

# Find the Spark Inside Your Child!

## A to Z List of Things to Do for Youth in Eden Prairie

Each of us has something that brings true joy. Help your child uncover hidden interests, strengths and passions by checking out the wide variety of opportunities Eden Prairie and the greater metropolitan area has to offer. This alphabetical list of interests suggests ideas to help encourage youth development. Let us know if we've missed a spark or an opportunity to nurture a spark. Contact Ginger Venable at [gvenable@comcast.net](mailto:gvenable@comcast.net)

Note: *hyperlinks* are live in this PDF document; click on them to go to the website or email link.

### Acting

- **Broadway Kids** is a year-long class for elementary and middle school students in grades 3–8 who are interested in musical theatre. Learn more at [www.edenpr.org/comed](http://www.edenpr.org/comed)
- **Eden Prairie Players.** Find the schedule of events and call for auditions at <http://www.edenprairieplayers.org>

### Animals

- Volunteer at **Animal Humane Society** (age 14 and up), [www.animalhumanesociety.org](http://www.animalhumanesociety.org)
- Go wild! Volunteer at the **Minnesota Zoo**. Zooteen Candidates are students between ages 13–18 who are willing to volunteer for three weeks during the summer season, learn more at <http://mnzoo.org/global/volunt.asp>

### Art

- **Eden Prairie Art Center.** Visit [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org) (Click on *Parks & Recreation*)
- **Eden Prairie Community Education.** Look for *After School Connections* in Course Guide at [www.edenpr.org/comed](http://www.edenpr.org/comed)

### Astronomy

- Classes and a telescope are at the **Eden Prairie Outdoor Center**, [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org) (Click *Parks & Recreation*, then *Outdoor Center*). Age 8 and up.

### Baseball

- **Eden Prairie Baseball Association** has over 1,850 players, ages 4–18, in both in-house and travel leagues. Registration is in February, with the season beginning in April and playoff tournaments in July. Youth are separated by age or grade level. Travel league is available for youth ages 10–18, tryouts are in April. The Association's 15 directors, 12 associate directors, 13 commissioners and over 500 head and assistant coaches are all volunteers. 612-706-1467 or [www.ebbaseball.com](http://www.ebbaseball.com)
- **YMCA** offers baseball, ages 4–10, during spring and summer. 952-897-5464 or <http://www.ymcatwincities.org/>

### Basketball

- **Eden Prairie Boys Basketball Association** offers a travel and an in-house program. 1,300 boys participate, and registration is in September. Rookie League (grades K–1) plays October through December. 2nd grade program runs on Saturday mornings from December through March and is a fundamentals-only program. In-house evaluations for grades 3–12 are held in November with league play beginning late November through March. The Southwest League for grades 6–8 plays other communities with a tournament weekend in March. The travel program runs from October through March. Travel tryouts for grades 5–8 are held in October. [www.epbba.org](http://www.epbba.org)
- **Eden Prairie Girls Basketball Association** has developmental training sessions beginning with girls in grade 2, and runs from January through February. Developmental in-house intramural play, for girls in grades 3–12, has one practice and one game each week. Registration is in September, evaluations in October, and the season is December to March. A travel program is available to grades 5–8 with two practices per week and weekend games. Registration is in August, the season from November to March. EPGBA also sponsors a 3-on-3 summer league and clinics. [www.epgba.org](http://www.epgba.org)
- **YMCA** offers basketball, ages 4–10, during the late fall and winter. 952-897-5464 or <http://www.ymcatwincities.org/>

### Birds

- **Minnesota Landscape Arboretum**, [www.arboretum.umn.edu](http://www.arboretum.umn.edu)
- **Three Rivers Park District**, [www.threeriversparkdistrict.org](http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org)

### Bowling

- **Brunswick Zone** in Eden Prairie, 12200 Singletree Lane, offers a fun time bowling or to join a league. Middle school and high school leagues are Tuesday 4:00 p.m.; leagues for youth in grades. K–12 Saturday 9:00 a.m.; parent/child leagues Sunday 1:00 p.m. Call 952-941-0445 for more information.

