



Summer 2020

Hello WiAPS followers,

Well, what a different year we are in the middle of. If your family is like mine, you are finding yourselves without your usual summer activities and predictable routines. You might be grieving some of the experiences you have already lost or will not have this year. My hope is that all of you are staying well and finding some joy in new or different routines or activities. In our family, we've started a raised bed garden for the first time. The plants have been a healing reminder to us that our seasons continue to come and go, no matter what is going on around us. Caring for the garden and watching the new growth has been a highlight of each day for us as we navigate our summer. There are so many wonderful metaphors we find when we study the plants too. What did we choose to plant this year? Are we caring for ourselves with the same attentiveness? Checking in every day, and watching for any small signs or symptoms that something isn't quite right? Addressing even the smallest concerns immediately because we understand the longer term effects? The fruits...the harvest, no matter the size, is something that we are all looking forward to. I would love to hear about some of the fruits of this season for you and/or your family, either literally or metaphorically. I invite you to email me at [christy@wisapsp.org](mailto:christy@wisapsp.org) to share!

Our support specialists have been working hard to find creative ways to bring activities your way this summer that also continue to follow safe guidelines and precautions regarding COVID-19. Below you will find more information about this. We invite you to come out and join us for those events you feel comfortable with, and please know we will continue to adjust as needed as we go along. A positive growth that has come out of this for us is that we now have many more online/virtual options available for you all for support and/or education. The next two pages highlight all of the different online opportunities for you! We hope you will take advantage of them.

Lastly, but really most importantly, we want you to know that we are committed to examining our place in the fight for racial justice in our country, state and communities. There is so much work to be done, from acknowledgment of the depths of systemic racism, to understanding white privilege and challenging the idea of color blindness, to the need for more comprehensive education for foster and adoptive parents and support for adopted adults, and much more. As a staff, we will continue to take intentional steps, beginning with the internal work of examining our own personal implicit biases, learning about black and indigenous history and systematic oppression (especially as it relates to human services and child welfare systems), and then leaning into more of the external work of examining our spaces of impact.

Keep on,  
Christy



## COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS

- Please do not attend an event if you or anyone in your household is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (which include fever, cough, and shortness of breath), or have been exposed to others who have experienced those symptoms within the last 14 days.
- Plan to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet whenever possible, and prepare any children/minors attending to do the same.
- Wearing a mask may be required anytime social distancing of 6 feet cannot be maintained, depending upon the venue.
- People in higher-risk groups should consult with their healthcare provider about attending events.
- Refrain from handshakes, high fives, hugs or other physical contact with other event attendees.

# online GROUP meetings

These online groups will utilize Zoom to connect over video chat. You will need to have access to a smart phone with the free Zoom app, or a computer with a camera and microphone. Registrants will be emailed a link to use for joining the video chat.

## Virtual Support Group: Connected Parenting

Tuesday, July 14  
Tuesday, August 11  
Tuesday, September 8  
6:00 –7:00 PM

A monthly online support group for all adoptive and guardianship parents to have conversations about how to promote connections with children. Each month will have a different topic to discuss.

July - Race and adoption; August - Attachment strategies; Sept - Empowering children - How to Talk About Adoption

## Virtual BYO Book Club

Wednesday, July 8  
Wednesday, August 12  
Wednesday, September 9  
6:00 –7:00 PM

Want to talk about what you're currently reading or get ideas for different adoption-related titles to try? The BYO Book Club will meet virtually. Join the conversation!

## Virtual Parent/Child Group: Scavenger and Support

Thursday, July 9 & Saturday, Sept. 26  
10:00 –11:00 am

This free virtual monthly support group will be for both parents and kids! The first half hour will be a fun scavenger hunt for the kids to do. This will be best geared for elementary aged students, but can also be adapted for younger or older youth as well! The next half hour will be a support session for parents needing to connect with others parents, find more resources, or just come to hang out! This online support group is open to any pre-adoptive, post adoptive, foster, guardianship, and kinship families. Please register by Wednesday July 8th as spots are limited!

## Virtual Support Group: Birth Parent Support

Tuesdays, July 14 & September 8  
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Connect with others across the state who have had a child(ren) placed for adoption. Whether placement happened recently or many years ago, you are welcome in this ongoing group. The group will continue to meet on the 2nd Tuesday evening of the odd months (July, September, November). Please email [karla@wisapsp.org](mailto:karla@wisapsp.org) with any questions.

