Chicago Academic Achievement Program Sample Outing Descriptions

Service

Chicago Youth Programs (Friday, July 8) Depart 1:30 pm
Chicago Youth Programs (CYP) was created by Northwestern medical students in the 80s as a way to supply health and life opportunities to at-risk Chicago youths. “CYP provides over 40 comprehensive programs to at-risk youth, ages 3-25, living in the Washington Park, Near North/Cabrini Green, and Uptown/Rogers Park neighborhoods. Why these neighborhoods? CYP is dedicated to serving those least likely to have access to support...Our approach is to bring children into programming at a young age and retain them up through college, providing comprehensive resources to meet their educational and developmental needs at each stage of their journey. Programming areas include: literacy skills, tutoring, mentoring, recreation, arts & cultural activities, leadership development, ACT/SAT prep, college and scholarship application support, scholarships, job readiness training, and personal support throughout their college education. All of our programs are free and CYP provides transportation to and from programs to ensure that access is never an issue.”

Parkshore East (Friday, July 22) Depart 1:30 pm
Parkshore East is a senior living community that provides affordable housing to all of its tenants. At Parkshore Est, you will connect with some of the seniors that live in the complex, and you will all work alongside one another in their community garden.

Woodlawn Community Gardens (Friday, July 29) Depart 1:30 pm
Woodlawn Community Gardens are award winning gardens located in the Woodlawn neighborhood of Chicago, just a few short blocks from the southernmost edge of the UChicago campus. Approximately 100 families or individuals own plots in the garden where they grow organic fruits and vegetables. Woodlawn Community Gardens offers amazing service opportunities both for UChicago students and other members of the South Side.

Hope Works Community Development (Friday, August 5) Depart 1:30 pm
Hope Works Community Development is a facet of the Living Hope Church, which was started when Bethel Christian Church started a satellite location at the University of Chicago. Hope works is a “ministry that focuses on helping to empower those in need of employment and other life issues.”
**Theatre/Entertainment**

**Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind (Sunday July 10) Depart 6:00 pm**
30 plays in 60 minutes. Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind is the signature show performed by the Neo-Futurists and has been performed for about 27 years now, making it the longest-running show in Chicago today! Come watch as the performers entertain you with comedy, drama, truth, love, and sadness as they attempt to bring you on the exhilarating ride that is their show.

**Phamily The Musical (Saturday July 23) Depart at 6:00 pm**
A main attraction of Andersonville, a storied neighborhood of Chicago, the pH theater puts on improv shows designed to make you smile from ear to ear and hurt your ribs with laughter. The pHamily Musical is where, “Family dynamics get thrown in the blender and whipped up in delicious melodies. You help create the characters, the plot and you even tell us how the songs are going to sound.”

**The Oracle Theater (?) (Need to Replace)**
Committed to offering entertainment for any and everyone to enjoy, the Oracle Theater puts on shows to inspire and connect with their audience. Public access is key and the atmosphere is built to encourage engagement in the entertainment and invite people from all walks of life. You will not be disappointed with the very personal nature of this theater.

**The Second City (Monday, July 25) Depart 6:30 pm**
Chicago’s premier comedy troupe is here to have you crying in laughter with their well-known and esteemed improv act. You cannot visit the city and NEVER come to see this show. It has a rich history and is known to be the starting point for many high-profile actors and actresses of today such as Steve Carell and Tina Fey!
Neighborhood Experience

Bronzville (July 8) Depart (?)
http://www.choosechicago.com/neighborhoods-and-communities/bronzeville/
“Stunning residential architecture and its storied history aside, the neighborhood's most striking, modern influence is in the realm of public art. Commissioned to help rejuvenate the area, Bronzeville contains some of the most celebrated works within the City of Chicago's Public Art Collection. Of note is a sculpture-adorned stretch of Martin Luther King Drive that features Alison Saar's "Monument to the Great Northern Migration," The Bronzeville Walk of Fame, and The Victory Monument.”

Dusable Museum/Washington Park (July 10) Depart 12:30 pm
Dusable Museum is one of the premier African-American History Museums in America today. Recently open to University Students for free, it boasts a wide range of exhibits to offer visitors a look into African-American history both in Chicago and how it coincides with American history. The Museum is located around Washington Park, a neighborhood adjacent to Hyde Park. Washington Park is a community that boasts a strong African-American population quite unlike Hyde Park.

National Museum of Mexican Art/Pilsen (July 16) Depart 2 pm
Located in Chicago’s Pilsen Neighborhood, the National Museum of Mexican Art is one of Chicago’s foremost museums and a wide window through which to learn about Mexican culture. The variety of pieces both capture Mexican culture and simultaneously allow anyone to connect with the museum. http://www.nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org/content/about-us-0
Pilsen:
“Culture thrives in Pilsen and invites you to explore the treasures that wait around every corner. Here bold murals have blossomed in the most unexpected places — on the fronts of homes, along railway overpasses, and wrapped around train platforms. The artful vibe continues within storefront galleries and studios, as well as in the colorful collections of the National Museum of Mexican Art, a highly-regarded cultural institution. It's a neighborhood that pulses with a youthful spirit and is ever evolving. For over 150 years, Pilsen has been a port of entry for immigrants. Early on it was waves of Eastern Europeans, which later shifted and became predominantly Latino. Now blended in the close knit Mexican-American community is creative types and students. Thanks to this diversity, you'll find offbeat vintage shops, independent coffee houses and quaint cafes alongside bodegas, panaderias and restaurants serving authentic Mexican cuisine.”


