

Important Notes

General Information

- Cyclone Family Weekend registration is free
- Families are asked to register for Cyclone Family Weekend for planning purposes

Events not listed below are open to all Cyclone Family Weekend registrants and are free to attend.

Ticketed Meal – available for purchase during registration. Families can attend both meals, if desired.

Ticketed Meals include:

- Seasons Lunch Chili Cook-Off
- Friley Windows Brunch

Some events require tickets outside of Cyclone Family Weekend registration (may be free or require payment). Instructions for reserving tickets to these events are included in the event description or will be provided at a later date. Families can reserve/purchase as many of these tickets as available.

These events include:

- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Family Reception Breakfast
- Bacon Expo
- Reiman Gardens regular admission
- Planetarium Shows
- Collage of Choirs
- Shows at the Maintenance Shop (M-Shop)

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Parent and Family Programs



Cyclone Family Weekend 2026 Schedule of Events

*Schedule is subject to change

Friday, October 23, 2026

Reiman Gardens Discounted Access \$

Tickets Required – purchase through Reiman Gardens

Location: Reiman Gardens

Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm (butterfly wing closes at 4:30pm)

Reiman Gardens is offering discounted day passes to Cyclone Family Weekend participants! Pre-purchased tickets are required and can be found on the Reiman Gardens website closer to Cyclone Family Weekend. Please check their website for parking instructions.

Check-in

Location: Student Services Building, First-floor Lobby

Time: 9:00am – 6:00pm

Don't forget to check in for Cyclone Family Weekend when you arrive! Registered family and friends will receive registration materials. Staff will be available to answer any questions you may have about the weekend, ISU or the Ames community. Additional information regarding check-in, including early check-in dates and times, will be sent to the registered email address closer to Cyclone Family Weekend.



Carillon Concert

Location: Campanile South Lawn

Time: 11:50am-12:10pm

Enjoy a Carillon concert at 11:50am on the South Lawn of the Campanile. This concert will feature family-themed songs you won't want to miss!

ClubFest is Over, Now What? Curating Your Involvement

Location: Memorial Union, Cardinal Room

Time: 1:00-2:00pm

ClubFest is just the beginning of a student's involvement journey, but what comes next? This interactive session is designed for both students and their families to explore how meaningful campus connections are built after the initial excitement of ClubFest fades. Involvement is not just joining clubs, but a dynamic process of exploration, connection, and growth that supports college student success. We'll discuss how students can navigate follow-up steps, evaluate organizations that fit their interests and values, and stay engaged even when schedules get busy or first meetings feel overwhelming.

Beyond the Letters: A Family Guide to the Sorority and Fraternity Experience

Location: TBD

Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm

Join sorority and fraternity student leaders and staff for a panel designed to help families better understand and connect with the sorority and fraternity community at Iowa State. Panelists will share insights on joining, involvement, and values, while offering tips on how families can stay informed and involved throughout their students' sorority and fraternity experience.

National Student Exchange: Adventure Awaits!

Location: TBD

Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm

National Student Exchange offers undergraduate students domestic exchange options at 170+ other colleges and universities through the U.S., Canada, and U.S. Territories. Students can take new or unique courses in their major, explore a new part of the U.S. or Canada, and begin networking for graduate school and employment opportunities in a new location. NSE can be an affordable option for students, including the possibility of in-state tuition at the host institution, and most ISU financial aid traveling with them. Participate in this session to learn more and speak with NSE staff!

Study Abroad Center Open House

Location: Parks Library, Study Abroad Center

Time: 2:00pm-4:00pm

Drop by the Study Abroad Center open house to pick up a brochure or speak with a study abroad advisor. Advisors will be available to speak broadly about study abroad or more in depth about many programs.

Off-Campus Living Information Session

Location: TBD

Time: 3:00pm-3:30pm

This interactive session will help students and families take the next step toward exploring housing options. Participants will engage in a guided activity to identify priorities, such as location, budget, amenities, and living preferences. This hands-on workshop is designed to help students and their families feel more confident and prepared heading into the housing fair on Saturday, October 24.