## Virtual Support Group: Parents of Older Youth

Tuesday, July 14 & 28, Aug 11 & 25,  
September 8 & 22  
10:00 - 11:00 AM

Join other adoptive & guardianship caregivers with children in middle/upper grades for a live, video check-in to socially connect and discuss topics related to adoption. This support group will be facilitated by Susan McParker from our La Crosse office. The group size will be limited, so please pre-register via Eventbrite. This group will happen every other week. Join as often as you would like. If you have any questions, please contact [susan@wisapsp.org](mailto:susan@wisapsp.org).

## Virtual Support Group: Waiting to Adopt

Wednesday, July 22  
Monday, August 17  
Tuesday, September 22  
7:00 –8:00 PM

Please join me in offering a space for Wisconsin parents or parents-to-be that are awaiting the adoption or placement of their child to connect with one another, ask questions and to share concerns and excitement. I hope to see you there, on-line! If you have any questions, please contact [trisha@wisapsp.org](mailto:trisha@wisapsp.org).

## Online Movie Review Group

July-December  
Last Tuesday of month except  
December 22  
6:00 PM

Join us for our Online Movie Review Group! All movies will have either an adoption, guardianship, foster care, or kinship theme. We will get together as a group to discuss our thoughts on how they addressed the theme, positives/negatives, Zoom meeting instructions and link will be sent out to registrants the morning of the group. You will need to have access to a smart phone with the free Zoom app, or a computer with a camera and microphone.

Movies: July- Instant Family August- Lion September- Kung Fu Panda 3 October- The Blind Side  
November- Finding Dory December 22- Meet the Robinsons

If you have any questions, contact Heather at [heather@wisapsp.org](mailto:heather@wisapsp.org) or 920-272-8240.

# UPCOMING WEBINARS

Beginning in mid-August, there will be a nominal fee of \$10/attendee for webinars. Contact us to inquire about a scholarship if the cost is prohibitive. Webinars will utilize Zoom, requiring access to a phone or computer with the free Zoom app. Registrants will be emailed a link to use for joining the webinar prior to the event.

## **Webinar: A Birth Parent's Story**

Recording Available after July 16 on the WISAPSP website

Birth Parent Chris Bauer will be sharing her story. She will offer insight into her open adoption when it was fairly new, different language and sensitivity around adoption, how she found a family for her child and their relationship, and how having other children years later affected me. Chris offers her advice for all areas of the adoption triad. This recording will be posted on the Wisconsin Adoption and Permanency Support Program after July 16th for viewing.

## **Webinar: WI Adoption Records Search Program - Info, Q&A, and More!**

Tuesday, August 4

6:30 –8:00 PM

Please join us for a webinar presentation by Jacy Allen-Boldebuck, Search Specialist for the WI Adoption Records Search Program. Jacy will talk about how the program was created to provide an efficient, affordable and respectful option for adult adoptees, birth parents and adoptive parents to request and share information. She will also share how she assists adult adoptees and their birth parents with their reunion journey and will discuss the relationship challenges that are unique to reunion. There will be time for Q&A as well.

## **Webinar: Communication in Adoptive Families - Identity, Race, and Boundaries**

Tuesday, August 11

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Dr. Sara Docan-Morgan, Professor of Communication Studies and Chair of the Ethnic and Racial Studies Department at University of Wisconsin- La Crosse, will share her research on adoptive family communication about race and difference, and birth family reunions. Dr. Docan-Morgan has recently authored the chapter "Adoptive Families" in The Macmillan Encyclopedia of Intimate and Family Relationships: An Interdisciplinary Approach. She has been researching communication and adoptive families since 2004. Her main areas of interest have been communication about race in transracial adoptions, as well as the dynamics surrounding international birth family reunions. Dr. Docan-Morgan's work has been published in Adoption Quarterly, the Journal of Family Communication, the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, and the Journal of Korean Adoption Studies, among others. She serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Family Communication. Please register by Friday, August 7th.

## **Webinar: Ideas in Processing Grief & Loss**

Thursday, August 20

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Inherent in the adoption process are losses – losses of birth family and dreams of the way things would be. How does one work through loss? These topics are salient for the whole adoption triad, and will be the focus of this webinar. Christy Wopat is a local writer who wrote her way through her experience of grief.

