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Metro Parent

YOUR **METRO DETROIT**

FALL GUIDE 2025

FOR FAMILY FUN



**Fresh-Picked Fall
Farms to Explore**

**10 Fantastic Fall
Festivals You Can't
Miss**

**Color-Poppin'
Hikes Worth the
Drive**

HENRY FORD HEALTH AD

Metro Detroit Parents, What's On Your Fall Bucket List?

From apple picking at local orchards to crunching through colorful leaf-covered trails and cozying up at cider mills, these Detroit-area parents are sharing the must-do moments they're looking forward to with their families this fall.



"One thing I am most looking forward to this fall is going to Blake's Orchard & Cider Mill! And obviously we LOVE their apple cinnamon donuts!"

- Katie Eppley, @cuddlebugsleep



"I love visiting Debuck's in the fall. The yummy warm doughnuts, cider slushies, pumpkin picking and so many activities for all ages. It's worth every penny!"

- Raquel Reschke, @theraquelreschke



"The one thing we are most looking forward to is a fall color chairlift ride in Northern Michigan."

- Katie Eppley, @cuddlebugsleep

Metro Parent

We help families make the most of their time together with clear, practical recommendations on what to do, where to go and why it matters.

**We Want
to Hear
from You!**

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Apple Cider Donuts, Anyone?



BY **SARAH KNIEFF**

Warm, sweet and perfectly spiced, apple cider donuts are a quintessential fall experience, and the metro Detroit area boasts some of the best spots to savor this seasonal delight.

Blake's Orchard & Cider Mill **ARMADA**

Blake's offers freshly made donuts that are perfectly crisp on the outside and tender on the inside. Enjoy a full day of apple picking, corn mazes and more.

Yates Cider Mill **ROCHESTER HILLS**

Yates Cider Mill's freshly made apple cider donuts are rolled in just the right amount of cinnamon and sugar, pairing beautifully with their fresh-pressed cider.

Donut Villa **DETROIT**

This hidden gem in southwest Detroit has been serving donuts for decades. While not a cider mill, they often feature spiced and cider-inspired varieties in fall.

Franklin Cider Mill **BLOOMFIELD HILLS**

Franklin Cider Mill is renowned for its warm, cinnamon-sugar coated apple cider donuts that draw crowds every fall. The charming mill setting enhances the experience.

Long Family Orchard & Farm **COMMERCE TOWNSHIP**

Located roughly 40 minutes northwest, Long Family Orchard is praised for its traditional farm atmosphere, complete with u-pick apples and hayrides. The donuts are served hot and fresh.



BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICHIGAN AD

Kids' Fall Activities Parents Love Too

BY SARAH KNIEFF

Autumn in Detroit offers vibrant leaves and plenty of fun and educational activities —no farm trip required—across the area.

Explore the fall colors on a Detroit Riverwalk adventure

DETROIT

Take advantage of the cooler weather and vibrant foliage with a family stroll or scooter ride along the Detroit Riverwalk.



The Riverwalk, Photo by Detroit Riverfront Conservancy

Get lost in science at the Michigan Science Center

DETROIT

Fall is a great time to check out seasonal STEM workshops, live science demos, and planetarium shows. Look out for special fall-themed events tied to Halloween and astronomy.

Ride the rails on the Huckleberry Railroad

FLINT

During select fall weekends, the train runs through beautiful autumn landscapes with themed rides for Halloween that are spooky but still family-friendly.



Tabulator, Photo by Decode Detroit



Photo by Detroit Symphony Orchestra



Cranbrook, Photo by Joanna Anderson

Discover Belle Isle's natural side DETROIT

The crisp fall air makes it perfect for exploring the Belle Isle Nature Center, spotting wildlife or enjoying a walk along the trails.

Catch a family show at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra DETROIT

Introduce your kids to the joy of live music with a Tiny Tots or Young People's Family Concert at the DSO, designed for short attention spans and curious minds.