### Camps

- **EP Parks & Recreation**, [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org) (click on *Parks & Recreation*)
- **Southdale YMCA**, [www.ymcatwincities.org](http://www.ymcatwincities.org)
- **Camp Invention**, [www.campinvention.org](http://www.campinvention.org)

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## Chess

- Sign up for the afterschool chess program through **Eden Prairie Community Education**, [www.edenpr.org/comed](http://www.edenpr.org/comed)

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## Cooking

- Local cooking school: [www.waycoolcookingschool.com](http://www.waycoolcookingschool.com)
- **Eden Prairie Community Education** [www.edenpr.org/comed](http://www.edenpr.org/comed) (after-school classes for young students)

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## Computers

- **Eden Prairie Community Education** [www.edenpr.org/comed](http://www.edenpr.org/comed)
- **Eden Prairie Library** to sign up for free computer access. Learn more at <http://www.hclib.org/pub/events/AllEventsAction.cfm>

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## Dance

- **Broadway Kids** is a year-long class for elementary and middle school students, grades 3–8, who are interested in musical theatre. Learn more at [www.edenpr.org/comed](http://www.edenpr.org/comed)

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## Destination Imagination

- The world's largest creative problem solving program for kindergarten to college-age learners. Learn more at <http://www.mndi.org/>

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## Flowers

- Take a tour or sign up for a class at the **Landscape Arboretum**, [www.arboretum.umn.edu](http://www.arboretum.umn.edu)
- **Outdoor Center** classes at <http://www.edenprairie.org/vCurrent/live/article.asp?r=1580>

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## Football

- **Eden Prairie Football Association** helps youth in grades 3–8 learn the fundamentals of football, sportsmanship, discipline, and the importance of team play. Registration is in May. Equipment pickup and skills evaluation are in August, and the season is August to October. Teams are formed with an equal distribution of talent, and weight limits are established for each grade. The Association's directors, grade level commissioners and coaches are all volunteers.
- **Summer camps**, are led by Eden Prairie High School head football coach Mike Grant. For more information, visit <http://www.edenprairiefootball.com>

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## Friends

- Encourage your child to invite friends over to actually play games that don't require electric power! (i.e., creative play)

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## Frisbee Golf

- Golf for free at **Staring Lake Park Disc Golf Course**: <http://www.edenprairie.org/vCurrent/live/article.asp?r=1449>
- Try the **Bryant Lake Disc Golf Course**: <http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/picks/discgolf.cfm>

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## Gardening

- Community garden plots are available from May to October at two locations in Eden Prairie: <http://www.edenprairie.org/vCurrent/live/article.asp?r=2123>

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## Gaming

- Sign up for gaming activities nights at the **Hennepin County Library**, [www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org)

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## Golf

- **Glen Lake Golf and Practice Center** is open to the public and offers youth lessons and youth leagues: <http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/golf/glenlake/>
- **Halla Greens**: <http://www.hallanursery.com/hallagreens/index.htm>

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## Hiking

- Find maps to Eden Prairie trails and parks, [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org) (click on *City Maps*)
- **Three Rivers Park District**, [www.threeriversparkdistrict.org](http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org)

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## History

- Visit the **Minnesota History Center** or **Fort Snelling**, [www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)

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## Hockey

- **Eden Prairie Hockey Association**, [www.ephockey.com](http://www.ephockey.com), serves 800 boys and girls from age 4–18. Registrations and tryouts are in September, and the season is November to March. Rookie camps are held in the fall and spring. Nine-year-olds and older are placed on travel teams competing against neighboring communities.
- A girls-only hockey experience with a “no checking” policy is available for girls ages 14 and under.

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## Ice Skating

- Enjoy ice-skating at one of Eden Prairie's outdoor ice-skating rinks for free! The outdoor rinks are open from December 21 through late February. Rinks are flooded and swept daily. <http://www.edenprairie.org/vCurrent/live/article.asp?r=2773>
- Skate indoors for as little as \$4 at the **Eden Prairie Community Center**. For hours of open skating and information on lessons, call 952-949-8470. <http://www.edenprairie.org/vCurrent/live/article.asp?r=5691>
- **Eden Prairie Figure Skating Club** provides training and support for figure skaters at all levels and ages. The club operates year-round. Visit [www.edenprairiefsc.org](http://www.edenprairiefsc.org)

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## Internet

- Sign up for a free class, and get free access at the **Eden Prairie Library**, [www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org)

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## Journalism

- Write a letter to the local papers, [editor@edenprairienews.com](mailto:editor@edenprairienews.com) and [editor@mnsun.com](mailto:editor@mnsun.com)
- Include your full name, address and phone number to verify your identity

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## Karate

- Take a class through **Community Education** [www.edenpr.org/comed](http://www.edenpr.org/comed)
- **Eden Prairie City Programs** at [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org) (click on *Parks & Recreation*)
- **Metro Karate**, 16370 Wagner Way, <http://www.metrokarate.com/>