The Top Ten Mistakes that Renters Make

Location: TBD

Time: 3:30pm-4:00pm

First time college renters often make easily avoidable lease mistakes when moving off campus. Avoid the headache and attend Student Legal Services' "Top Ten Mistakes Renter's Make" presentation to learn easy-to-remember principles that will better equip you and your student to negotiate their first lease.

Student Innovation Center Showcase

Location: Student Innovation Center, Floors 0, 1, 2, 3

Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Dive into a world of creativity and exploration at the Student Innovation Center! Families can enjoy open Makerspaces like the Metal and Wood Shop and Digital Media Studio, try a Virtual Reality demo or watch students and staff create and craft in a variety of textile mediums! More activities will be announced later this summer.

Family Living Room

Parent and Family Programs Featured Event

Location: TBD

Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Kick off your weekend with the Family Living Room! After checking in, families can enjoy a comfortable environment to reconnect with their student and meet new friends. There will be activities designed to help you meet families and students with similar interests or learn from those with different backgrounds—whether that be major, class year, or location. Savor light snacks (while supplies last) and compete against your student in your favorite board game. With casual activities throughout the evening, this is the

perfect opportunity to reunite with your student, meet other Cyclone families, and start the weekend festivities.

CyBowl & Billiards

Location: Memorial Union, Ground Floor

Time: 7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ready to roll some strikes and show off your bowling skills or rack 'em up in a game of pool? Look no further than CyBowl and Billiards, conveniently located right here on campus. CyBowl and Billiards will be available for Cyclone Family Weekend participants so stop by anytime to play a game as long as there are lanes or billiards tables open.

Cyclone Cinema

Student-run Event

Location: Carver Hall, Room 101

Time: 7:00pm

Presented by the Student Union Board. Unwind with your family after a day of exploring campus and the community by watching an exciting family-friendly movie! Concessions will be available for purchase. Seating is limited to first-come, first-served. Open captions are available by letting the staff know before the movie starts. *Show selection will be released in the fall.*

Saturday, October 24, 2025

Check-in

Location: Student Services Building, First-floor Lobby

Time: 8:00am – 12:00pm

Can't arrive until Saturday? We will be here to greet you! Registered family and friends will receive registration materials. Staff will also be available to answer any questions you may have about the weekend, ISU or the Ames community. Additional information regarding check-in, including early check-in dates and times, will be sent to the registered email address closer to Cyclone Family Weekend. 10-minute parking for this check-in will be available in Lot 4.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Family Reception Breakfast

Ticketed Event – through the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Location: Hansen Agriculture Student Learning Center

Time: 7:00am – 8:30am

Please note that this event is only open to families of first-year students and new transfer students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is excited to invite the newest Cyclones (incoming freshmen and transfer students) and their families to a reception. There will be a continental breakfast provided and a short program at 8:15 am along with door prizes, so brush up on your ISU trivia. At the reception, students will be able to introduce their guests to advisors in their major and interact with college leadership. **Advanced registration will be required through the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.**

First Scholars Office Open House

Location: Memorial Union, Room 3220

Time: 8:00am – 9:30am

The First Scholars Office provides support designed for first-generation and income-eligible students. Stop by our office in 3220 Memorial Union to meet the staff, ask questions, decorate a mug, and have some coffee and donuts.

ISU Research Park Open House

Location: ISU Economic Development Core Facility, 1805 Collaboration Place

Time: 8:00am – 10:00am

Join us for an open house and light breakfast at the ISU Research Park! Interact with tenant companies as well as Research Park staff to learn how your student can be engaged with entrepreneurial or employment opportunities. Doors open at 8:00am. Research Park overview at 8:30am. Networking to follow until event ends at 10:00am. Free parking surrounds the building.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Open House Reception

Location: Troxel Hall Lounge

Time: 8:30am – 9:30am

Stop by Troxel Hall lounge for an open house reception with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences! Meet college faculty and student support staff in LAS and enjoy light breakfast items. Stay for an exciting chemistry demonstration led by the Society of Chemistry Undergraduate Majors (SCUM) from 9:30am-10:00am in Troxel room 1001. Students are encouraged to grab an LAS goodie bag with study snacks at the open house!