Solve puzzles at an Escape Room for kids MULTIPLE LOCATIONS IN METRO DETROIT

Check out a kid-friendly escape room like Decode Detroit or The Great Escape Room with rooms designed specifically for families and younger children.

Wander through Cranbrook Art Museum & Outdoor Sculpture Gardens

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

Cranbrook's interactive exhibits often include activities for kids, and the outdoor sculpture gardens are beautiful against a backdrop of fall colors.

Attend Greenfield Village's Hallowe'en Nights

DEARBORN

This immersive event at The Henry Ford's Greenfield Village transforms the historic grounds into a family-friendly Halloween celebration. Enjoy costumed characters, storybook scenes and lantern-lit paths.

Experience Glenlore Trails: The Witching Hour

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

This family-friendly night walk weaves glowing spells, eerie sights and curious witches into Glenlore Trails' immersive blend of light, sound and story.

Cranbrook Institute of Science, photo by Gondwana Studios

Must-See Fall Museum Exhibits

BY KARI ZAFFARANO

Explore a diverse array of captivating exhibitions in metro Detroit this fall and beyond, celebrating history, art and science.

I, Charles Wright at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

NOW-JUNE 30, 2026
DETROIT

To celebrate the museum's 60th anniversary, this exhibition honors Dr. Charles Howard Wright through personal writings, images and artifacts, with contributions from his family.

Permian Monsters: Life Before the Dinosaurs at Cranbrook Institute of Science

SEPT. 28, 2025-JAN. 7, 2026
BLOOMFIELD HILLS

Travel back 290 million years to see life-sized models and fossilized skeletons, dig for fossils, enjoy interactive computer games and more. For all ages.

Reimagining African American Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts

OPENS OCT. 18, 2025
DETROIT

This reimagined installation traces the growth of African American art from the 1800s to the 1980s, spotlighting artists from early pioneers to those gaining global acclaim.

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Fall Harvest Time In *Metro Detroit*

BY **KARI ZAFFARANO**

Crisp air and colorful leaves make it the perfect time to visit metro Detroit and Ann Arbor farms for pumpkins, apples, corn mazes, and animals.

Blake's Big Apple ARMADA

Enjoy a three-story haunted barn, Zombie Paintball experience, haunted hayride, u-pick options and Funland with a children's play area, animal farm and corn maze.

Blake's Orchard and Cider Mill **ARMADA**

Pick your own apples, pumpkins and flowers, and visit the petting farm, haunted village, animated scarecrow band, cornfield maze, miniature goat walk and storybook barn.



Photo by Wiards Orchard

Maybury Farm **NORTHVILLE**

On weekends in September and October, try a nine-acre corn maze, visit with the farm animals, take a tractor-driven wagon ride and indulge in cider and doughnuts.

Nixon Farms **DEXTER**

Operated by the Nixon family for more than 100 years, take a tractor-drawn hayride to the pumpkin patch or get lost in the Blast Corn Maze.

Three Cedars Farm **NORTHVILLE**

Pick your own pumpkins or test your skills in the seven-acre corn maze. The Barn Yard playland has animals, train rides and hayrides.

Cook's Farm Dairy **ORTONVILLE**

In October families can enjoy hayrides to the pumpkin patch to pick their own pumpkins. Try seasonal ice cream flavors like pumpkin crunch, s'more cowbell and maple walnut while there.

DeBuck's Family Farm **BELLEVILLE**

On this farm run by two generations, try the 15-acre corn maze, pumpkin picking, wagon rides and giant slide.

Diehl's Orchard and Cider Mill **HOLLY**

Try the corn maze, petting farm, pumpkin patch, hayrides, pony rides, hay pile and fresh apple cider. Pre-packaged apples available in mid-September.

Westview Orchards **WASHINGTON**

Check out a petting zoo, three-acre playground, u-pick apple and pumpkins, corn maze, wagon rides and straw mountain. Don't miss the doughnuts, pies and flips.