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## Lacrosse

- **Eden Prairie Lacrosse Association** offers programs for boys and girls grades 3–12. Indoor season registration is in November, and the season is from January to April.
- The outdoor season registration is in March, outdoor season is from May 1 to July 31.
- Summer leagues, camps and clinics run from June through August.
- Rental equipment is available for new players who may not want to immediately invest in equipment. [www.eplacrosse.com](http://www.eplacrosse.com)

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## Languages

**Eden Prairie Community Education** offers courses in Arabic, French, German, Norwegian, Russian, Spanish, and Sign Language. For more information visit [www.edenpr.org/comed](http://www.edenpr.org/comed)

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## Leadership

- **Boy Scouts of America**. To Learn how to sign up your son in grades K–4, visit [www.joincubs.org](http://www.joincubs.org). For boys in 5–12 grade visit [www.northernstarbsa.org](http://www.northernstarbsa.org).
- **Girl Scouts of America**. Visit <http://girlscoutsrv.org> or contact Deb Slinkard ([dmslinkard@comcast.net](mailto:dmslinkard@comcast.net), 952-975-0355). Troops are formed in the fall, but girls can join anytime during the year. In mid-September a New Member night is held. Age range is kindergarten through 12th grade, and girls can join at any age.

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## Legos

- **First Lego League** is a global program to get kids excited about science and technology. Geared for ages 9-14, it uses theme-based challenges to engage kids in research, problem solving, and engineering. For more info, <http://firstlegoleague.org>
- Lego classes for grades K–6 are taught by Youth Enrichment League through **Eden Prairie Community Education**. For more info, go to: [www.edenpr.org/comed](http://www.edenpr.org/comed)

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## Music

- **Eden Prairie Schools** programs for grades 5–6, visit <http://teachers.edenpr.org/%7Ekhammer/band/>
- **Music Studios of Jan Erickson** offer private music instruction. <http://www.musicstudiosofjanerickson.com/>
- **Eden Prairie String Academy** is a non-profit organization providing quality string education on violin, viola, cello, and bass for students with no prior experience. Orchestra programs require auditions in September. For more information, <http://www.epstringacademy.org/GeneralInfo.htm>
- Wanna be a rock star? Learn about **Paul Green's School of Rock Music** at <http://www.schoolofrock.com/index.php>
- During summer months enjoy **Concerts in the Park** at Staring Lake Park Amphitheater. The schedule is posted in the spring at <http://edenprairie.org/vCurrent/live/>

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## Nature

- Sign up for programs at the **Eden Prairie Outdoor Center**, [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org) (click on *Parks & Recreation*).
- Join the **Boy Scouts** or **Girl Scouts** (see *Leadership* section).
- **YMCA Camps**. The YMCA is dedicated to building strong kids, strong families and strong communities; <http://www.ymcatwincities.org/>
- Enjoy our **Eden Prairie Hiking Trails**, [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org) (click on *Parks & Recreation*)

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## Reading

- **Eden Prairie Library** offers story times for young children, and has a teen book area, [www.hclib.org/kids/events/](http://www.hclib.org/kids/events/)
- **Barnes & Noble**, children/teen book clubs, *Barnes & Noble*.
- Start your own book club, [www.readwritethink.org/beyondtheclassroom/summer/grades3\\_5/BookClub/](http://www.readwritethink.org/beyondtheclassroom/summer/grades3_5/BookClub/)

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## Religion

- Join a youth program at a local Eden Prairie church:
  - Wooddale Church:** [http://www.wooddale.org/pages/page.asp?page\\_id=7975](http://www.wooddale.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=7975)
  - Grace Church:** <http://www.atgrace.com/>
  - St. Andrew Lutheran Church:** <http://www.standrewlu.org/indexyouth.shtml>
  - Pax Christi Catholic Church:** <http://www.paxchristi.com/youth.aspx>
  - Prairie Lutheran Church:** <http://www.prairielutheran.org>

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## Robotics

- **Robotics Classes** for grades K–6 is taught by Youth Enrichment League through Eden Prairie Community Education. For more information, go to: [www.edenpr.org/comed](http://www.edenpr.org/comed)
- **FIRST Robotics Competition** challenges teams of high school age youth and their mentors to solve a common problem in a six-week timeframe using a standard "kit of parts" and a common set of rules. For more information, [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org).
- **Eden Prairie High School's** Mr. Maas had a team that entered this competition.

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## Running

- The **Eden Prairie Track & Field Association** invites children in grades K–6 to participate in a six-week track program with practice and instruction during the week, and meets each weekend. The goal of the program is to encourage kids to enjoy running, jumping, and throwing while also introducing them to the structure of track and field competition. Registration is in February, and the track season begins in April.
- Contact [president@eptfa.org](mailto:president@eptfa.org) or <http://www.eptfa.org>

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## Schools

- <http://www3.edenpr.org/wps/portal/>

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## Scouts

- See *Leadership*.

