

The Highlands Biological Station offers popular Nature Center Day Camps where kids ages four to thirteen learn about plants and animals while having fun. Be sure to check dates early, as these camps fill up quickly.



The Bascom provides visual arts programming for youth and families, including workshops, classes, and field trips. The Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau hosts a summer day camp from early June through late July for ages six and older.

Some local churches also offer Vacation Bible School during the summer. The Performing Arts Center encourages kids to explore music, theater, and dance.

For overnight camp experiences near Highlands, The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center's Mountaincamp offers a supportive, nature-based environment for kids. Camp Merrie-Woode in nearby Sapphire also provides summer sessions for girls and young women.

WINTER SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

On sunny, winter days, Highlands has plenty of activities to keep kids entertained.

Be a part of a picture-perfect winter scene while ice skating in Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park. The \$8 fee includes rental skates, and you can warm up with a cup of coffee or hot chocolate.

Just a short drive from downtown is the Highlands Outpost which offers ice skating, snow tubing and the Scaly Mountain Screamer coaster (the longest in N.C.!), as well as a convenient mexican restaurant on the premises. (In the summer, enjoy the roller coaster, trout fishing and the tubing -- without the snow, of course.)

Ski Sapphire Valley also offers snow tubing, skiing for beginning and intermediate levels, and snowboarding.

Swim year-round at the Highlands Pool Complex! Enjoy a covered pool with dedicated times for adult, lap, and all-ages swimming as well as water aerobics. It's great for rainy weather, too!

FOR RAINY DAYS

Highlands is in a temperate rainforest and receives more than 80 inches of wet stuff each year, but don't worry! Highlands offers plenty of experiences for rainy days.

Head to The Bascom to enjoy art exhibits, classes and an indoor play area. They even have "Take & Make" art lessons on their website that kids can do from home.

Visit the Jackson Hole Trading Post & Gem Mine, a unique experience where kids can find treasures to brighten any rainy day.



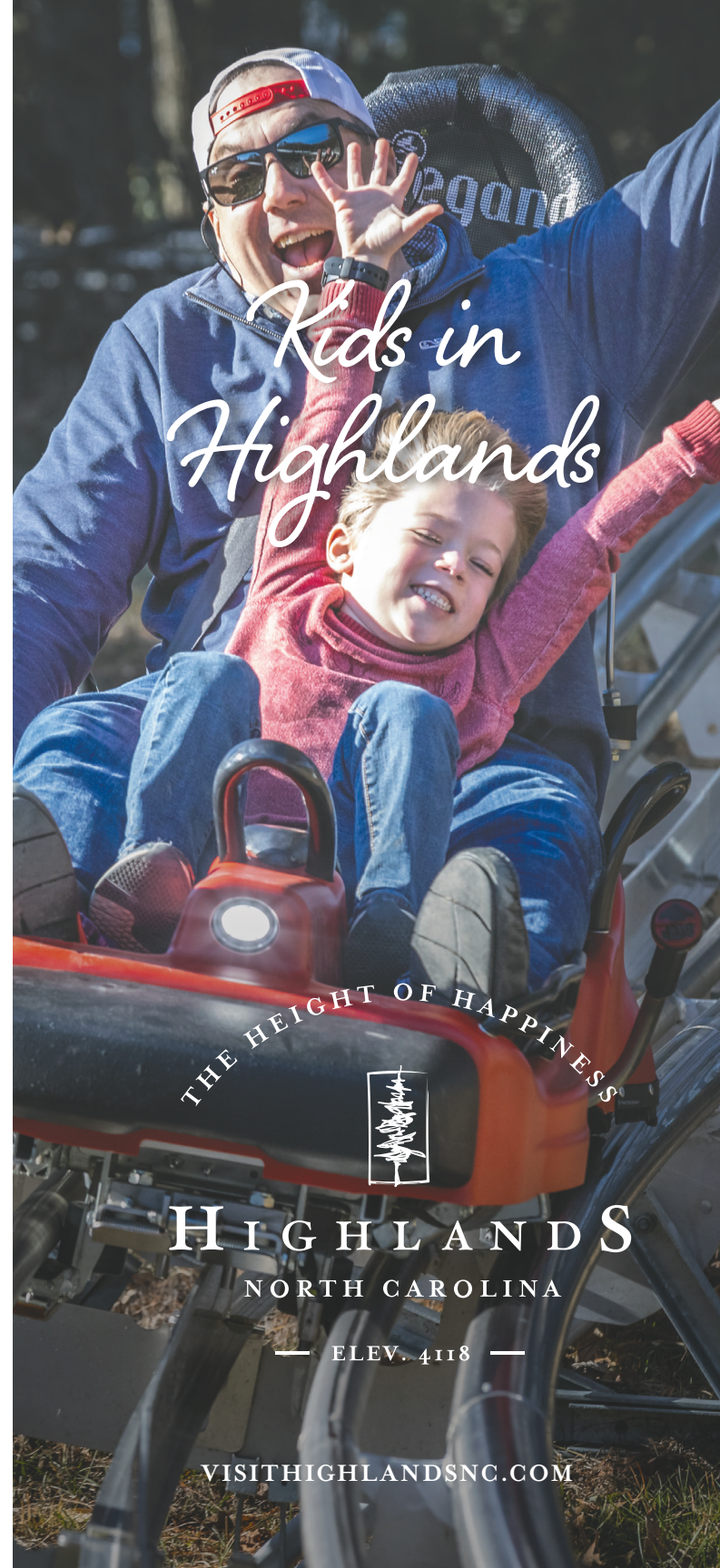
Hudson Library is a wonderful place for little ones to play or learn. The library offers a children's playroom, educational computers and tablets. On certain days, the library offers Family Storytime and other engaging events.

