

# Top 10 Things to Do in Chicago on Memorial Day Weekend

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On Memorial Day weekend, you get a bonus day to remember those who served in the military — and also have fun with the fam. Plan ahead with our list of must-do's. You can be patriotic at the downtown parade, head to the White Sox family day, see butterflies flutter at Chicago Botanic Garden and more. Don't forget a good, old-fashioned barbecue!



*photo: City of Chicago*

**1. Watch the downtown Memorial Day Parade & Wreath Laying Ceremony.** You'll [tap your feet to high school marching bands](#), and drum and bugle corps; and wave to Brigadier General Alicia A. Tate-Nadeau, the First Female General in the Illinois Army National Guard.



*photo: The Actors Gymnasium*

**2. Catch high-flying acts at The Actors Gymnasium's "Great Superhero Exposition: Spring Youth Circus."** Aerial acrobatics, dance battles and superpowers collide in [this original circus-theatre production](#).



*photo: Marsha's Music*

**3. Belt out a merry tune at the Spring Fam Jam: Rounds and Harmony Singing at Marsha's Music in Hyde Park.** [The friendly group setting](#) is a great way to put songs in your little one's heart.



**4. Spruce up the garden at Wonder Works children's museum in Oak Park.** You'll plant seeds, seedlings and maybe some tubers to lend a hand in the beginning of [a great year of growing and learning](#).



*photo: Shedd Aquarium / Brenna Hernandez*

**5. Go on a toad-ally awesome adventure at the Shedd Aquarium's "Amphibians" exhibit.** In more than two dozen different habitats, you'll see tiny frogs not much bigger than a quarter to a nearly four-foot-long giant Japanese salamander.



photo: [James Emery](#) via Flickr

**6. Wear a red clown nose and party.** Join Public House Theatre for a [kids' fair that celebrates Red Nose Day](#) (a traditional British holiday that's all about comic relief) with storytelling, games, face painting and more.



*photo: Chicago White Sox*

**7. Root, root, root for the home team at U.S. Cellular Field when the Chicago White Sox host a Family Day. Kids can stay for the running of the bases [after the game!](#)**



*photo: Chicago Botanic Garden*

**8. Get up-close with winged beauties at Chicago Botanic Garden’s “Butterflies and Blooms” exhibit.** [The serene tropical habitat](#) is made up of beautiful flowers. Sit still and a monarch may just land on you!



*photo: Playground Pointers*

**9. Run wild at one of the local playgrounds that are perfect for climbers.** [Our best-of list is here](#), with options from Portage Park to Naperville.



*photo: Lincoln Park Zoo / Todd Rosenberg*

**10. Say “hello” to the snow monkeys at Lincoln Park Zoo’s new Regenstein Macaque Forest.** Fresh technology like live-stream video make the exhibit [as much about learning as it is about fun](#).

**What are you up to for Memorial Day weekend? Let us know in the Comments below!**

— Kelly Aiglon & Marian Mongoubi

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