Willow Branches

Free Activities & Community Connection
November 5-18, 2026 | Central Oregon

A little support, a little connection, and something to explore. Find a story, a song, a new skill, or a small moment together. Come on your own, with a friend, or with family. Choose what feels right for you.

All listed activities have free admission. Registration and age limits still apply. Food, shopping, parking, and travel may cost extra. Museum offers on page 3 have eligibility limits. All times are Pacific.

November 5-10

Thu, Nov. 5 | The Wonder of Storytelling

5 p.m. | Central Library, Bend | Elementary school ages

Hear folk tales with Matthew Friday. Children may listen or participate as much or as little as they wish.

Details and registration

Fri, Nov. 6 | Music with Matthew Gwinup

11-11:45 a.m. | Central Library, Bend | Ages 3-8 with a caregiver

Songs, humor, and musical play for young listeners.

Details and registration

Sat, Nov. 7 | Fort Building

10-11:30 a.m. | Redmond Library | Ages 3-10 with a caregiver

Drop-in open house: build imaginative hideaways with PVC pieces and fabric. No registration is listed.

Details and registration

Sat, Nov. 7 | Central Oregon Flute Ensemble

2-3 p.m. | Redmond Library, Community 3 | Listed as an adult program

Enjoy a live flute ensemble performance. Ask the library about bringing younger listeners.

Details and registration

Tue, Nov. 10 | Geocaching 101

2:45-4:15 p.m. | Central Library, Bend | Under 11s with caregiver

Learn about geocaching, then join a nearby outdoor search. Ask about the route, equipment, and seated participation.

Details and registration

Tue, Nov. 10 | First Descent: Kayaking the Klamath

7 p.m.; doors 6 p.m. | Tower Theatre, Bend | Reserve free tickets

Watch the OPB documentary following Indigenous youth on the Klamath River, with a discussion afterward. Call 541-317-0700 for ticket or access help.

Details and registration

November 12-14

Make something, hear something, or spend a little time with others. Registration links can fill; check before leaving home.

Thu, Nov. 12 | Spinning & Weaving Demonstration

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Redmond MakerSpace | All ages

Watch members of the Central Oregon Spinners & Weavers Guild demonstrate a loom and share fiber arts.

Details and registration

Thu, Nov. 12 | Club de LEGO en Español

4-5 p.m. | Redmond Library, Community 2 | All ages

Build together in Spanish. LEGO, books, and snacks are provided. Questions: 541-617-7075.

Details and registration

Thu, Nov. 12 | Game Night for Spanish Learners

5:30-7 p.m. | Central Library, Bend | Adults and teens 16+

Play offline games with Spanish speakers and learners at different levels.

Details and registration

Fri, Nov. 13 | Cursive Crash Course

4-5 p.m. | La Pine Library | High school ages | Register ahead

Try cursive writing, with materials supplied and no experience needed. The detail page requests registration to plan materials.

Details and registration

Fri, Nov. 13 | Page to Screen: Wonka

6 p.m.; doors 5 p.m. | Tower Theatre, Bend | Reserve free tickets

A free community movie evening. Use the ticket link on the theatre page; refreshments, if purchased, are extra. Questions: 541-317-0700.

Details and registration

Sat, Nov. 14 | Puzzle Swap

9-11 a.m. | Central Library, Community 1 | All ages

Bring a complete puzzle in its original box, or choose one even if you have nothing to swap.

Details and registration

Sat, Nov. 14 | Birding with Queer as Flock

10-11 a.m. | Sunriver Library | Check route details

A slow-paced birding walk; binoculars provided. The host aims to use paved trails. Dress for the weather and ask about route conditions.

Details and registration

More free ways to connect

Sat, Nov. 14 | Crafternoon

1-1:40 p.m. | Central Library, Creative 1 | Designed for ages 3-5; all welcome

Explore colors, textures, and simple crafts with an early-learning librarian.

Details and registration

Sat, Nov. 14 | Teen Dance Party

6-8:30 p.m. | Open Arts Center, Bend | Ages 13-18

Music, art, snacks, games, and space to hang out. Dancing is optional. Register ahead: the detail page allows drop-ins as space permits, while the monthly notice says registration is required.

Details and registration

Tue, Nov. 17 | Mahjong 101

1-4 p.m. | Central Library, Meeting 3 | Adults | Registration required

Learn American Mahjong in a beginner session. Check the registration page for remaining space.

Details and registration

Tue, Nov. 17 | Graphic Novel Book Club

4-4:50 p.m. | Central Library, Youth Programming | Grades 3-8

Discuss Saving Sunshine by Saadia Faruqi. Ask the library how to borrow a copy and whether reading it beforehand is needed.

Details and registration

Tue, Nov. 17 | Star Party

6-8 p.m. | Big Sky Park, Bend | Ages 9+; children with caregiver

Explore the sky with two telescopes. Dress warmly; check weather changes and ask about ground conditions and telescope access.

Details and registration

Free museum visits: eligibility matters

Wed, Nov. 11 | Veterans Day

10 a.m.-4 p.m. | High Desert Museum | Free for veterans

The museum lists free admission for veterans. Do not assume companions are included. Confirm accepted proof and companion admission: 541-382-4754.

Details and registration

Wed, Nov. 18 | Senior Day

10 a.m.-4 p.m. | High Desert Museum | Free for visitors 65+

Visit Bend lists this dated offer. Confirm with the museum before travel; younger companions may need paid admission.