Wiard's Orchards & Country Fair **YPSILANTI**

Wednesday-Sunday attractions include corn maze, animal petting farm, u-pick apples and pumpkins, wagon rides and playground. Saturday-Sunday attractions include inflatables, apple cannons and fire engine rides.

Fall Fun For All

BY SARAH KNIEFF

As summer fades and sweater weather arrives, check out these metro Detroit fall festivals perfect for families looking to make the most of the season.



Caramel Apples, Photo by Jess DeNike

Arts & Apples Festival at Rochester Municipal Park

SEPT. 5-7, 2025

ROCHESTER

Experience the artwork of over 200 talented artists, a variety of food trucks, live entertainment, art demonstrations, a children's area and more.

Plymouth Fall Festival

SEPT. 5-7, 2025

PLYMOUTH

Check out the games and rides at the carnival, enter the car show and enjoy food and live entertainment at this Fall celebration.

St. Joseph Oktoberfest at Joseph Shrine

SEPT. 12-14, 2025

DETROIT

This annual event boasts everything from authentic German food and beer to live Bavarian music, family carnival rides, games and more.

Canterbury Village Oktoberfest

Sept. 13-14, 2025

LAKE ORION

This Oktoberfest features live music, themed food, games, beer, contests and more.

Romulus Pumpkin Festival

SEPT. 19-21, 2025

ROMULUS

This annual kicks off with a parade of lights and features music, crafts, games, food, a car show, a vendor show and more.

Saline's Oktoberfest

SEPT. 19-20, 2025

SALINE

Come out to downtown Saline for German food and drinks, live music and more at this annual Oktoberfest.

Fire & Flannel Festival

SEPT. 26-27, 2025

WYANDOTTE

Wear your flannel and enjoy seeing live lumberjack shows, chainsaw carving and fire entertainment. There will also be a carnival, axe throwing, live entertainment and more.

South Lyon Area Pumpkinfest

SEPT. 27-28, 2025

SOUTH LYON

This festival will include a craft show, scarecrow contest, parade and tons of pumpkin-themed fun.



Canterbury Oktoberfest, Photo by Canterbury Village

Webster Fall Festival

SEPT. 27, 2025

DEXTER

Come out to the Historic Webster Village for fun, food and festivities. It features music performances, apple cider and donuts, hayrides, demos and more.

Harvest Festival at Upland Hills Farm

OCT. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26, 2025

OXFORD

This annual fest features farm show demos, magic shows, hayrides, animal visits, a walk through the storybook trail and more.

HarvestFest at Freedom Hill County Park

OCT 18-19, 2025

STERLING HEIGHTS

There will be a pumpkin patch, trick-or-treating, games, music, inflatables, movies, music, food trucks and more. Make sure to wear your costume.

Halloween Fun Not to Miss in Metro Detroit

BY SARAH KNIEFF

This Halloween, metro Detroit offers plenty of kid-friendly fun and we've rounded up some spooktacular picks you won't want to miss.

Halloween Stroll at Canterbury Village

Oct. 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26, 2025

LAKE ORION

Stroll Canterbury Village in costume to meet spooky characters, explore haunted cemeteries, spot jack-o-lanterns, witches and skeletons, and capture plenty of photo-worthy moments.

Zoo Boo at Detroit Zoo

Oct. 4-5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26, 2025

ROYAL OAK

Celebrate Halloween at the Detroit Zoo with trick-or-treating stations, strolling entertainment, face painting, photo ops and family fun until dark.



Little Goblins at Ford House

Oct. 25, 2025

GROSSE POINTE SHORES

Bring your little goblins to Ford House for this annual day of Halloween entertainment filled with spooky yet kid-friendly fun. There will be trick-or-treating, photo ops and a haunt-free hayride.