"We grieve so many things in so many different ways, and we all grieve differently. But in that grief it's easy to isolate yourself. I want people who are suffering to find community, to find friends who support them, and to know that it's okay to be angry and mad. We just can't be angry and mad all by ourselves. We need each other."

## **Webinar: Mindfulness Mystery**

Saturday, August 22

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Come join us for some family fun from the comfort of your own home! Christy Sprotte from Fox Valley Mindful Learners is going to lead us through Mindfulness Mysteries, which is a virtual escape room event that uses mindfulness skills to help solve a mystery! Children will do this activity (with help from parents as needed) and will take around 45 minutes! After that activity is done, there will be a 15-30 minute Mindful Parenting session.

The cost of the workshop is \$15 per parent/child pair! Please RSVP by registering on the site by Monday August 17!

## **Webinar: Talking About Race - Understanding Racial Identity Development and How it Affects Us**

Wednesday, September 16

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Join us for a virtual seminar with Dr. Erin Winkler, associate professor of African Diaspora Studies at the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee. She is the author of the book "Learning Race, Learning Place: Shaping Racial Identities and Ideas in African American Childhoods." This is a 65 minute presentation followed by 25 minutes of Q&A. This session will focus on equipping adults to help children and youth understand and navigate their own racial and cultural development processes. With questions, please contact trisha@wisapsp.org.

## **Webinar: Adoption Outreach, Reunion, and Relationship**

Tuesday, September 22

6:30 - 7:30 PM

A LIVE webinar about navigating relationships between adult adoptees, birth families, and adoptive families. Jacy Allen-Boldebuck, LCSW, an Adoption Records Search Specialist and Licensed Psychotherapist with a strong interest in post adoption issues and reunion relationships, will present about her experience over many years assisting birth and adoptive families request and share information. She will also share how she assists adult adoptees and their birth parents with their reunion journey. Jacy will touch on negotiating relationships, healthy boundaries, and reasonable expectations. There will be time for Q&A as well.



Check out all of our Summer Activities. To learn more about each event or to register visit [wisapsp.eventbrite.com](http://wisapsp.eventbrite.com). Please RSVP for ALL events as notification of any changes or cancellations will, in most cases, be sent to registrants only.

Remember - Please do NOT attend an event if you or anyone in your household is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (which include fever, cough, and shortness of breath), or have been exposed to others who have experienced those symptoms within the last 14 days. Social distancing of at least 6 feet will be required. Please bring a mask for each person in your party to be used anytime social distancing of at least 6 feet cannot be maintained.



## WAUSAU & SURROUNDING AREA

TO RSVP or with questions, visit [wisapsp.eventbrite.com](http://wisapsp.eventbrite.com) or contact Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist **Chelsey Zommers** in our Wausau office at [chelsey@wisapsp.org](mailto:chelsey@wisapsp.org) or 608-519-8057

### July

#### Parent's Night Out: South Woods Evening Walk

Thursday, July 9, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

South Wood County Park—  
Wisconsin Rapids

Come enjoy a night of walking in nature! Walk and talk with other adoptive and foster parents while walking around the beautiful Lake Wazeecha (and keep a safe distance.) All pre and post adoptive, foster, kinship, and guardianship parents welcome! If there is inclement weather, I will reschedule to a different date. Please register to attend by Tuesday July 7th! Please bring your own drinks/sunscreen if you want them!

#### Mini Golf Family Fun: Rothschild

Saturday, July 18, 10:00 - Noon

Sawmill Adventure Park— Rothschild

Gather your family and join WI APS for some family fun mini golfing! The event is free for your family (up to 6 people per family), and will start at 10:00 am. Feel free to arrive anytime between 10 and 12 in order to allow for spacing between families. Please RSVP by Wednesday July 15th as there are limited spots. The event is open to pre-adoptive, foster, post adoptive, guardianship, and kinship families! Please note the course will still be open to the public. See below for Covid-19 guidelines and information before registering for the event!

### August

#### Parent's Picnic Lunch: Wausau

Saturday, August 8,  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Bluegill Bay Park— Wausau

Come out and enjoy the sunshine and good food with WI APS! This event is intended for parents only, unless you have an infant who could sit on your lap! Becca's cafe will be delivering lunch to the shelter at noon. Please RSVP by Thursday August 6th as there are limited spots available! This event is open for all parents in foster, adoptive, guardianship, and kinship families! Please note the event is taking place at the North entrance as well!

