

Boulder With Kids, Free and Cheap

The free list is longer than most guides admit, and one thing they all recommend is not actually open to the public.

There is no public ice rink in Boulder. The only rink is at CU's Student Recreation Center and CU's own page says a Rec Center membership is required, with skating limited to students, members and their guests. Family guides list it as a Boulder activity. It is not one. There is no roller rink either.

Free, and genuinely free

Where	What it is	Address
Scott Carpenter Park	Playground with crater and rock structures, skate park, sledding in winter	1505 30th St
Valmont Bike Park	42 acres of cycling terrain, plus a playground and restrooms	3160 Airport Rd
Pearl Street animal sculptures	The 1977 bronze and marble Snail, Rabbit, Frog and Beaver kids climb on	1400 block of Pearl St
Boulder Creek Path	5.5 flat paved miles, the most stroller-friendly thing in Boulder	Through downtown
Boulder Public Library	Free storytimes and youth programs	1001 Arapahoe Ave
BLDG 61 makerspace	Free drop-in workshop. STUDIO 24 is its NoBo counterpart	1001 Arapahoe Ave
NCAR Mesa Lab	Science exhibits, free parking, free noon tours Mon/Wed/Fri	1850 Table Mesa Dr

Worth paying for, with the real prices

Where	Cost	Worth knowing
City recreation centers	\$15 adults, \$9 youth 2 to 17, \$32 for a group of four	One pass covers all three centers the same day. Pools close for maintenance, usually August.
Museum of Boulder	\$12 adults, \$10 youth 5 to 17, under 5 free	Free with a SNAP card and free for members. The Playzeum and Google Garage are the child-focused galleries.
Fiske Planetarium	\$12 adults, \$8 youth 4 to 17, plus a \$1.50 fee	Closed during Folsom Field concerts and CU home football games.
Scott Carpenter Pool	\$15 adults, \$11 youth 2 to 17, \$35 for a group of four	Outdoor summer pool, separate from the free park beside it.
ABC Kids Climbing	Paid, price not published	Youth-specific and coach-led, built for children from two and a half up.
Boulder Rock Club	Day pass, price not published	Tiny Tots is 4 to 5; the teen belay class is 12 to 17.