Spend a rainy day exploring Highlands Historic Village and the town's oldest home, the Elizabeth Wright Prince House. Enjoy learning about Highlands' history through its exhibits and archives. For more historical adventures, visit the Cashiers Historical Society.

A hardware store may seem an unlikely destination for kids, but Reeves can keep kids entertained. Set them on a mission to find "Ace," its feline resident, as you do some shopping.

Mountain Theatre Company offers a year-round season, including "Theatre for Young Audiences" and show guides to assist students, parents and teachers with the production experience.

For more information on Family Fun, visit our website by scanning the QR code



Kids in
Highlands

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The mountains are paradise for the young (and young at heart). We asked the experts -- local parents -- to help create this ultimate guide for kids in Highlands.

PLAYGROUNDS & GREEN SPACES

Enjoying a beautiful day in Highlands is easy!

Highlands Recreation Park is home to a playground and an outdoor skate park, so bring your wheels.

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park is a beautiful place to enjoy a to-go meal from a nearby restaurant. Picnic tables dot the green space, and public restrooms are available. During the warmer months, spend your Saturday checking out the Highlands Market in the morning and return in the evening to take in an Outdoor Concert Series show. Located in the heart of town, there's usually something happening in this park.

Close to town, **Harris Lake Park** is a lovely spot for a picnic, fishing and to watch its resident ducks play.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY DINING

Check out some of these delicious kid-friendly spots to eat in Highlands!

Four 65 has wood-fired pizzas and a kid-friendly menu. **Highlands Burrito** is quick and offers fantastic options for little ones. **Blue Bike Cafe** is loved for casual breakfast, burgers, and sandwiches, making it an easy lunch stop. **Don Leon's** is a relaxed breakfast-to-lunch spot that works well for families.

The Secret Garden Market has kid-friendly options and is located adjacent to Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park, mak-

ing it easy to enjoy your meal outside. **Mountain Fresh Grocery** offers indoor and outdoor seating for breakfast, grill favorites, and Neapolitan pizza, plus take-and-bake options.

Highlands Pizza Place is just what it says it is and more; they also offer sandwiches and salads. **Highlands Smokehouse** serves barbecue with a laid-back atmosphere and sides kids love, like mac and cheese.

Offering "elevated pub food," **The Ugly Dog Public House** is fun for the whole family, with pup photos on the walls and a lively patio. On Wednesday nights, stop in for live bluegrass.

Wild Thyme Gourmet serves casual American fare with kid-friendly burgers and salads alongside local flavors. **Los Vaqueros Mexican Restaurant** and **El Agave** both offer tacos and Mexican favorites with a family-friendly vibe.

Good luck trying to walk past **Kilwin's** or **The Baked Bunny** without going inside. The intoxicating wafts are too tempting to resist. And don't forget **Summit Sweet Ice Cream** and their numerous tasty toppings and flavors.



SHOPPING

Shopping along and near Main Street in Highlands is a must-do. Check out these stores when shopping with or for the family:

Bear Mountain Outfitters - Highlands staple on Main Street, offering kids clothing and shoes.

Highlands Kids - offering baby and children's clothing and toys.

Highland Hiker - for outdoor attire.

HAPPY HIKING

The Highlands Biological Station/Nature Center is a great place for young ones. With easy walking trails that offer views of the lake and creeks, it is also

a wonderful place to learn about and see native plants, vegetation and wildlife. Kids love their **Kids Hike Highlands Challenge** which awards the collection of all four stamps along the trails with a prize!

After your visit to the Nature Center, carefully walk across the street and up a short trail to experience **Ravenel Park** and **Sunset Rock**. Though it's a favorite spot for sunsets, it's spectacular any time of day. The **Highlands Plateau Greenway** offers easy, in-town access to a system of walking and hiking trails that connect historic sites and natural settings.

Looking to experience a family-friendly waterfall? **Dry Falls** and **Glen Falls** fit the bill. One of the area's most popular destinations, Dry Falls offers the unique experience of walking behind its rushing, 75-foot cascade. An out-and-back hike, Glen Falls offers multiple viewing points along its 700-foot, one-mile descension. But be sure to conserve energy for the hike back!

Looking for more? Stop by **Highland Hiker** to pick up a book of good day hikes. You'll find several trails that are child-friendly!

KID-FRIENDLY EXCURSIONS

Located between Highlands and Scaly Mountain, **Highlands Aerial Park** is a thrilling way to spend the day. Kid-friendly activities include ziplines, nature trails, a challenge course, and a giant swing.



Highland Excursion offers eco-tours in the Highlands area, all of which are kid-friendly. A popular option is the Private Gem Mine Tour, showcasing sites along the **Cullasaja Gorge** and **Jackson Hole Gem Mine**.

Lake Glenville Scenic Waterfall Cruises offer a relaxing way to explore the area by water. These family-friendly boat tours visit stunning waterfalls and scenic coves on Lake Glenville, making them a memorable adventure for all ages.

CAMPS & CLASSES

A Highlands summer camp experience will create memories your child will likely have forever.