Humboldt Park- Taste of Latin America (July 17) Depart 12 pm
“Affixed with two enormous, metal Puerto Rican flags that measure almost 60 feet in height, Humboldt Park is rooted in a proud Latino tradition. With streets that are decorated in vibrant murals and air that
smells of carne guisada, Humboldt Park is a Caribbean escape shrouded in urban charm. One-quarter of Humboldt Park's residents are of Puerto Rican descent and the area's cultural epicenter, known as the Paseo Boricua, bursts with national pride and Spanish Colonial architecture. On this stretch of Division Street, you will find authentic Latin cuisine, specialty shopping and the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture, an invaluable ethnic tribute to the area's deeply-rooted heritage.

**Chinatown: Exploring Public Art (July 31) Depart 12 pm**
http://www.choosechicago.com/neighborhoods-and-communities/chinatown/
With more than 65,000 Chinese residents, Chicago’s Chinatown is one of the largest neighborhoods of its kind in the U.S. We will be exploring this vibrant community and looking at various murals and works of art hidden in the neighborhood while traversing past the many boutiques and stores that individualize Chinatown.
Wildcard

Chicago Cultural Center (Sunday, July 3) Depart 12 pm
The Chicago Cultural Center is a beautiful Chicago landmark located across the street from Millennium Park. Originally a library, it has now been converted into a center for arts and culture where approximately 1000 programs and exhibitions are presented to the public every year. On our trip to the cultural center, we will be able to see several exhibits, such as Carlos Rolón/Dzine’s “I Tell You This Sincerely,” which is set up as 4 separate exhibits that explore everything from boxing culture to the Puerto Rican activist movement of the 1960s. Other exhibits that will be open at the time of our visit will be Dan Gamble's “Clockwork” and Regin Igloia’s “How Different It Is to Be Outside.” If you're interested in learning more about the city of Chicago, and would love to see some amazing art exhibits as well, you’ll definitely enjoy visiting the Chicago Cultural Center!

Lincoln Park Zoo (Saturday, August 6) Depart 12 pm
The Lincoln Park Zoo is a 35-acre zoo located in the Lincoln Park area of Chicago. Founded in 1868, it is one of the oldest zoos in the U.S., and it’s the home of about 1,100 animals from about 200 different species. Some of the animal exhibits include big cats, polar bears, penguins, gorillas, reptiles, and monkeys. They also have a pair of adorable red panda cubs named Addison and Clark! Also, if you’re a fan of the Tony Award winning musical “Hamilton,” or is you just love U.S. history, you could come to the zoo and visit the new camel calf, Alexander Camelton, who just so happens to be the first camel calf born at the Lincoln Park Zoo since 1998. So, if you’re a fan of cute animals and clever names, you should think about joining us on a trip to the zoo!

Young Chicago Authors (Tuesday, August 2) Depart 5:50 pm
Young Chicago Authors aims to give thousands of Chicago teens a voice through “writing, publication, and performance education.” The history of YCA is an interesting one: “In 2001, poet and YCA Artistic Director Kevin Coval had a vision to give Chicago youth a platform to share their stories across the city. During that time, Chicago enforced an anti-gang loitering law that gave police powers to arbitrarily select people for arrest and punishment, resulting in innocent youth across Chicagoland being denied their right to peacefully assemble. The Twin Towers had also recently fallen and people of color were being discriminated against across the globe.” Come and join other Chicago teens as they share their stories and writing every Tuesday night. As Rahmel would say, this outing will be fire.

Chicago White Sox (Saturday, July 9) Depart 12:30 pm
Come support your local South Side American League baseball team, the Chicago White Sox, as they take on the Atlanta Braves at U.S. Cellular Field. Show your allegiance to the South Side as we
cheer for Adam Eaton, Jose Abreu, and the rest of the White Sox. You may even get a free White Sox hat while you’re there…

**Millennium Park Summer Movie (Tuesday, July 19) Depart 5:30 pm**
Are you a fan of psychological horror-thriller films? If you are, you should consider joining us at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park as we watch *Silence of the Lambs*, the 1991 Oscar award winning film for Best Picture, Best Actor (Anthony Hopkins), Best Actress (Jodie Foster), and more. *Silence of the Lambs* tells the story of an ambitious FBI trainee, Clarice Starling (Jodie Foster), working with the notorious Dr. Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins), as she attempts to track down a new serial killer, Buffalo Bill. The Millennium PArk Summer Film Series go on through the summer, so if you like your trip with us, feel free to catch another movie on another day!

**Wicker Park Festival (Sunday, July 24) Depart 12:30 pm**
Wicker Park is popular and “hip” known for its “local hipster culture, art community, nightlife, and food scene.” The Wicker Park Fest is called "Chicago's Best Street Festival of the Summer " by the Chicago Tribune, and it “reflects the neighborhood’s rich musical heritage, vibrant nightlife and acclaimed restaurants. Building on the area’s unique character, the weekend celebrates the neighborhood with eclectic music (over 40 bands on three stages), great local food, arts and crafts, a kids’ area, and retail vendors.”

**Fiesta del Sol (Saturday, July 30) Depart 1:30 pm**
Dubbed “The Largest Latino Festival in the Midwest,” Fiesta del sol is held in the predominantly Mexican-American community of Pilsen. Celebrate the Mexican-American culture present in Chicago with live music and food vendors that will join all of the festival’s participants for the weekend of July 28-31.

**Wrigleyville Summerfest (Sunday, August 7) Depart 12 pm**
“Play ball! It’s time to play the field for the 14th annual Wrigleyville Summerfest, along with fest enthusiasts in one of the city’s most popular neighborhoods. The neighborhood that’s home-base to the Chicago Cubs will host this home run event, featuring only the most sought after bands, food and fun from August 6-7.”