Ivy College of Business: Donuts and Discussion

Location: Gerdin Business Building, Granite Hallway

Time: 9:00am – 10:00am

Ivy College of Business staff will be serving donuts and coffee (while supplies last) to students and families. Brief tours of the Gerdin Business Building will also be available, if interested. Entry to Gerdin Business Building will be through the west main entrance.

Reiman Gardens Discounted Access \$

Tickets Required – purchase through Reiman Gardens

Location: Reiman Gardens

Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm (butterfly wing closes at 4:30pm)

Reiman Gardens is offering discounted day passes to Cyclone Family Weekend participants! Pre-purchased tickets are required and can be found on the Reiman Gardens website closer to Cyclone Family Weekend. Please check their website for parking instructions.

Chemistry Demonstration

Student-run Event

Location: Troxel Hall, Room 1001

Time: 9:30am – 10:00am

Bring the whole family to experience the wonders of chemistry like never before! The Chemistry Learning Community and Society of Chemistry Undergraduate Majors (SCUM) will provide a variety of demonstrations using their chemistry knowledge. Come experience demos such as:

- The Methane Mamba
- Gummi Bears
- Hydrogen/Oxygen Reactions
- Genie in a Bottle
- Elephant Toothpaste
- Fireworks

Seating for this event is first-come, first-served.

Bacon Expo \$

Student-run Event

Location: Hansen Agriculture Student Learning Center

Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm, while supplies last

The Iowa State Bacon Expo brings together philanthropic service and the swine industry. The event showcases a variety of bacon dishes for participants to try, while educating them about the swine industry. All proceeds from the Bacon Expo are donated to a philanthropy. Tickets will be sold at the door while supplies last. Pricing for tickets is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.



Family Craft at the Workspace

Location: Memorial Union, East Basement

Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Channel your Cyclone spirit into your creations with a family craft at the Workspace. You'll take home unique keepsakes that capture the memories made during Cyclone Family Weekend. Choose between two crafts: Sharpie tie dye shirts and mini pennant banners. Seating in the Workspace is limited and is first-come, first-served. Check back later if the room is full when you arrive! *While supplies last.*

Behind the Badge: ISU Police Open House

Location: Armory, 2519 Osborn Dr.

Time: 11:00am-3:00pm

The Iowa State University Police Department Open House is an opportunity for students and families to connect directly with ISU PD and learn more about the resources available on campus. The event will feature interactive activities and informal conversations with officers, giving attendees a chance to ask questions and get to know the department in a welcoming setting.

Guests will be able to explore ISU PD resources through hands-on experiences such as visiting a squad car, meeting therapy dogs, taking photos, enjoying snacks, and participating in family-friendly yard games. The open house is designed to create a relaxed and engaging environment where students and families can learn more about campus safety, community support, and the people who serve the Iowa State community.

Graduate College Open House

Location: East Lawn Outside Pearson Hall

Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm

Visit the Graduate College outside Pearson Hall to learn more about graduate programs available at ISU and meet some of the great staff in the office. Stop by and grab some snacks, water, and Graduate College swag!

College of Engineering Open House

Location: Student Innovation Center, Floor 1

Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm

Explore engineering student organizations, clubs, and departments, see glass blowing, play trivia, and grab a snack! Join us at the Student Innovation Center.

College of Design Open House

Location: College of Design Atrium

Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm

The College of Design is hosting an open house in the College of Design Atrium where families will be greeted by staff, faculty, and administration. There will be light refreshments provided and studio spaces will be open for families to visit.

Seasons Lunch Chili Cook-off \$

Ticketed Meal

Location: Seasons Marketplace

Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm

Come watch – and vote for – a delicious chili cook-off at Seasons Marketplace, courtesy of ISU Dining! The menu will include options for those with dietary restrictions. Tickets can be purchased during registration.

Parks Library Archives Open House

Location: Parks Library, Room 405 (the Special Collections classroom)

Time: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Explore generations of Iowa State stories at the Special Collections and University Archives. Tour the reading room in 403 Parks Library to discover collections featuring families throughout Iowa State history.

Rock Climbing Wall

Location: State Gym

Time: 12:00pm – 4:00pm

Try your hand...s and feet at our two rock climbing walls, top rope wall and bouldering wall. Climbing walls will be reserved for Cyclone Family Weekend participants and will be first-come, first-served. Climbing equipment will be provided at no cost. Participants will sign a waiver prior to this activity.

