

Out New York Kids September–October 2006

September 25–October 1

"Gateway to America" Water Taxi Harbor Tour Mon 25–Fri 29 noon–5pm; Sat 30, Sun 1 11am–6pm (tours leave on the hour). Pier 17, South Street Seaport. See September 1–3.

Nature Babies Mon 25 9:30–11am. Prospect Park Audubon Center. See September 4–10.

Weekly Preschool Time Thu 28 at 1pm. New York Transit Museum. See September 4–10.

The Yak Packers Thu 28 10am–noon. Rubin Museum of Art. See September 4–10.

Kidz Cook Fri 29 at noon, 1, 2, 3, 3:45pm. Staten Island Children's Museum. For venue information, see *Around Town, Museums listings*. Free with museum admission. Every week, this program instructs children in the making of a dish. This week, things get fancy with cream-cheese-and-date-nut sandwiches and lemon soup. *Ages 4 to 10.*

Madeline High Tea Fri 29–Sun 1 1–4pm. Carlyle Hotel. See September 1–3.

Amazing Maize Maze Sat 30, Sun 1 11am–5pm. See September 18–24.

FREE Autumn Moon Festival Sat 30 noon–5pm. Mott St between Bayard and Canal Sts (explorechinatown.com). Subway: N, Q, R to Canal St. Akin to a mix of Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day, this celebration of abundance and togetherness is a 1,000-year-old tradition and a major holiday in China as well as Japan, South Korea and Vietnam. Right now, the moon is at its fullest, so today's event is appropriately packed full with activities. Don't miss the flaky, round moon-pastry cakes. *All ages.*

FREE Children's Ragamuffin Parade Sat 30 at 1pm. Parade runs along Third Ave from 67th to 92nd Sts, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn (718-833-4928). Subway: R to Bay Ridge Ave. Have a kid who can't wait for Halloween? Then head to Bay Ridge, where the witches and wizards come out a little early. Each year, children concoct ragtag costumes and join floats, twirlers and marching bands to strut their stuff down Brooklyn's Third Avenue. Homemade costumes are encouraged, and may be rewarded—the most creative kids take home prizes, but don't worry, everyone who dons a getup receives a gift. *All ages.*

Chile Pepper Fiesta Sat 30 1–4pm. Brooklyn Botanic Garden. For venue information, see *Zoos & Gardens*. Free with garden admission. Don't skip this fest just because your son inherited his dad's bland buds. Performers such as Latin funk band Radio Mundial and alt-country rockers the Weary Boys won't burn going down; the Kule Mele African American Dance Ensemble will heat up the stage; and crafts, activities and fiesta tattoos are inspired, not flavored, by the spicy little peppers. *All ages.*

"Wax Attacks" Scavenger Hunt for Families Sat 30 10:30am–12:30pm. Madame Tussauds New York, 234 W 42nd St between Seventh and Eighth Aves (212-512-9600). Price includes museum admission: \$30, children 7–12 \$25. Subway: A, C, E to 42nd St–Port Authority; N, Q, R, 42nd St S, 1, 2, 3, 7 to 42nd St–Times Sq. Call 877-946-4868 or visit watsonadventures.com for reservations and meeting spot. Gather the family and bring a digital or Polaroid camera to this Watson Adventures photo-challenge scavenger hunt. Your kids' friends are sure to be impressed (or at least briefly fooled) when Junior casually leaves out photo albums showing him rubbing elbows with his favorite Hollywood celebs. *Ages 7 and up.*

FREE Apple Festival and Pick-Your-Own Pumpkins Sun 1 11am–4pm. Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy, Floral Park, Queens (queensfarm.org). Subway: E, F to Kew Gardens–Union Tpke. This fruity festival is the place to see cider-pressing demonstrations; view the world's largest apple cobbler; and munch, drink and learn as much as you care to about the apple. Games and hayrides will build kids' appetites for caramel you-know-whats. Pumpkin picking also starts today and runs through Oct 29; pay by the pound. *All ages.*

FREE Cross-Generation Chess Fourth Annual Youth Tournament

Sun 1 10am–5pm. Central Park, Chess and

Checkers House, enter at 65th St and Central Park West (917-822-3141). Subway: A, C, D, 1 to 59th St–Columbus Circle. Today's kids-only competition is a U.S. Chess Federation-rated tournament—which means you could have a five-year-old with a 1,100 rating (that's very good) playing against an eighth-grader at the same level. Central Park Conservancy and Pegasus Media Productions sponsor a complimentary lunch, and today, there will also be live jazz music. *Ages 5 to 13.*

The Great Marshmallow Challenge Sun 1 11am, noon, 2, 3, 4pm. Children's Museum of Manhattan. For venue information, see *Around Town, Museums*. Free with museum admission. Resist the urge to eat the sugary goodness, and use your pile of marshmallows and toothpicks to build your own skyscraper, dream home or Sta-Puff marshmallow man. *Ages 5 and up.*

Pumpkin Picking at Decker Farm Sun 1 10am–4pm. Shuttle bus leaves from Historic Richmond Town parking lot, 441 Clark Ave at St. Patricks Pl, Staten Island (718-351-1611, historicrichmondtown.org). Travel: From the Staten Island Ferry, take the S74 bus to St. Patricks Pl. Pumpkins priced per pound; shuttle fee unavailable at press time. Hop the shuttle at Richmond Town for a one-mile trip to this 200-year-old working farm. *All ages.*