### September

#### FOSTERing Connections Parents Night Out: Neillsville

Friday, September 18, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Wildcat Inn —Neillsville

Take a night off and join WI APS for a night of fun! This event is specifically for foster parents! We are covering the cost of your meal and can also give you a voucher to help cover child care expenses. We will plan to meet at 5:45 pm and have dinner at 6 pm. Please RSVP by Thursday September 16th as there are limited spots available!

Get connected! Call or text us 24/7 at

# 1-833-WIS-APSP





## eau CLAIRE & SURROUNDING area

TO RSVP or with questions, visit [wisapsp.eventbrite.com](https://wisapsp.eventbrite.com) OR contact Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist **Shannon Severud** in our Eau Claire office at [shannon@wisapsp.org](mailto:shannon@wisapsp.org) or 608-519-8056.

### July

#### Family Day at Lake Wissota State Park

Saturday, July 18,  
10:00 am -1:00 pm

Lake Wissota State Park, CF

Adoptive, foster & guardianship families, come join us for an afternoon at Lake Wissota State Park. When you arrive, you will receive a free year pass to the WI State Parks! Please bring your own food and drinks if you choose to picnic. There

#### Caregiver & Me Golf Outing: Eau Claire

Sunday, July 26, 2:00 –4:00 pm

Pine Meadow Golf Club, EC

Adoptive, foster & guardianship caregivers, bring a child and join us for a special golf outing at this 9-hole par 3 course in Eau Claire. We will meet at 2:00 at the Pro Shop and split into groups of 4 to golf. Wisconsin APS will cover the round for one pair/family. Please bring your own clubs. Please no children under 5 years old.

### August

#### Birth Parent Get Together: Eau Claire

Tuesday, August 11, 6:00 –8:00 pm Cabin Coffee, Altoona

This group is open to ALL birth parents who have had a child placed for adoption, no matter what type of adoption or agency involved. Come ask your questions and meet others who share a similar story. Feel free to bring a support person if you would like. Weather permitting, we will be meeting in Cabin Coffee's parking lot and then walking to River Prairie Park. Rain site is Catholic Charities. Please register on Eventbrite prior to 8-7-20.

### September

#### Adult Adoptee Lunch

Friday, September 25,  
11:30 am-1:00 pm

ZA 51 Pizzeria, Altoona

Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support is hosting a lunch for adult adoptees. Join us for an afternoon of free food and great conversation. Your meal is on us! Please register on Eventbrite prior to 9-21-20.

## La CROSSE & SURROUNDING area

TO RSVP or with questions, visit [wisapsp.eventbrite.com](https://wisapsp.eventbrite.com) OR contact Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist **Susan McParker** in our La Crosse office at [susan@wisapsp.org](mailto:susan@wisapsp.org) or 608-519-8023. Visit us and our lending library at 3710 East Ave S, La Crosse, WI 54601



### August

#### Mini Golf Family Fun: La Crosse

Saturday, August 8, 9:00– 10:30 am

Walsh Golf Center, La Crosse

Please join us for some family fun at the mini golf course! Open to adoptive, foster, kinship, and guardianship families. Walsh Golf Center mini golf is outside. This event is FREE for up to 6 family members. Please register in advance by

#### Adult Adoptee Dinner: La Crosse

Friday, August 28, 6:30– 8:00 pm

Senor Villa, La Crosse

Are you an adult adoptee? Join WI APS staff and other adoptees for an evening of good food and conversation at Senor Villa on August 28th. Please reserve your seat at the table before August 25th. Your meal is on us!

### September

#### Parents' Night Out: Onalaska

Tuesday, September 22,  
6:00– 7:30 pm

David Reay's, Onalaska

Program invites you out to dinner to see other parents who are relative caregivers, fostering and/or have chosen the path of adoption. We will likely still be practicing physical distancing, but can all enjoy a night out. All foster, adoptive and guardianship parents are encouraged to join! We will meet at the David Reay's in Onalaska, WI at 6:00 pm. Please note that this is an evening for parents only. Dinner is on us. Please register by September 18th.



