 13th St NW, Washington, DC 20005) are also free (both require passes, reserve online) and offer plenty of hands-on exhibits for kids.

The **US Botanical Garden** (100 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC 20001) is free and has an annual holiday exhibit. Explore poinsettias, model trains and DC landmarks made out of plants.



If your family is in need of community assistance such as food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, employment and other essential needs call **Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning (CSP)** for assistance at 703-222-0880, TTY 711, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bilingual staff and/or interpreters are available for languages other than English.

Food and clothes are available at **Groveton Baptist Church**, 703-768-9084, 6511 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22306. The food pantry and clothes closet are open on **Fridays**. Come to Door 1 at 7:00am to get a number. Food Distribution is from 10:00am-3:00pm. The clothes closet (Door 3) is open from 10:00am - 2:00pm. No eligibility requirements. Families may receive food twice per month.