University Museums Open Houses

Locations: Brunnier Art Museum (1805 Center Dr, 295 Scheman Building), Farm House Museum (601 Farm House Ln), Christian Petersen Art Museum (1017 Morrill Hall), Anderson Sculpture Garden (East and South of Morrill Hall, 603 Morrill Rd)

Time: 12:00pm – 4:00pm

Weekdays too busy for a museum visit? Don't miss your chance to explore University Museums' locations and their exciting fall exhibitions during Open Houses this Cyclone Family Weekend! **Free admission.**

ISU Creamery Open House

Location: Food Sciences Building

Time: 12:00pm – 5:00pm

Learn how the ISU Creamery produces its ice cream and cheese through self-guided displays! Sample Cheddar cheese made by ISU undergraduate students and have the opportunity to purchase ice cream and cheese from the ISU Creamery retail store (open 12:00pm-5:00pm).

Campanile-Carillon Model Concert and Open House

Student-run Event

Location: Biorenewables Complex, Sukup Atrium

Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Step into a world of musical wonder and architectural splendor when you visit the Sukup Atrium to explore the 3,000-pound, 1:5 scale replica of the ISU Campanile and 27-bell Carillon Model hosted by ISU's Student Carillonneur Leadership Council. This open house includes a concert performance and hands-on activities. ISU Carillon Festival website: <https://carillon.music.iastate.edu/event/2026/carillon-festival-2026>

College of Health and Human Sciences Open House

Location: LeBaron Atrium

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

The College of Health and Human Sciences will host an Open House on Saturday from 1:00-3:00pm. Please join us in the LeBaron atrium for some sweet treats and explore the newly renovated LeBaron Hall!

Cyclone Social

Parent and Family Programs Featured Event

Location: Jack Trice Stadium, Sukup End Zone Club

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Step inside and explore the Sukup End Zone Club! Chat with fellow Cyclone families, enjoy views of the football field, and savor light snacks. Don't forget to capture fun memories at our photobooth!

Shows at the ISU Planetarium

Location: Basement of Physics Hall, Room B57

Times: 2:00pm-2:30pm, 2:30pm-3:00pm, 3:00pm-3:30pm, 3:30-4:00pm

Come enjoy free, interactive family-friendly shows at the planetarium! Located in the basement of Physics Hall, the planetarium hosts educational and engaging shows about topics in astronomy. Each show will run approximately 25 minutes. Tickets can be reserved and details will be released at a later date.

Carillon Recital

Location: Central Campus

Time: 3:00pm – 3:45pm

Enjoy a Carillon Recital by guest carillonneur Povl Christian Balslev from Svendborg, Denmark. Balslev holds a Carillonneur Diploma from the Nordic School of Carillon in Løgumkloster, Denmark. He has performed concerts throughout all the Nordic countries as well as in various European countries, Japan, Argentina, Canada, and the USA. Learn more at the ISU Carillon Festival website:

<https://carillon.music.iastate.edu/event/2026/carillon-festival-2026>

Housing Fair

Location: Memorial Union, Durham Great Hall

Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

As students begin thinking about their next home, Cyclone Family Weekend is the perfect time to explore options together. Visit the Housing Fair to connect with local properties, the Department of Residence, and campus resources while learning more about off-campus living.

Collage of Choirs \$

Tickets Required – purchase through Stephens Auditorium

Location: Stephens Auditorium

Time: 5:30-6:45pm

The four major Iowa State University choirs: the Iowa State Singers, Iowa Statesmen, Cantamus, and Lyrica take the stage and offer a wide spectrum of choral styles and genres, from classical masterpieces to contemporary arrangements. Get ready to be uplifted and inspired. Admission is \$15 general admission or free for ISU students and children 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased at the door prior to the performance or ahead of time through the Ticket Office at Stephens Auditorium.

Bingo

Student-run Event

Location: Memorial Union, Sun Room and South Ballroom

Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Get ready to bring out your competitive side at the ISU family edition of a classic: Bingo! Grab your lucky charms and prepare to claim victory in a game that's fun for all ages. Be sure to come early to grab a seat or join at any time if a seat is open! Hosted by student organization ISU AfterDark.