Halloween Hoopla

Oct. 10, 2025

MACOMB

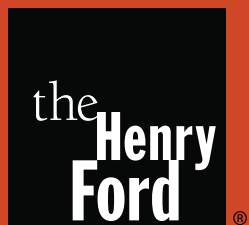
This costume carnival features a trick-or-treating trail and other fun Halloween activities and attractions.

Campus Kids Day: Lil'Boo Bash

Oct. 5, 2025

DETROIT

Dress up for a spooktacular day of interactive fun, including Detroit CHEMpreneurIST's "Spooky Start-Up Lab," where kids can brew their own body scrub.



HALLOWE'EN
IN
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SELECT EVENINGS IN OCTOBER

Get ready for a ghoulishly good time at Hallowe'en in Greenfield Village. Experience costumed characters, spooky stories, live music, ghostly effects and devilishly delicious treats. Add extra magic with a moonlit ride on the Hallowe'en Express and a festive meal at Hallowe'en Fairy Tale Feast or Eagle Tavern Harvest Supper. **Become a member today and save on tickets to this eerily enchanting event!**



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Top Fall Color Hikes Worth the Drive

BY SARAH KNIEFF

These family-friendly trails, all within a 90-minute drive from Detroit, offer gentle terrain, beautiful views and lots of fresh air for hikers of all ages.

✿ Kensington Metropark - Milford

Distance from Detroit: 45 minutes

Trail Length: Chickadee Trail (2.5 miles), Wildwing Trail (1.9 miles)

Why Go: Easy, scenic trails with lake views, birdwatching, and interpretive signs. Stop by the nature center or playground for extra fun.

Family Tip: Bring birdseed – chickadees often eat right out of your hand.

✿ Pinckney Recreation Area - Pinckney

Distance from Detroit: 1 hour

Trail Length: Crooked Lake Trail – 4.4 mile loop

Why Go: One of southeast Michigan's most vibrant fall hikes. Follows the lakeshore through dense forest with moderate hills that are manageable for kids 6+.

Family Tip: Bring a packed lunch and eat at a lakeside spot – perfect fall picnic setting.



Pinckney Recreation Area, photo by MI Dept. of Natural Resources

✿ Stony Creek Metropark - Shelby Township

Distance from Detroit: 45 minutes

Trail Length: Multiple options from 1 to 5 miles

Why Go: Forested trails, rolling hills, and shimmering lake views make for a colorful fall outing. Well-maintained paths make it easy to customize your hike.

Family Tip: Rent a pedal boat after your hike for a lake cruise amid the leaves.

Brighton Recreation Area - Livingston County

Distance from Detroit: 1 hour northwest

Trail Length: 5-mile loop; good mix of challenge and scenery.

Why Go: Beautiful hardwood forests, glacial hills, and peaceful wetlands.

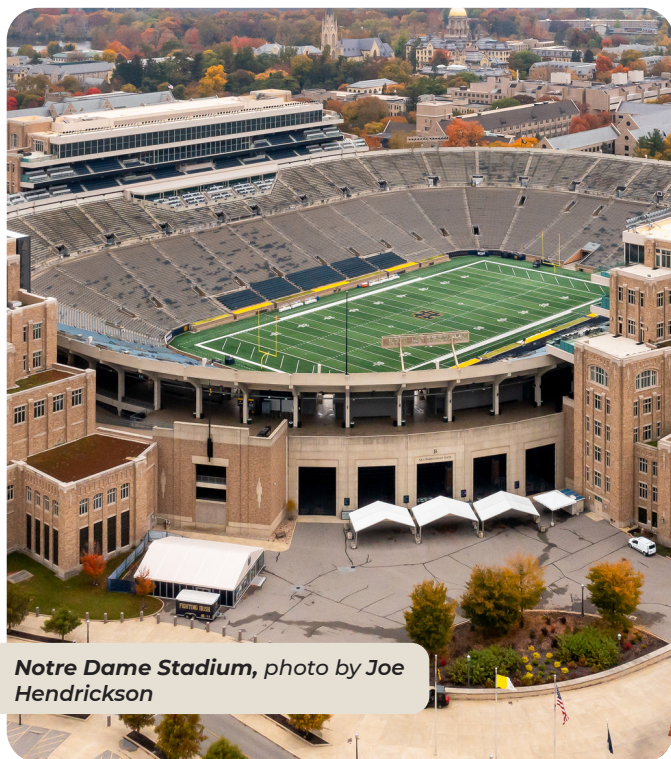
Family tip: Bring bikes! There are trails for horseback riding and mountain biking.

