

It's All About The Easter Bunny!

Thru April 22 - Easter Bunny Lane

Indoor avenue of brightly colored trees bursting with blossoms and animated characters, Kraynaks, Hermitage • kraynaks.com

April 6, 13 & 14 - Cookies with Cottontail Work Shop FREE, enjoy cookies & refreshments with Peter Cottontail himself, as well as spring crafts, a balloon artist and face painter, April 6, South Park Buffalo Inn; April 13, Boyce Park Four Seasons Lodge; April 14, North Park Rose Barn, 1 - 3pm • alleghenycounty.us/events.aspx

April 6 - Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt 9-11am, Slippery Rock Park & Recreation, Slippery Rock • (*PR) slipperyrockpark-rec.org

April 6 - Easter Egg Hunt 10am - Easter Bunny Photos; 11am - Easter Egg Hunt, Boyce Mayview Park, Twp. Upper St. Clair • twpusc.org/events

April 7 - Hartwood Acres Mansion Easter Egg Hunt 1 - 3pm - Ages 4 & under: 1:15 - 1:45pm; Ages 5 & up: 2:15 - 2:45pm, Easter egg hunt, face painter, balloon artist & crafts • (*PR) alleghenycounty.us/parkprogram

April 7 - Hippity Hop Egg Hunt Egg hunt, crafts & more, ages 1 - 8, 10:30am - Noon, Municipal Center, Cranberry Twp. • cranberrytownship.org

April 12 - Flash Light Easter Egg Hunt Ages 8-13, must bring your own flashlight & sack, 8-10pm, Elias Fry Barn, Knob Hill Park • (*PR) twp.marshall.pa.us

April 12 - Flash Light Easter Egg Hunt Ages 1 - 4, 6:30 - 7:30pm; Ages 5 - 10, 8 - 9pm, Masnic Shelter, Alameda Park, Butler • co.butler.pa.us

April 12 - Kids' and Doggie Egg Hunt! Doggie Egg Hunt - 6:30pm, Dog Park & Kid's Egg Hunt - 7:30pm, Leftwich Pavilion, Murrsville Community Park • (*PR only) murrsvilleparecreation.com

April 12, 13, 14, 19 & 20 - Bunny Trolley Ride a trolley to the hunt for eggs, visit with the Easter Bunny, make a craft, 10am - 4pm, Pennsylvania Trolley Museum, Washington, PA • (*PR) pa-trolley.org

April 12, 19 & 26 - Family Fun Night at the Movies: HOP FREE, bring your blanket or chair and join us for family activities and fun. Once the sun sets, we'll start the show! Be sure to dress for the weather, April 12, Hartwood Acres Amphitheater; April 19, Deer Lakes Park Carp Field; April 26, Harrison Hills Park Yakaon Shelter, family activities start at 7pm and the movie starts at sundown • alleghenycounty.us/specialevents

April 13 - Easter Egg Hunt FREE, Easter egg hunt, cookies & refreshments, ages 10 & under, Hampton Community Ctr., Allison Park • (*PR) hampton-pa.org

April 13 - Butler's Best Buddies Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Dash (5K Race), Bunny Hop (1 Mile Fun Run / Walk) & Easter Egg Hunt, 10am, Butler SHS/ IHS Campus • (*PR) runsignup.com/Race/PA/Butler/BestBuddiesEasterEggDash

April 13 - Easter Egg Hunt FREE, crafts, egg hunt, Easter Bunny & more, 10am, First United Methodist Church, New Castle • firstumcnc.org

April 13 - Easter Egg Hunt Easter Egg Hunt & more, 11:30am - 12:30pm, Gazebo in Chess Park, Monongahela • visitwashington-countypa.com

April 13 - Easter Egg Hunt Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Bunny, ages 1 - 9, 10:30am - noon, Pine Community Center, Wexford • (*PR) twp.pine.pa.us

April 13 - Easter in the Park The Easter Bunny will arrive on a fire truck, games, win prizes, refreshments & much more, 1 - 3pm, Rotary Shelter in Clever Park, Robinson Twp. • townshipofrobinson.com

April 13 - Spring Fest and Eggstravaganza FREE, petting bunnies, crafts, games, an egg hunt, a light lunch & more, 11am-2pm, Hopewell Community Park, Aliquippa • hopewelltwp.com

April 13, 14, 19, 20 & 21 - Eggstravaganza! A bird-themed egg hunt, live bird appearance, and more., 11am - 3pm, National Aviary • aviary.org

April 13 - Easter Egg Hunt Visit with the Easter Bunny & enjoy a light snack, ages 10 & under, 11am - 2pm, Old Economy Village Feast Hall • (*PR) oldeconomyvillage.org

April 13 - Easter EGG-stravaganza FREE, Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 18mos - 12yrs., decorate a basket, candy egg hunt, crafts, games, raffles, the Easter Bunny & more, 10am - noon, Mt Lebanon United Methodist Church • mlumc.org

April 14 - Bowl with the Bunny Bowling & pictures with the Easter Bunny, 1 - 4pm, Family Bowlaway Fun Center, Butler • familybowlaway.com