## FAR NORTHERN REGION

TO RSVP or with questions, visit [wisapsp.eventbrite.com](https://wisapsp.eventbrite.com) OR contact Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist **Shannon Severud** in our Eau Claire office at [shannon@wisapsp.org](mailto:shannon@wisapsp.org) or 608-519-8056.

July

### Family Day at Pattison State Park

Saturday, July 11, 10:00 am –1:00 pm Pattison State Park - Superior

Adoptive, foster & guardianship families, come join us for an afternoon at Pattison State Park. When you arrive, you will receive a free year pass to the WI State Parks! Please bring your own food and drinks if you choose to picnic. There is a swimming beach and restrooms. There are also many great hiking trails and two waterfalls- Big Manitou Falls is the tallest waterfall in the state! For more information on Pattison State Park please see the website: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/pattison/>

\*Note- this event will be canceled if there is bad weather. You will be emailed if it is canceled. If this is the case, your state park passes will be mailed to you.

August

### Family Disc Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 29,  
11:00 am –2:00 pm

Lake Superior View Golf –Washburn

Adoptive, foster & guardianship families: come have fun playing disc golf along beautiful Lake Superior. We will meet at the Pro Shop at 11:00 and then go out in groups of 4. Bring your own discs or you can rent or purchase them at the pro shop. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch or hot dogs and sodas will be available for purchase.

## MADISON & SURROUNDING AREA

TO RSVP or with questions, visit [wisapsp.eventbrite.com](https://wisapsp.eventbrite.com) OR contact Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist **Jessica Wright** in our Madison office at [jessica@wisapsp.org](mailto:jessica@wisapsp.org) or 608-692-2910



July

### Family Hike or Bike Ride on the Lower

Thursday, July 23, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Lower Yahara River Trail - Madison

Meet at the Trailhead for the Lower Yahara River Trail and we'll send you on your way with a scavenger hunt and a popsicle or ice cream treat! (Trailhead is located near the Lussier Family Heritage Center, 3101 Lake Farm Rd.,

August

### Family Fun at Pirates Cove Adventure

Wednesday, August 5, 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Pirates Cove Adventure Golf -

Please join us for some FREE family fun on the mini-golf course! Pirates Cove Adventure Golf has 5 mini-golf courses to choose from. <https://www.piratescoveadventure.com/>

September

### Coffee Talk in Janesville

Friday, September 11,  
10:00 am - Noon

Mocha Moment - 1121 Center Ave.  
Janesville

Please join us for a relaxed morning coffee with other adoptive, foster, and guardianship parents to connect and feel supported. This is an informal group with no set agenda so feel free to drop in. Light refreshments provided. Mocha Moment now provides indoor, deck, and garden seating. Tables are spaced so customers may preserve a social distance of 6 feet. If you have questions please email [jessica@wisapsp.org](mailto:jessica@wisapsp.org)

### Birth Parent Get-Together + Art-Making: Madison

Tuesday, September 15,  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Bare Knuckle Arts - 312 W.  
Lakeside St., Madison

This event is open to all birth parents who have had a child placed for adoption. We will meet at Bare Knuckle Arts studio and owner/artist Amy Mietzel will lead us in an Altered Box art activity. You will leave with a beautiful keepsake box of your own design. There is no cost for this event but registration is required. Please register by September 11.



## MILWAUKEE & SURROUNDING area

TO RSVP or with questions, visit [wisapsp.eventbrite.com](https://www.wisapsp.eventbrite.com) OR contact Adoption & Permanency Support Specialists **Pattie Godsell** and **Trisha Pavicich** in our Milwaukee office at [pattie@wisapsp.org](mailto:pattie@wisapsp.org) or 414-369-7489.



### July

#### Independent Family Hiking at the Wehr Nature Center

Saturday, July 11, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Wehr Nature Center - Franklin

Enjoy a beautiful summertime hike with your family. The Wehr Nature Center currently has all of it's lovely trails open. We will meet your family from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm outside the Nature Center Building. We will provide parking passes for each family car as well as water and trail mix. The large open area will allow for social distancing while taking in the beauty of the woods, pond and wildlife. Did you know there is a large beaver lodge along the trail leading to the pond? Come peek at the many varieties of ducks through the camouflaged duck blind! If this sounds fun for your family, please sign up your group today! (The Main building is hoping to have the bathrooms open by July 1st. so please call or check their website for updates.)

