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The History Center highlights summer with a rich variety of programs for all ages

The Orange County Regional History Center invites visitors to explore a June and July filled with engaging programs for all ages, from a look back at 150 years of the *Orlando Sentinel* to Juneteenth celebrations, Florida history talks, and family-friendly museum experiences. Our Adventures in History Summer Camp is also underway for ages 6–11, with select sessions still available through Aug. 7. Learn more and register at TheHistoryCenter.org/Camps.

Lunch & Learn: 150 Years of the *Orlando Sentinel*

Friday, June 5, 2026, Noon – 1 p.m.

Join the History Center as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the *Orlando Sentinel*, Central Florida’s resource for news about our community and beyond since 1876. Using selections from the *Sentinel*’s extensive photo archive, History Center staff members Jeremy Hileman and Sarah Boye will discuss the publication’s history as well as some of the most fascinating stories it has covered over the years.

Cost: Free for History Center Members; General Public \$5. Cost with lunch: \$12 for History Center Members; General Public \$17. (Lunch must be ordered by 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 4.)

Details & registration: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/150-Years-of-the-Orlando-Sentinel/

History Alive: Famous Floridians

Friday, June 19, 2026, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Celebrate Juneteenth at the History Center with this family-friendly day! Meet the trailblazers who shaped our region in unforgettable ways – from the musicians who lit up Orlando’s South Street Casino to activists and community builders whose legacies continue today. Engage with the evolving story of freedom in our ongoing exhibition *How Distant Seems Our Starting Place*, join a guided museum tour, and enjoy hands-on activities that highlight the Black Floridians who helped elevate Central Florida’s culture and history. Admission is free for this event.

Guided museum tours: 10:30 a.m., Noon, 1:45 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/History-Alive-Famous-Floridians-2/

Free Admission for Dads on Father's Day

Sunday, June 21, 2026, Noon – 5 p.m.

Father's Day is a time to celebrate all the important men or caregivers in our life. It might be your dad, your grandpa or anyone who has played an important role. On Father's Day, the History Center offers free admission to any caregiver accompanied by their loved one.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Free-Admission-on-Fathers-Day/

Lunch & Learn: Rebel Rousers – The History of Softball in Central Florida

Friday, July 10, 2026, Noon – 1 p.m.

From youth leagues to the Olympics and professional competition, softball is a predominantly women's sport that continues to grow in influence. Since its first recorded game in 1887, it has evolved into a major athletic and cultural force, though the sport did not gain a foothold in Central Florida until the 1920s. Join the History Center's archivist, Katie Marra, as she discusses the history of softball in Central Florida, highlighting influences such as the Orlando Rebels, Olympic gold medalist Dot Richardson, and the development of the region's expansive softball complexes.

Cost: Free for History Center Members; General Public \$5. Cost with lunch: \$12 for History Center Members; General Public \$17. (Lunch must be ordered by 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 9.)

Details & registration: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Lunch-Learn-Softball-in-Central-Florida/

History Alive: Florida's Natural World

Friday, July 11, 2026, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Journey through Florida's wild and wondrous natural history as you explore prehistoric landscapes, early human ingenuity, and the sometimes bizarre creatures that still call Central Florida home. From towering mammoths to mysterious swamp dwellers, Florida's environment has shaped life here for thousands of years. Uncover ancient artifacts, test your knowledge of local wildlife, and celebrate the natural forces that make Orlando truly extraordinary.

Guided museum tours: 10:30 a.m., Noon, 1:45 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/History-Floridas-Natural-Environment/

Pocket Exhibit: *Extra! Extra! The Orlando Sentinel Turns 150*

On Display June 6, 2026 – January 3, 2027

From its beginnings in 1876 as the *Orange County Reporter*, the *Orlando Sentinel* has grown alongside the city it serves. Today, as a three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper, it celebrates 150 years of journalism, community, and storytelling. The History Center marks this milestone with *Extra! Extra! The Orlando Sentinel Turns 150*, a pocket exhibit showcasing photographs, archival materials, and artifacts from our collection that reflect the paper's long presence in the region. This exhibit invites visitors to encounter original materials that highlight how the *Sentinel* has been read, experienced, and remembered across generations.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Exhibition/Extra-Extra/

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The Orange County Regional History Center, housed in a historic courthouse at 65 E. Central Blvd. in downtown Orlando, features four floors of permanent and special exhibitions. The museum is a Smithsonian Institution affiliate and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It is funded in part by Orange County Government through the Community & Family Services Department under Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings and the Board of County Commissioners. The Historical Society of Central Florida Inc. is supported by United Arts of Central Florida and sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. For more information, visit TheHistoryCenter.org.

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Media Advisory: June 6, 2026