CyBowl & Billiards

Location: Memorial Union, Ground Floor

Time: 7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ready to roll some strikes and show off your bowling skills or rack 'em up in a game of pool? Look no further than CyBowl and Billiards, conveniently located right here on campus. CyBowl and Billiards will be available for Cyclone Family Weekend participants so stop by anytime to play a game as long as there are lanes or billiards tables open.

Cyclone Cinema

Student-run Event

Location: Carver Hall, Room 101

Time: 7:00pm

Presented by the Student Union Board. Unwind with your family after a day of exploring campus and the community by watching an exciting family-friendly movie! Concessions will be available for purchase. Seating is limited to first-come, first-served. Open caption is available by letting the staff know before the movie starts. *Show selection will be released in the fall.*

William Whitmore Concert at the Maintenance Shop \$

Tickets Required – purchase through The Maintenance Shop

Location: Memorial Union, The Maintenance Shop

Time: 8:00pm

Come to the M-Shop to hear acclaimed folk/blues/country artist and Iowa native William Elliott Whitmore! The concert will be seated. Tickets are \$24 in advance or \$20 with an ISU student ID. *There is a \$2 price increase day-of-show.* More information on ticket prices and a link to purchase tickets can be found on the [Maintenance Shop's ticketing website](#).

Sunday, October 25, 2025

Friley Windows Brunch \$

Ticketed Meal

Location: Friley Hall, Friley Windows

Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm (seatings at 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, and 11:00)

Wrap up your Cyclone Family Weekend with a delicious family brunch at Windows Dining in Friley Residence Hall prepared by ISU Dining! The menu will include options for those with dietary restrictions. Please note, this facility will only be open to Cyclone Family Weekend participants and will not be able to serve students that are not registered. Tickets can be purchased during registration. Pricing will be released later this summer.

Reiman Gardens Discounted Access \$

Tickets Required – purchase through Reiman Gardens

Location: Reiman Gardens

Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm (butterfly wing closes at 4:30pm)

Reiman Gardens is offering discounted day passes to Cyclone Family Weekend participants! Pre-purchased tickets are required and can be found on the Reiman Gardens website closer to Cyclone Family Weekend. Please check their website for parking instructions.

Cyclone Family Weekend Art Walk

Location: Memorial Union, Meet at North Entrance near the Fountain

Time: 12:00pm

Come see how art tells the story of family, identity, and connection at Iowa State! Join University Museums for a guided walking tour of Iowa State's public art collection during Cyclone Family Weekend! Discover highlights from the Art on Campus Collection across central campus and experience artworks that celebrate the importance of family and the vibrant, generational spirit of Cyclone pride. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a longtime fan of Iowa State, this engaging tour offers a unique opportunity for students and their families to connect with the university's rich cultural landscape. **This event is first-come, first-served and attendance may be capped on site to maintain a quality experience.

University Museums Open Houses

Locations: Brunnier Art Museum (1805 Center Dr, 295 Scheman Building), Farm House Museum (601 Farm House Ln), Christian Petersen Art Museum (1017 Morrill Hall), Anderson Sculpture Garden (East and South of Morrill Hall, 603 Morrill Rd)

Time: 12:00pm – 4:00pm

Weekdays too busy for a museum visit? Don't miss your chance to explore University Museums' locations and their exciting fall exhibitions during Open Houses this Cyclone Family Weekend! **Free admission.**

Cyclone Cinema

Student-run Event

Location: Carver Hall, Room 101

Time: 7:00pm

Presented by the Student Union Board. Unwind with your family after a day of exploring campus and the community by watching an exciting, family-friendly movie! Concessions will be available for purchase. Seating is limited to first-come, first-served. This movie screening will be in open caption format. *Show selection will be released in the fall.*

Ames Area Community Events



See below for some other things to do in and around Ames!

- Ames Main Street Farmers' Market
Downtown Ames / 8:00am – 12:30pm
 - Ledges State Park
Madrid, IA
 - Ada Hayden Heritage Park
5205 Grand, Ames, IA
 - ISU Veenker Memorial Golf Course
2916 Veenker Dr, Ames, IA
 - High Trestle Trail
- 