#### A Morning for Horses and Families: Ozaukee

Saturday, July 18, 10:00 am - Noon Flying S Ranch - Grafton

Join us for a morning at the Flying S Ranch in Grafton, WI. Please arrive at 10:00 am promptly and you will be divided into small groups as you rotate through different "stations" learning all about the horses, their care and finishing by 12:00 noon with a short horseback ride! This event is for children over the age of 5, and their caregiver. No children younger than this may be in attendance. Please note that children must be accompanied by their guardians throughout the event, and only the children will participate in the horseback ride at the end. Please bring a mask so we can maintain safety and social distancing at this beautiful event.

#### A Morning Out at the Racine Zoo

Monday, July 27, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Racine Zoo - Racine

Adoptive, foster or guardianship families - please come out for a morning at the Racine Zoo and enjoy the fresh outdoors safely with other members from the adoption and foster care community. We will cover admissions for up to 4 people per family (ages 2 & under are free). Please arrive right at, or close to 10:00 am to be sure that your family is granted permission to enter as there are only so many people allowed into the zoo at a time. I will remain at the entrance, wearing a purple agency shirt, until 11:30 am in order to check you in, obtain a signed waiver, and to provide further information regarding our agency. You can remain at the zoo until the closing time of 4:00 pm if you'd like. Per the zoo you MUST wear a mask and all children over the age of 2 MUST wear a mask. Hope to see you there!

### August

#### A Tuesday Afternoon Book Discussion of "Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew": Shorewood

Tuesday, August 4, 2:00 - 3:30 pm Estabrook Park - Shorewood

Please join me, Trisha, in discussing the book "Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew." We can meet by the playground area and move our chairs to a shaded spot under some trees. I will be wearing a purple agency t-shirt so you can spot me easily. My name is Trisha and I look forward to discussing this book with you! Please bring a chair, the book and your beverage. Also bring a mask if you'd prefer. Please know that we can arrange our chairs safely 6-7 feet apart..

#### Mini Golf Family Fun: Greenfield

Wed. August 5, 6:00 - 9:00 pm River Falls Family Fun - Greenfield

Bring your family for a round of mini-golf on us at the River Falls Family Fun Center. The open air mini-golf course allows for comfortable social distancing while enjoying time with your family. Wisconsin APS will cover a round of mini golf for up to 6 attendees per family. River Falls Family Fun Center also has batting cages and a video arcade which families may enjoy. The entire grounds are wheelchair accessible to allow for fully inclusive play! The bathrooms are open to all patrons. \*Drinks and pre-wrapped snacks are available for purchase. Tokens can be purchased for additional activities.

#### Mini Golf Family Fun: Ozaukee County

Wed. August 19, 6:30 - 7:30 pm Baehmanns Golf Center - Cedarburg

Please join us for some family fun while mini golfing! The event is FREE for your family for up to 5 registrants per family. Tee times will be arranged starting at 6:30 pm, and by not arriving all at the same time, will ensure that we can practice safe social distancing. I will arrive at 6:00 pm and can begin checking in the first family to arrive. We are registered to have tee times ranging from 6:30-7:30 pm. This event is open to pre-adoptive, foster, adoptive and guardianship families. See below for COVID related guidelines. See you there!

## GREEN BAY & SURROUNDING AREA



TO RSVP or with questions, visit [wisapsp.eventbrite.com](https://www.wisapsp.eventbrite.com) OR contact Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist **Heather Hansen** in our Green Bay office at [heather@wisapsp.org](mailto:heather@wisapsp.org) or 920-272-8240.

July

### [Drive-In Movie Event](#)

Monday, July 13, 7:30 - 11:30 pm

Get Reel Chilton Twilight Drive-In

Grab your family and join us for a night out at the Drive-in! Join us on Monday, July 13th at Chilton Twilight Outdoor Theater. We will have the entire drive-in for our families! Each attendee will receive FREE admission, FREE popcorn and soda, and a coupon for \$2.00 off any pizza.

You may arrive as early as 7:30 pm, but the movie does not start until dusk. You may stay for one or both movies. The theater has not confirmed the first movie yet, although they think it will be Trolls World Tour. An email will go out as soon as the movie is confirmed.

