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| **Across the Mid-Atlantic, Families Find Exciting Spring Break Activities**    **(U.S. Mid-Atlantic Region, February 12, 2016)**- With spring break around the corner, families are seeking sensational vacation opportunities that don't always include lounging at the beach. Destinations across the mid-Atlantic offer interesting spring break locations that enable families to hike, swim, explore, have fun, and learn together.    The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) has compiled details about some of the most exciting spring break destinations across the region. Interested in learning more about an event, location, or tour listed below? Contact the visitors bureau in the description for information.    **Delaware**  **Greater Wilmington** Get back in touch with nature at the DuPont Environmental Education Center.   Take a naturalist-led hike, go dip netting in the tidal pond and keep an eye open for 200 species of wildlife identified in the 212-acre urban wildlife refuge located at the southern end of Wilmington's riverfront.  *Greater Wilmington Convention & Visitors Bureau, Lyn Lewis,* [*lynlewis@visitwilmingtonde.com*](mailto:lynlewis@visitwilmingtonde.com)*,*[*VisitWilmingtonDE.com*](http://www.visitwilmingtonde.com/)    **Maryland**  **Baltimore**  This spring break Baltimore will introduce the inaugural Light City, the first large-scale international light festival in the United States. The free seven-day festival is a celebration of light, art, music and innovation featuring 28 illuminated art installations, 50 concerts, and 100 performances along the 1.5-mile light art walk. *Visit Baltimore, Moneé Cottman,* [*mcottman@baltimore.org*](mailto:mcottman@baltimore.org)*,*[*Baltimore.org*](http://www.baltimore.org/)  **Calvert County**  Bring the family to Calvert County for spring break to find great activities and attractions that won't break your budget. Enjoy museums, fossil hunting, watermen tours, hiking, kayaking, and canoeing.  Call 410-535-4583 for the list of free and low-cost things to do and make family memories for a lifetime.  *Calvert County Department of Economic Development, Joyce Baki,* [*bakija@co.cal.md.us*](mailto:bakija@co.cal.md.us)*,*[*ChooseCalvert.com*](http://choosecalvert.com/)    **Montgomery County**  Take your family on a treetop adventure! The Adventure Park at Sandy Spring is the largest forest climbing park in the nation, featuring varying challenge levels for day or night climbing.  Go Ape features a zipline over a road and the USA's first skateboard zipline! *Visit Montgomery, Bethany Manimbo,*[*bmanimbo@visitmontgomery.com*](mailto:bmanimbo@visitmontgomery.com)*,*[*VisitMontgomery.com*](http://www.visitmontgomery.com/)    **Pennsylvania**  **Pennsylvania Tourism Office**  Enjoy the great outdoors with a visit to Pennsylvania's award-winning botanical gardens, state parks, zoos, and bike trails. Whether you smell the roses at a 187-year-old Flower Show tradition or test your skills at America's oldest golf course, springtime has something for everyone in the Keystone State. *Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Quinn Bryner,* [*qbryner@tierneyagency.com*](mailto:qbryner@tierneyagency.com)*,* [*VisitPA.com*](http://www.visitpa.com/)    **Butler County**  Moraine State Park is packed with spring activities! Kayak, fish, swim, or paddle board on Lake Arthur and hike through the North Country National Scenic Trail. There are many campgrounds onsite as well for a more rustic trip, like Bear Run and Coopers Lake Campgrounds.  *Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau, Kimberly Windisch,* [*kimberly@krolmedia.com*](mailto:kimberly@krolmedia.com)*,*[*VisitButlerCounty.com*](http://www.visitbutlercounty.com/)    **Central PA**  Build your reading list from over 250,000 books at the four-day AAUW Used Book Sale each May. Tackle the trails by mountain bike at the Trans-Sylvania Epic Mountain Bike Stage Race. Learn the history of maple syrup from experts at the Shaver's Creek Maple Harvest Festival.  *Central PA Convention & Visitors Bureau, Andy Rupert,* [*andyr@visitpennstate.org*](mailto:andyr@visitpennstate.org)*,* [*VisitPennState.org*](http://www.visitpennstate.org/)    **Cumberland Valley** Take a break this spring to explore the Appalachian Trail, where you'll find the midway point of the trail and the A.T. Museum, the only museum in the U.S. dedicated to hiking. There are also three state parks nearby for more hiking fun. *Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, Aaron Jumper,*[*aaron@visitcumberlandvalley.com*](mailto:aaron@visitcumberlandvalley.com)*,*[*VisitCumberlandValley.com*](http://visitcumberlandvalley.com/)    **Endless Mountains**  Getting up close to wildlife at the Endless Mountains Nature Center, bike riding through Loyalsock Forest, kayaking the Susquehanna River, and sampling sweets at Loch's Maple are family activities waiting to be shared on a spring break in the Endless Mountains of Northeastern Pennsylvania!  *Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher,* [*sales@endlessmountains.org*](mailto:sales@endlessmountains.org)*,* [*EndlessMountains.org*](http://www.endlessmountains.org/)    **Franklin County**  Bring the whole family to Franklin County this spring break for hiking, fishing, swimming, and more! From the beautiful Caledonia State Park to Michaux State Forest, to kayak lessons from Kirk's Kayaks, to homemade goodies from Nathan Miller Chocolates, there is something for the whole family. *Franklin County Visitors Bureau, Lauren Cappuccio,* [*lcappuccio@explorefranklincountypa.com*](mailto:lcappuccio@explorefranklincountypa.com)*,*[*ExploreFranklinCountyPA.com*](http://explorefranklincountypa.com/)    **Greater Reading**  Families that play together relish the outdoor activities available spring break and year-round in Greater Reading, Pennsylvania.  Peddle, paddle, and trek to unforgettable fun in the beautiful and convenient location.  Spend downtime visiting unique attractions, fascinating historic sites, quaint Main Streets, and great shops. Adventure awaits!  *Greater Reading Convention & Visitors Bureau, Lisa Haggerty,* [*lisa@gogreaterreading.com*](mailto:lisa@gogreaterreading.com)*,* [*GoGreaterReading.com*](http://www.gogreaterreading.com/)  **Huntingdon County**  The Raystown Lake Region of Pennsylvania has opportunities aplenty to breathe in the fresh air, walk through the forest, or enjoy the unspoiled shoreline scenery of Raystown Lake during spring break. Bring your boots, kayak, and mountain bike - hundreds of miles of trails! Find a cabin and enjoy s'mores! *Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau, Ed Stoddard,* [*estoddard@raystown.org*](mailto:estoddard@raystown.org)*,*[*Raystown.org*](http://raystown.org/)    **Indiana County**  Embrace beauty inside or out!  Families love the outdoor wonderland from ice fishing, ice skating, sledding, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling -- boasting pristine beauty and no crowds at local scenic parks!  Family painting/pottery and crafts at Artists Hand and Founders Gallery.  Enjoy theater at Indiana Players or IUP Lively Arts! *Indiana County Tourist Bureau, Maria Jack,*[*mjack@visitindianacountypa.org*](mailto:mjack@visitindianacountypa.org)*,*[*VisitIndianaCountyPA.org*](http://www.visitindianacountypa.org/)    **Lancaster County**  Find great buys, get Pennsylvania Dutch eats, and talk with local Amish farmers and craftsmen during Lancaster County's unique "mud sales" season, mainly late February through early April.  These community auctions benefit local fire companies and provide some of the most authentic interaction available with our Amish neighbors. *Discover Lancaster, Joel Cliff,* [*jcliff@discoverlancaster.com*](mailto:jcliff@discoverlancaster.com)*,*[*DiscoverLancaster.com*](http://discoverlancaster.com/)    **Pocono Mountains** The Pocono Mountains region makes an excellent spring break destination. Whether you're looking for one last ski run, a chance to practice your swing on the links, or 84-degree temperatures at an indoor waterpark resort, the region is an ideal getaway for a spring break the whole family can enjoy. *Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Elizabeth Richardson,*  [*erichardson@poconos.org*](mailto:erichardson@poconos.org)*,*[*PoconoMountains.com*](http://www.poconomountains.com/)    **Tioga County Visitors Bureau**  Get away to a rustic cabin surrounded by the lush beauty of Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon for family time during Spring Break!  Sharing an Ole Covered Wagon ride, dinner on the Tioga Central Railroad, or a movie at our restored local theaters offers a more deliberate pace to recharge and reconnect.  *Tioga County Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher,* [*morgan@visittiogapa.com*](mailto:morgan@visittiogapa.com)*,* [*VisitTiogaPA.com*](http://www.visittiogapa.com/)    **Virginia**  **Hampton**  Celebrate a well-deserved week off in Hampton, where adventure extends from the sea to the stars. Relax on our four beaches, enjoy attractions including the Virginia Air & Space Center and Miss Hampton II Harbor Cruise, and plan for spring festivals, such as the International Children's Festival in May. *Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau, Shannon Hoy,* [*shannon.hoy@hamptoncvb.com*](mailto:shannon.hoy@hamptoncvb.com)*,*[*VisitHampton.com*](http://www.visithampton.com/)  **Harrisonburg**  A family-friendly destination, Harrisonburg boasts an extensive selection of museums, parks, playgrounds, and eateries. Explore shops and restaurants of downtown while enjoying artwork made by local artisans. Get outdoors with attractions like the Shenandoah National Park or Lake Shenandoah. Begin your adventure and discover why "it's Better in the Burg." *Harrisonburg Tourism & Visitor Services, Jessica Williams,* [*jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov*](mailto:jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov)*,*[*VisitHarrisonburgVA.com*](http://www.visitharrisonburgva.com/)  **Lexington and the Rockbridge Area**  Spend spring break in Lexington, Virginia, this year. You'll come for the fun, family-friendly attractions-like the Caverns and Monacan Indian Living History Exhibit at Natural Bridge Park or the Virginia Safari Park and Natural Bridge Zoo-and stay for the beautiful nature, endless outdoor activities and quaint city vibes. *Lexington and Rockbridge Area Tourism, Patty Williams,*[*marketing@lexingtonvirgina.com*](mailto:marketing@lexingtonvirginia.com)*,*[*LexingtonVirginia.com*](http://www.lexingtonvirginia.com/)    **Loudoun County**  Take the family to the National Air & Space Museum at Dulles where thousands of artifacts and aircrafts are suspended throughout two hangars.  See the Space Shuttle Discovery and a Concorde, watch a show in the IMAX theater, or get a bird's-eye view of Washington Dulles International Airport. *Visit Loudoun, Jennifer Buske-Sigal,* [*sigal@visitloudoun.org*](mailto:sigal@visitloudoun.org)*,* [*VisitLoudoun.org*](http://www.visitloudoun.org/)  **Prince William & Manassas**  Prince William & Manassas is the perfect place for a family spring break trip, offering affordable hotel rooms and numerous outdoor activities.  With national, state, and local parks, you can become an outdoor enthusiast. Get the family active this spring break and enjoy hiking, biking, canoeing, and camping!  *Prince William & Manassas, Nicole Warner,* [*nwarner@discoverpwm.com*](mailto:nwarner@discoverpwm.com)*,*[*DiscoverPWM.com*](http://www.discoverpwm.com/)  **Roanoke**  Families will reach new heights together in Virginia's Blue Ridge with a full-day hike up McAfee Knob, the most photographed spot on the Appalachian Trail.  Prefer indoor adventures? Bounce around at the new Launch Pad Trampoline Park in Salem or take on the Rock Wall at River Rock climbing gym.  *Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau, Catherine Fox,*[*cfox@visitroanokeva.com*](mailto:cfox@visitroanokeva.com)*,*[*VisitVABlueRidge.com*](http://www.visitvablueridge.com/)    **Shenandoah County**  Embrace winter this spring break!  Hit the slopes at Bryce Resort for skiing and tubing, or take advantage of their top-rated ski-school.  Head underground to the mild 55-degree temperatures of Shenandoah Caverns for nature's spectacular geological formations or take an educational tour of the County's several historical museums.  *Shenandoah County Tourism, Jenna French,*[*jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us*](mailto:jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us)*,*[*ShenandoahTravel.org*](http://www.shenandoahtravel.org/) |

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| **About Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance**  The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) is a cohesive unit of regional tourism partners encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. The group serves travel journalists by creating a regional resource that ignores geographical boundaries. The Alliance promotes common threads and offers saleable stories to journalists about the mid-Atlantic destination as a whole. For more information, visit [www.matpra.org](http://www.matpra.org/).    # # # |