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## Skateboarding

- Visit the **Eden Prairie Skateboard Park** at Round Lake.
- The **Southdale YMCA** runs the Tri City Skate Park in Edina, is a series of in-ground concrete bowls ranging from 4 to 11 feet deep. The snake design and street elements on the side offers enough variety to accommodate any skill range. Southdale YMCA offers skateboard lessons and group rates. The skate park is opened from early spring to late fall. For more information [www.ymcatricityskatepark.org](http://www.ymcatricityskatepark.org) or call 952-838-3683.

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## Sledding

- Are you ready for some quality winter fun? Then grab your sled and head to the **Staring Lake Sledding Hill** which opens on December 14 until late February, depending on weather. Bring your own plastic sleds to enjoy this 700-foot sledding hill (sleds with metal runners, skis or snowboards are prohibited). There is no tow rope at this facility, but you can warm up at the warming house between trips down the hill. The facility is supervised.
- **Staring Lake Park** is located at 14800 Pioneer Trail, and the sledding hill is on the north side of the warming house. The warming house phone is 952-934-7120, and is open Mon–Fri, 4:00–8:00 pm; Sat–Sun, noon–5:00 pm.

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## Soccer

- **Eden Prairie Soccer Association** offers two seasons of recreational soccer to more than 4,000 youth aged between four (entering kindergarten in the fall) and 18 (in high school in the spring) in 12 age-segregated divisions. Spring registration is in February, and play is from May to June. Fall registration is in June, and the season is mid-August to mid-October. Teams meet twice a week with an emphasis on having fun and learning the game. Most practices and games are held at the Flying Cloud Fields. Hotline: 952-294-4645, [www.edenprairiesoccer.org](http://www.edenprairiesoccer.org)
- **Eden Prairie Soccer Club** offers a more competitive travel soccer experience for youth ages seven and older to play in the spring and fall, and a winter training program. Spring registration is in February, and the season is May to July. Fall registration is in August. All 800 players attend skill evaluation sessions and are placed at an appropriate team level. Hotline: 952-240-0867 [www.epsoccerclub.com](http://www.epsoccerclub.com)
- **YMCA** offers soccer, ages 4–10. Outdoor soccer is in spring and fall, and indoor soccer in late fall and winter. Call 952-897-5464 or <http://www.ymcatwincities.org/>

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## Small Business

- **Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest, Inc.** provides innovative, fundamental learning opportunities to prepare students grades K–12 for a lifetime of success. <http://www.jaum.org/>

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## Softball

- **Eden Prairie Fastpitch Association** offers girls softball programs including an in-house league for players in grades K–10 and a travel league for ages 8–18. Registration is held in early February. A fall travel league is also offered with registration in July. Fall and winter clinics are available for additional skill development. Hotline: 952-906-3896, [www.epfastpitch.com](http://www.epfastpitch.com)

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## Swimming

- Open swimming beaches with lifeguards: Lake Riley, Bryant Lake.
- **Aquajets Swim Team** offers children ages 6–18 the opportunity to experience competitive swimming in their Eden Prairie 13-lane private indoor training facility. The team is a member-owned non-profit. New member registration takes place the first two weeks of September and April each year or on an individual needs basis. Aquajets is a member of Minnesota Swimming, inc. and USA Swimming, Inc. Call 952-351-9928 or visit [www.aquajets.com](http://www.aquajets.com)
- **Eden Prairie Foxjet Swim Team** provides a competitive team swimming experience for swimmers ages 6–18. New member registration is the first two weeks of April, and new swimmers are welcomed on a year-round basis. Team Foxjet is a member of Minnesota Swimming, Inc. and USA Swimming. Call 952-210-8895 or <http://foxjet.usswim.net>

## YMCA

The YMCA is dedicated to building strong kids, strong families and strong communities. Sports, camps, leadership opportunities, and school aged child care programs are offered. Call 952-897-5464 or <http://www.ymcatwincities.org/>

### Sports

- **Baseball or T-ball:** For 4–10 year olds, spring and summer.
- **Basketball:** For 4–10 year olds, late fall and winter.
- **Skateboarding:** The skate park is open from early spring to late fall. [www.ymcatricityskatepark.org](http://www.ymcatricityskatepark.org) or call 952-838-3683.
- **Soccer:** For 4–10 year olds. Outdoor soccer in the spring and fall, indoor soccer in late fall and winter.