### [Ruins Mini Golf Family Fun Event: Oconto](#)

Tuesday, July 21, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

The Ruins Adventure Mini Golf and Ice Cream, Oconto

Join WI APS for our family fun event at The Ruins Mini Golf! This event is open to all adoptive, foster, guardian, and kinship families. WI APS will cover the cost of golfing as well as one ice cream treat per guest! In an effort to maintain social distancing families will be assigned a time slot and are asked to not arrive before that time. Please direct any questions to Heather Hansen at 920-272-8240 or [heather@wisapsp.org](mailto:heather@wisapsp.org).

August

### [Wrap Up the Summer at the Menominee Park Zoo!](#)

Saturday, August 22, 10:00 am - Noon

Menominee Park Zoo, Oshkosh

Join us for our end-of-the-summer celebration at the Menominee Park Zoo! This free event is open to all adoptive, pre-adoptive, foster, guardianship, and kinship families! Check in with your WI APS team at Shelter #3, right between the playground and the zoo. Take some time to wander through the zoo and be sure to stop back at Shelter #3 to pick up a free icee before noon!

Due to Covid-19, the zoo is only allowing 50 people in at one time. Due to this, you may stop in any time between 10 am and noon, you do not have to arrive right at 10 am.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Heather at 920-272-8240 or [heather@wisapsp.org](mailto:heather@wisapsp.org).

## FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES TO TRY AT HOME



### **Make Homemade Ice Cream**

There are many recipes out there for making your own ice cream at home, but did you know that you can make your own ice cream in five minutes using two Ziploc bags?

Here's what you'll need for this experiment:

1 tablespoon sugar

½ cup milk, cream, or half and half

¼ teaspoon vanilla extract (or other flavoring)

6 tablespoons salt

Enough ice to fill the gallon-sized bag halfway

1 gallon-sized Ziploc bag and 1 pint-sized Ziploc bag

Ordinary table salt will work, but salt that has larger crystals, such as kosher salt or rock salt,

will work much better. Mix the salt around in the ice and set aside. Make sure the pint bag gets buried in the ice. Seal the gallon bag. Wrap gallon Ziplock in towel to hold, since they will be very cold and slippery from condensation. Shake the bags vigorously for five minutes. Tip: Milk will provide a less rich, lower calorie ice cream, while using heavy cream will have the opposite effect. <https://science.howstuffworks.com/innovation/edible-innovations/ice-cream3.htm>

**Try this at Home—Show us on Facebook! Look for the pinned post “Try this at Home!” and add your photo of the process or finished product.**





## Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming Fall Conferences!

### **Cameron Lee Small: "This is Why I Was Adopted: Navigating Loss on a Journey Toward Hope"**



Join service providers around the nation as Cam walks staff and parents through his personal search for his mother in Korea; a curriculum based on his recently published book *This is Why I Was Adopted*. Professionals will gain clinical competencies that can be applied immediately to their work in the local community. Parents will gain access into Cam's raw experience of grieving and restoration, with co-created applications specific to the group's unique and real-time needs. This is especially applicable as many marginalized communities struggle to navigate their role in today's heavily polarized environment.

**Virtual Conference will be held on Friday, October 23, 2020  
Watch our Facebook & Eventbrite pages for registration!**



### **A Place in My Heart (Virtual) Conference Saturday, November 7, 2020 Grief & Loss in Foster & Adopted Children & Families Featuring Robyn Gobbel**

Foster Care & Adoption always begins with loss. Grief is inherent, although when and how experience, express, and process their grief varies substantially. When parents, professionals, therapists and other helpers honor the grief inherent in foster care & adoption and understand the complexities of their losses, we open ourselves up to being more fully present for children to process their grief. This workshop will cover the losses inherent in foster care and adoption, grief related to adoption (including ambiguous loss), understanding why children grieve for abusive and neglectful families, supporting children through big, confusing, and overwhelming feelings, and how to notice if our own feelings may be being triggered and preventing us from being fully present for children. We will also cover how adults can best support children and families when children are inevitably transitioned...sometimes with little notice. This day-long workshop will include videos and small group discussions. Robyn is an engaging, connected, and humorous presenter, and attendees report feeling relieved that a heavy topic was covered in a way that left them feeling confident and not overwhelmed, yet aware of the complexities in grief and loss in foster care and adoption.

