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Oberlin Heritage Center Offers Award-Winning Summer Camps

The Oberlin Heritage Center is offering four weeks of day camps this summer for kids of all ages. Teens have a chance to go behind the scenes at the Heritage Center and the Allen Memorial Art Museum to find out about the inner-working of museums and careers in art and history. Young explorers will be introduced to Italy from tip to toe as they delve into the culture and cuisine of the "boot-shaped" country. Boys and girls will be challenged with handson activities as they design and construct mini architectural projects. The Oberlin Heritage Center's summer camp program is a 2011 recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Ohio Local History Alliance, an association of local history museums and historical societies from throughout the state.

The Heritage Center's camps are led by an experienced teacher assisted by college student interns and community volunteers. This summer's line-up includes:

Teen Camp: A Week at the Museum offered June 25 - 29, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Oberlin Heritage Center and Allen Memorial Art Museum team up to offer a behind-the-scenes camp for teens. Campers will tour the world-class Allen Memorial Art Museum, highlyregarded Oberlin Heritage Center, and the one-of-a-kind Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house in Oberlin as they learn what it takes to make a museum come to life. This camp is perfect for youth wanting to learn more about museums and careers in art and history.

Kids and World Cultures: Italy through the Ages takes place July 30 – August 3, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This camp, designed for boys and girls ages 8-13, encourages youngsters to explore Italy from its ancient roots to the present. What made the Roman Empire the envy of the ancient world? Why does the Leaning Tower of Pisa lean? Who is Galileo and what did he discover? Kids will enjoy a mixture of activities, food, games, pictures, mini-language lessons, and more.

Architecture Camp for children ages 8-10 will be offered August 6 - 10, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00. Children love learning the basics of architecture in this hands-on camp. Kids will tour Oberlin architecture, explore building materials, try construction challenges, and envision buildings of the future. Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts attending this camp will also complete some requirements for Architecture badges and Interest Projects.

Architecture Camp for ages 11-13 is held August 13 - 17, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This camp adds new dimensions of challenge and fun for slightly older kids. Together we will tour buildings in town and discuss architectural styles, sketch designs, construct mini buildings, create floor plans, and explore digital architectural tools. Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts attending this camp will also complete some requirements for Architecture badges and Interest Projects.

Notes about Camps and Registration

Except for the Week at the Museum teen camp, sessions are held at the air-conditioned Oberlin Depot at 240 South Main Street, with some walking field trips nearby. Week-long kids' camps are \$95 (\$85 for children or grandchildren of OHC members). The teen camp fee is \$75 (\$65 for children and grandchildren of OHC members) with a \$25 reimbursement for students who complete at least 15 hours of service for either museum by the end of 2012. Anyone registering prior to June 9 may take an additional \$5 discount on each camp. Partial scholarships may be available to those who qualify for schools' free lunch programs.

The Oberlin Heritage Center also offers an "I Spy Oberlin: History and Architecture Scavenger Hunt" for younger children (ages 5-11) with an adult companion on the first Saturday of the month in July, August and September from 3-4 p.m. Meet at the Monroe House rain or shine (73½ South Professor Street). Families will be guided through historic Oberlin keeping eyes peeled for historic markers, decorative details and Oberlin oddities (and we'll "spy" inside the Heritage Center's historic buildings in inclement weather). Fee is \$3 per child, and accompanying adults are free. Fun and engaging for all!

More information, including online registration, can be found at www.oberlinheritage.org or by contacting Liz Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

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