### Camps

- **Southdale YMCA** offers a variety of camps that offers a full day of programming for ages 4–13 during the summer, [www.ymcatwincities.org](http://www.ymcatwincities.org) or call 952-835-2567.
- **Summer Power Kindergarten Program** provides a full day of fun activities and adventures for ages 4–5 located at Eagle Heights School in Eden Prairie.
- **Summer Power Program** provides a full day of various activities including arts and crafts, science, nature, sports and fun fieldtrips for first to fourth graders. The program is held in Eden Prairie Elementary schools throughout the summer.
- **Summer Uproar Program** provides a full day of programming fun with challenging events. This summer recreational program is highly active and emphasizes experiential learning with a lot of cool fieldtrips for 5th to 8th graders in Eden Prairie.
- **Summer Sports Sampler** is a week-long camp for 4 year olds to 5th graders for basketball, baseball, t-ball, floor hockey, and soccer and has a weekly field trip. Located off Hwy. 494 and Penn Ave. in Richfield. Check out the specialty sports camps featuring golf, soccer, basketball, baseball, flag football and tennis.
- **Camp Kici Yapi** is a day camp for ages 4–13 on 80 acres of land in Prior Lake. It offers a week-long camp experience with a wide variety of fun activities including archery, canoeing, climbing wall, giant slide, and horseback riding.

### Leadership Programs

Contact the Southdale YMCA at 952-838-3683 or [www.ymcatwincities.org](http://www.ymcatwincities.org).

- **Leaders Club** is offered for youth in grades 8–12 giving teens a chance make friends from Eden Prairie, Edina, Richfield and Bloomington while working on cool community service projects.
- **Leaders In Training** is offered during the summer for youth who will be entering grades 7 and 8 in the fall. This program offers youth a chance to discover their leadership skills while working with children. Leaders in training will learn and develop skills needed to lead camper activities, including personal development through confidence building and responsibility management, as well as group development through activity planning and event organization while working with a camp counselor. Opportunities are offered at **Summer Sports** in Richfield and **Camp Kici Yapi** (bus stops for Camp Kici Yapi are located in Eden Prairie).

- **Youth In Government** is open to all youth in grades 8–12 interested in local, state, national and international issues. Research and debate public issues with youth leaders around the state and spend a weekend at the State Capitol.
- **Model UN** creates a working replica of United Nations, conducted almost entirely by students, and is for 7th–12th graders interested in world issues and global concerns.
- **Y's Start** program is for junior high school students at Eden Prairie Central Middle School, twice a week for a seven week period throughout the school year. Youth get involved in service learning, recreational and personal growth opportunities

### School Age Before and After School Programs

- **School's Out** provides your child with a chance to play while you're at work. Your child will enjoy trying new games, making friends and creative play in our safe, fun and recreational program before and after school. Activities include arts and crafts, science, sports, indoor and outdoor games, and homework club. Southdale YMCA offers before and after care programming at all of the Eden Prairie Elementary schools.
- **Kidscope After-school Program** is a recreational program for 5th-6th graders at Oak Point Intermediate, after school until 6:00p.m. A wide variety of activities including arts and crafts, science, homework club, service learning, outdoor play and gym games.
- **School Release Day program** is a full-day recreational program for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade, which is available during school workshop days and vacation breaks. Activities include field trips, indoor and outdoor games, arts and crafts, and sports. The release day programs are held at various Eden Prairie Elementary schools throughout the school year.

## Volleyball

- **Eden Prairie Volleyball Association** registration is in August, with practice and games Thursdays and Saturdays from late August to October, for girls in grades 3–6.
- **Junior Olympic** teams in grades 5–10 have tryouts in November, with practice on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Call 952-949-1126 [www.theepgaa.com](http://www.theepgaa.com)

## Volunteer

- **Eden Prairie Volunteers** is a community resource to connect people of all ages seeking opportunities to volunteer with Eden Prairie organizations: <http://www.edenprairievolunteers.org/faq.asp>
- **Students Learning in Communities (SLIC)** at EPHS provides students with a variety of opportunities to volunteer in Eden Prairie: <http://www.edenpr.org/ephs/activities/slic.html>

## Wrestling

- **Eden Prairie Wrestling Club** is a K–8th grade program. Prior experience is not required, and every effort is made to match experience and ability levels during practices. Like any sport, some athletes wrestle year-round, others (especially first and second year wrestlers) find that a three month season is adequate.
- There are two sessions: mid-November to mid-January, and mid-January to mid-March.
- For more information visit [www.epwrestlingclub.org](http://www.epwrestlingclub.org)