THE ROEPER SCHOOL AD

Unforgettable Fall Road Trips for Families

BY **Cortney Fries**

Whisk your little pumpkins to one of these family-friendly destinations to harvest some good times amongst the falling leaves.



Notre Dame Stadium, photo by Joe Hendrickson

● Outdoor fun in South Bend, Indiana

Catch fall football at Notre Dame, explore epic playgrounds, see River Lights, visit zoos and orchards, and enjoy great eats and cozy stays near South Bend.



Silver Lake Sand Dunes, photo by David Radzieta

● Silver Lake Sand Dunes, Michigan

Silver Lake offers dune rides, farm fun, go-karts, sunsets, and giant sundaes—an epic fall getaway packed with adventure, animals and family-friendly thrills.

● Micro-farm B&B in Union Pier, Michigan

Wake up to farm-fresh breakfasts, fall color hikes, pumpkin patches and wood-fired pizza in Harbor Country, perfect for cozy family fun and autumn adventures.

Traverse City, Michigan

Traverse City offers vibrant foliage, dune hikes, pumpkin patches, cider, doughnuts, indoor play, and ice cream for a fun and memorable fall family getaway.



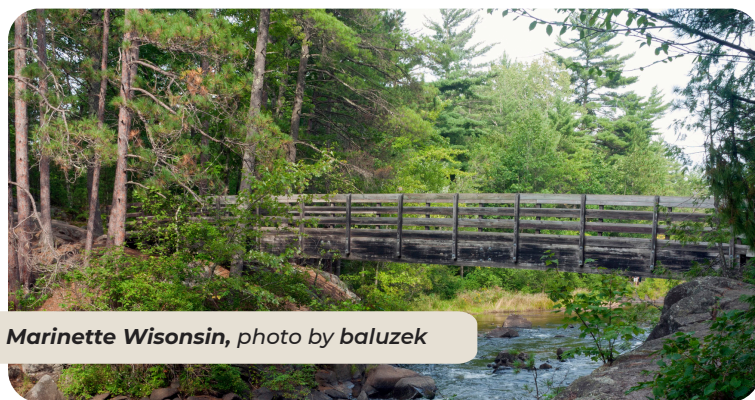
Traverse City Michigan, photo by garyrennis

Cedar Point and Shores & Islands, Ohio

Cedar Point thrills with epic coasters, Halloween fun and fewer crowds in fall. Stay nearby, explore Put-in-Bay and make unforgettable family memories by the lake.



Cedar Point, photo by Ultima_Gaina



Marinette Wisconsin, photo by baluzek

Marinette, Wisconsin

Explore Wisconsin's fall beauty with scenic drives, waterfall tours, river adventures, parks and playgrounds. Stop at Seguin's for fresh cheese, smoked meats, sweets and more.

Shipshewana, Indiana

Just over three hours from Detroit, Shipshewana offers fall color bike rides, Amish buggy tours with dinner, animal encounters, shopping, and fresh pretzels in town.



Escape the Routine With a Fall Mini Road Trip

School's back — but weekend fun is still in session! From Midwest dinosaurs to cool indoor playgrounds, the "Ultimate Family Road Trip Guide" by Metro Parent and Southeast Michigan Ford Dealers features fall-friendly stops for families, all within driving distance.

A Ford ride makes packing up, heading out and chasing autumn fun a breeze from start to finish.



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