**Robyn Gobbel**, LCSW, LMSW, RPT-S is a licensed psychotherapist turned speaker, trainer, writer, and consultant. Formerly the founder of the Central Texas Attachment & Trauma Center, Robyn now lives in Grand Rapids, MI. Robyn is currently on therapist-sabbatical and focusing her time on growing & supporting helpers, healers, & educators who are focused on being with clients (especially those with complex trauma histories!!!) in an embodied, resonant, and deeply present way. Robyn has been told that some of her greatest superpowers are her ability to be with people in a way that makes them feel seen, gotten, heard, and deeply cared for. It's hard to imagine anything else being more important.



Well it's O-fish-al. A good time was had in Eau Claire when families gathered on June 26th to see who could get schooled on catching the most fish. Christian Severud netted five fish total and Lincoln McIntosh reeled in the longest fish at 7.5 inches. Way to use your mussel and reel those fish in!

Salmon had to say it so it wasn't a turtle disaster! Be sure to check out all of the fun upcoming events in your area. I sure had fun writing this, but I am sure all you sea are bass-ically cod awful puns!



On June 17th and June 24th, youth (ages 5 and up) got to experience horses in a fun and safe way at Bit-n-Bridle. They learned how to lead and brush horses, learn basic horse care, and how to saddle up. A hay ride was also included! Looks like they had a great time!



**DON'T MISS OUT**  
 So many fun events to sign up for! Don't miss out! Sign up today!



A heartfelt Goodbye and Thank You to our wonderful intern, Lori Harrison. Lori was a student in UW-Madison's School of Social Work MSW program and interned with WiAPS beginning last summer. She even stayed on as a volunteer after graduating in May. As part of her internship, Lori was required to do a Change Agent Project— something that would leave a lasting impact on our program. Lori saw a need for a group for adult adoptees and scheduled a time for this group to meet.... Then Covid happened. Lori stepped up to run the group via Zoom instead of in person, hosting several sessions throughout the spring. We can't thank Lori enough for getting this group off the ground and for all of her work and dedication during her time with us!



A **BIG**  
Thank You!

...From the Smock Family

The boys were very excited to receive their backpacks. They are theirs FOREVER, no matter what!



## FAMILY FUN ROAD TRIP

### Wisconsin Road Trip 10 LOCATIONS TO LEARN ABOUT BLACK HISTORY



- 1 Wisconsin Black Historical Society and Museum
- 2 Milton House Museum
- 3 Racine Heritage Museum
- 4 Forest Home Cemetery
- 5 Circus World Museum
- 6 Lincoln Tallman House
- 7 Cunningham Museum
- 8 EAA AirVenture Museum
- 9 Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame
- 10 Carson Park

created by  
 Wisconsin  
Adoption & Permanency  
Support  
www.wisapsp.org

Creating this resource was an important exercise for us in exploring what is, and is not, currently available for learning about black culture and history specific to Wisconsin. We share it with you as encouragement to begin somewhere, to start learning and exploring and to make it a part of your family conversations. We also invite you to notice with us where it seems incomplete or insufficient. We encourage you to ask yourselves (and your children) questions as you talk about and/or visit some of these locations. Does this tell the whole story? What information is missing? What else does this make you curious about? Finally, consider what feedback you might offer some of these sites along your journey about what you'd like to see or learn more about. Where might advocacy for more information and education be needed in your part of the state?

For a 2-page printable version with websites and short descriptions, visit: <https://wisapsp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Copy-of-LOCATIONS-TO-LEARN-ABOUT-BLACK-HISTORY-1.pdf>



### 20 Fun Activities To Do This Summer of 2020

1. Fly a kite
2. Go for a family bike ride
3. Host a neighborhood family cook-out
4. Play water balloon baseball
5. Have egg races
6. Play kickball
7. Camp in backyard
8. Visit a local historical site
9. Make Homemade Ice Cream
10. Bake some cookies and share with a neighbor
11. Run in a sprinkler
12. Make Rootbeer floats
13. Paint with bubbles
14. Catch lightning bugs
15. Stargaze or cloud watch
16. Create a Summer Scrapbook
17. Play 'tennis' with fly swatters and balloons
18. Watch a sunrise
19. Play tag with wet sponges
20. **SIGN UP FOR A WISAPSP FAMILY ACTIVITY TODAY**