

# Activity Descriptions

The preliminary program activities have been carefully selected with the goal of providing a wide range of age-appropriate, educational, social and cultural experiences unique to New Orleans, LA. Kama'aina Kids will work with NMA convention planners to develop a program, which is convenient for parents and conventioners, as well as, enjoyable and memorable for participants. The following activity descriptions detail the Camp NMA-Zing Youth 2012 Program. Activities are subject to change due to availability in July and August 2012.

1. **Jean Lafitte's Swamp Boat Tour** takes us on a journey by boat, Cajun-style, through the heart of Southern Louisiana's swamplands, where we'll explore meandering bayous abundant with wildlife and exotic plant life. Trained navigators will escort us through the murky waters where we'll come face to face with the beauty and beasts of nature. In addition, our Cajun guide will share with us the legends and lore of Louisiana's still untamed wilderness.
2. **Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World** gives visitors a unique Mardi Gras experience. Mardi Gras stands as the most unique expression of New Orleans' culture and spirit. A tour takes us into the place where Mardi Gras magic is made. We'll watch artists of Blaine Kern Studios – the world-renowned masters of Carnival sculpture and floatbuilding – at work in their shops, weaving spells of wonder. We'll walk among towering figures of fantasy, marvel at the skill and technology that animate floats, acquire an insider's appreciation of the history and traditions of Carnival, and leave with Mardi Gras memories to cherish forever.
3. **The French Quarter Tour** allows us to visit five museums in the New Orleans French Quarter that are operated by the Louisiana State Museum. The Cabildo traces the history of Louisiana, while the 1850 House shows life as it was in mid-nineteenth century New Orleans. The Presbytere houses a Mardi Gras Museum and the new, interactive multimedia exhibit Living with Hurricanes: Katrina and Beyond. The Old U.S. Mint houses coinage and the state-of-the-art Louisiana State Museum Historical Center, and Madame John's Legacy is an architectural landmark. This tour includes an exciting, educational scavenger hunt for our teens.
4. The **Louisiana Children's Museum** is a two-story interactive playground in disguise, with 30,000 square feet of hands-on fun, engaging exhibits and exciting programs. Pilot a towboat down the Mighty Mississippi; shop until you drop in a pint-size Winn-Dixie grocery store; dine in a five-star, role-play café; ride a bike with Mr. Bones; lift 500 pounds; hoist yourself up a wall; trap your shadow; stand inside a gigantic bubble; create a masterful work of art; and much more! Even the littlest ones have a special space to climb, crawl, hide and explore. Learning has never been more fun! The Louisiana Children's Museum also brings an Outreach Program to Groups 1, 2 & 3. Children will make ornate masks and umbrellas, which we'll use in our very own Camp NMA-Zing second line parade. Second line is a tradition in brass band parades in New Orleans.
5. Reminiscent of some European markets, **The French Market** features shopping, dining and live jazz music in a tradition that is uniquely New Orleans. From Café du Monde near Jackson Square to the market at the end of Esplanade Avenue, there are five blocks of specialty retail shops and a community flea market with locally-made jewelry, art, clothing and souvenirs. Founded in 1791, The French Market is the oldest public market in the country and has played a historic role in the development of the city's economy.
6. The **Jazz Walk of Fame** is located in Historic Algiers Point, just a Mississippi ferry ride from downtown New Orleans. This historic walk is a series of lampposts, each dedicated to an influential jazz musician. We'll grab a brochure at the visitor center and take a self guided audio tour atop the levee while witnessing great views of downtown New Orleans.

7. On the **Algiers and Gretna Ferries**, we'll witness some of the best views of New Orleans via Canal Street Ferry rides across the Mississippi River, and learn why New Orleans is called the Crescent City as the ferry traverses the river's natural crescent.
8. **Calliope Puppets** presents in theaters, museums, festivals and schools in the United States, South and Central America, Europe and Asia. Calliope Puppets invites family audiences on explorations of folklore, culture and fantasy to bring imagination to learning. Shows such as Fabulous Frog Tales, Walls and Bridges, The Sorcerer's Apprentice, Puss in Boots or Stories South of the Border will captivate audiences with dynamic characters and engaging music. Masterful puppeteers also offer us a puppet workshop after our presentation.
9. **Project Sun** is an annual event conducted by the Auxiliary to the National Medical Association (ANMA) for youth, ages twelve and up.
10. With its colorful history and unique traditions, New Orleans has been referred to as "The most haunted city in America." A **Haunted History Tour** takes our teens to several haunted sites, where we'll hear about stories featured on The History Channel and Discovery Channel. When it rains in the French Quarter, the locals swear a beautiful voice floats out of the mist. Or how about the ghosts that inhabit the famous Bourbon Orleans Hotel, where staff and guests report regular sighting of uninvited guests? We'll also visit many homes and taverns that have been under paranormal investigation. Let's not forget our cameras . . . you never know who will want to pose for a picture!
11. The **Audubon Zoo** is 58 acres of some of the most rare and beautiful creatures of nature. Visitors are enchanted to find a unique wildlife haven full of New Orleans flavor, impressive 100-year old oak trees and a cast of animal characters. Animal favorites include elephants Jean and Panya, the Komodo dragon and the white tiger brothers King Rex and King Zulu. A favorite for children is Monkey Hill, which boasts wading pools, a rope bridge and a safari trail. At the zoo, visitors can stroll through a real swamp to see a Cajun houseboat on a lagoon full of 14-foot alligators, visit babies at the animal nursery, or watch world-famous white alligators.
12. The world-renown **Audubon Aquarium** is home to 15,000 sea creatures, representing nearly 600 species, living happily in a state-of-the-art facility. Highlights include the 30-foot long Caribbean Reef tunnel, the new Seahorses Gallery and albino alligators, which in Cajun myth are good luck! Other favorites are the baby sharks at the shark touch pool and the Amazon rain forest exhibit, with anaconda snakes, poisonous frogs and exotic birds. Also, the half-million-gallon Gulf of Mexico exhibit teems with fully-grown sharks and undersea life that thrive around the barnacled pilings of a simulated oil rig.
13. With its 23,000 square feet, the **Audubon Insectarium** is the largest free-standing museum in the United States devoted to the 900,000-plus known species of insects and their relatives. Featured are thousands of live insects, mounted specimens, interactive experiences and trained, expert personnel on hand to interpret the exhibits. Highlights include – Life Underground, which shrinks you down to the size of bugs themselves; Cooking Show and Cultural Café, where a zany chef introduces you to the joy of cooking with insects; Hall of Fame, which showcases preserved examples of the biggest, fastest and most impressive insects; Butterflies in Flight, which recreates a unique Japanese garden with free-flying butterflies of various species.
14. Embark upon a marvelous adventure with **Mama Olayeela Daste**, as she uses the ancient art of storytelling to bring to life and celebrate African tales. Through song, humor, movement, drama and audience participation, Mama Olayeela spins tales of adventure to captivate the imagination of both young and old.
15. The **Camp NMA-Zing Talent Competition** gives our young stars a chance to shine. Groups will practice a song, dance, skit or other talent to perform for our live audience of their peers and our staff judges!

16. The **Teen Dance**, for teens fifteen and older, is an on-site dance party for youth to unwind, express imagination and artistry, and hang out with friends. A live DJ, lighting effects, dance contests and more make this one party teens won't want to miss.
17. The **Pre-Teen Dance** is the same as the above, but for dancers ages twelve to fourteen.