Details and registration

A little practical support

These options sit alongside the activities. You do not have to attend an event or be connected with Willow Circle to contact a provider.

Sat, Nov. 7 | Fill All Pantries free food

11 a.m.-3 p.m. | OSU Extension parking lot, Deschutes County Fairgrounds, Redmond

Free food for neighbors in need, first come, first served, while supplies last. Find the free-food area at Fill Your Pantry. The rest of the market sells food; SNAP/EBT purchasing programs have separate terms.

Details and registration

The Giving Plate | Groceries

61470 S. Highway 97, Bend | 541-797-6883

Community Store shopping is available twice monthly for Central Oregon residents in need. Published hours: Wed. 2-6 p.m.; Thu./Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call about first visits and holiday changes.

Details and registration

Family Kitchen | Free prepared meals

Bend: 231 NW Idaho Ave. | Sisters: 1300 McKenzie Hwy

Bend: Mon./Wed./Fri. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Tue./Thu. 4:30-6:30 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Sun. 2-4 p.m. Sisters: Tue. to-go meals, 4-5:30 p.m. Check holiday changes: 541-760-5677.

Details and registration

NeighborImpact | Heating assistance

Priority application opening listed for Mon., Nov. 9 | 541-504-2155

The provider lists a one-day priority opening for qualifying households with seniors 60+, people receiving qualifying disability benefits, or children through high school. The year is not printed beside the dates; verify the 2026 cycle, documents, and application hours before relying on it. This is not guaranteed emergency shutoff help.

Details and registration

Thrive | Help with forms and resources

Phone appointments: 541-728-1022 | info@thrivecentraloregon.org

Get help navigating housing, benefits, healthcare, and applications. Dated listings include Nov. 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sisters Library; and Nov. 18, 1-4 p.m., La Pine Library. Drop-ins are first come, first served. Confirm the site before traveling.

Details and registration

Support when someone else's drinking or gambling affects you

Online options | Check meeting participation rules

Al-Anon offers electronic meetings for people affected by someone else's drinking. Gam-Anon offers support for loved ones affected by gambling. Use each directory for current times and joining details.

Details and registration

Gam-Anon meeting directory

At home, at your own pace

Small invitations for any age. Use what you already have, adapt for seated participation, and stop whenever you like. Watching or passing is welcome.

A tiny paper village

10-20 minutes | Scrap paper and drawing supplies

Draw doors, windows, little houses, or an imaginary forest home. Fold paper if you like, or keep it flat. Cutting is optional.

A song from another season of life

3-10 minutes | A familiar song, humming, or quiet company

Choose a song you enjoy. Listen, tap, sing, or share a memory if you want. No one has to explain their choice.

Window treasure hunt

2-5 minutes | No supplies

Notice a shape, a color, and something moving. You can point, describe, draw, or simply look. Stay indoors if that works best.

Draw a story together

5-15 minutes | Paper and a pencil

One person draws a shape and another adds something. Work side by side or take turns. A scribble can become a character, a trail, or nothing in particular.

A small comfort corner

About 5 minutes | A familiar blanket, pillow, or book

Choose a comfortable spot on a chair, couch, or bed. Invite quiet company or enjoy some space. There is no need to build a fort or sit on the floor.

Places & planning

Central Library: 61956 SE Santorini St., Bend
Redmond Library / MakerSpace: 827 SW Deschutes Ave., Redmond
La Pine Library: 16425 1st St., La Pine
Sisters Library: 110 N. Cedar St., Sisters
Sunriver Library: 56855 Venture Lane, Sunriver
Open Arts Center: 999 NE 2nd St., Bend
Tower Theatre: 835 NW Wall St., Bend
Big Sky Park: 21690 Neff Rd., Bend

For library accommodations, contact Liz Goodrich: 541-312-1032 or lizg@deschuteslibrary.org. Ask each host about step-free entry, seating, restrooms, sensory needs, interpretation, and weather changes. No accessibility feature is assumed from an address.

Shared with care by Willow Circle. Much love, Willow Circle.

Sources & helpful notes

Checked November 5, 2026. This is a selected two-week guide, not a complete regional calendar. Organizer notices and event listings were reviewed online; no providers were called, registrations submitted, or seats reserved. Availability can change.

The dated activity links on pages 1-3 are clickable. November library program admission is confirmed free in the library's monthly announcement. Most dated details come from individual event listings. Where only a start time is established, an end time is not invented.

Library November announcement and accessibility contact

Full library calendar

Library locations and hours

Museum hours and access programs

Silver Rail: current school district updates

Before choosing: Nov. 5 daytime activities may already have passed when you read this. Teen Dance registration wording differs between the event page and monthly announcement; registering ahead is the best way to plan. Museum eligibility offers are listed separately from activities open free to everyone.

Not carried forward: expired October childcare, meal pickup, camps, Halloween events, and temporary free bus offers. Thanksgiving gift applications and weather-activated shelters are not presented as open without current confirmation.

Source limitations: Some individual library pages were readable through indexed organizer listings but rejected direct retrieval. Museum Senior Day is supported by the dated Visit Bend listing; the museum event page returned no readable detail. Call hosts for current availability.

Thrive contact correction: Some library listings show 541-782-1022. This guide uses 541-728-1022, published by Thrive itself.

Sharing a listing does not imply a partnership or endorsement. This guide has been prepared for review and has not been posted to the Willow Circle website.