April 19 - ZooHop to Spring See animals search for treat-filled eggs hidden in their habitats, Easter Bunny photos, crafts & more, 10am - 1pm, Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium • pittsburghzoo.org

April 19 - Teen Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt Coupons, gift cards & more, for ages 10-15, 7:30-9:30pm, Pine Community Center, Wexford • (*PR) twp.pine.pa.us

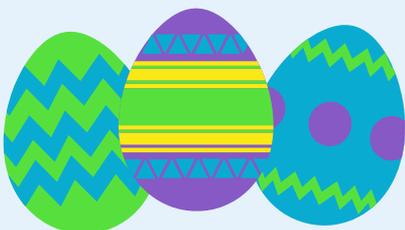
April 20 - Easter Egg Hunt FREE, noon, Townsend Park, New Brighton • visitbeavercounty.com

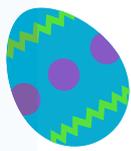
April 20 - Bunny Fun two-hour Easter Bunny Cruise, Gateway Clipper Fleet, 12:30 - 3:30pm • gatewayclipper.com

April 20 - Peter Cottontail Express Board at Noon, train leaves promptly at 1pm, Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad • octrr.org

April 20 - Super Science Saturdays: Annual Egg-cellent Egg Hunt Follow clues that lead to treats, for ages 3-10, noon - 4pm, Carnegie Museum of Natural History • carnegiemnh.org

April 27 - Canonsburg Chamber's 5K Bunny Run and Family Easter Walk Walk starts at the Canonsburg Hospital (rear parking lot) and ends at Sarris Candies in Canonsburg, 8:30 - 10am • facebook.com/events/canonsburg-chambers-5k-bunny-run-and-family-easter-walk/344009726210882





The Easter Bunny is coming:

Fun new Easter morning hunts

By Jan Pierce, M.Ed.



Spring will have sprung when Easter arrives this year. Even so, you may want to be prepared for an Easter egg hunt that can be done indoors if necessary.

Kids absolutely love the idea of a hunt for some sort of treasure. So while you may do the traditional egg-dyeing, you may want to have some other "loot" to put into plastic eggs including some edible goodies.

Here are some fresh, new ideas for planning your 2019 Easter Egg Hunt:

Secret message hunt

Use plastic eggs. Print out short messages for each egg that asks the kids to do a task such as quack like a duck or hop like a bunny. Then they have found ten eggs and done all ten tasks they're eligible to hunt for their basket. Hand them a message that is the clue they need to find it.

Team hunt for a large group of kids

Divide your kids into two teams. Put mismatched plastic egg halves together. Allow a given amount of time for everyone to find as many mismatched eggs as they can. Then allow the teams to gather together to put the correct colors together. Each egg will have a number inside indicating how many pieces of candy each team member receives. (Think jelly beans or small candy eggs). The team with the most color-correct whole eggs is the winner and earns an additional treat. (Maybe a small Easter toy such as a chick or bunny or a larger candy treat).

Indoor hunt with clues

This works well for families who find themselves inside on Easter morning. Write out clues that take the children to various places in the home where they'll find the next clue. Use at least five clues and let the kids find their baskets at the end of the hunt.

Easter bunny track hunt

For younger children, create "bunny tracks" out of pink paper and leave

them where the little ones can follow to find a series of treats.

The golden egg hunt

Do your usual favorite hunt, but add an additional treasure. Purchase a large, gold egg and fill it with something special. It could contain a treasure for the finder only or a treat for the whole family such as a trip to a favorite restaurant, park or tickets to a new movie.

Easter egg pinata

Buy or make an Easter piñata and provide masks and a stick to open it. You can make a piñata by using an inflated balloon and paper mache or decorate a white bag to simulate an egg. Kids enjoy the building anticipation as the piñata begins to crack and shower them with candy.

Glow in the dark hunt

Use glow sticks and larger plastic eggs to create an indoor "in the dark" hunt. You may choose to have the kids find a certain number of glowing eggs to "buy" their basket.



Hunt for your Easter brunch

This one takes some work. Fill plastic eggs with tiny bits of brunch items: fruit pieces, tiny muffins, snack crackers, cheese cubes, hard-boiled eggs, cereal and the like. Add some hot cocoa and enjoy.

A puzzling hunt

Buy a blank puzzle at your local craft store. Draw a Happy Easter message

for your kids, giving them the information they need to find their basket. Place puzzle pieces in plastic eggs and let the fun begin. When the puzzle is assembled they follow the clue to their Easter goodies.

Make it a relay hunt

With a larger group of children, divide into teams and have one person from each team hunt for a given amount of time, return to tag the next player and continue until all the kids have had a turn. Provide some sort of extra treat for the winning team. (Be sure all the kids get a fair amount of treats after the hunt).

The more than candy hunt

Have some of the plastic eggs contain small toys or tickets to receive the toys after the hunt. Toys might include balls, tiny bunnies or chicks, finger puppets or anything else appropriate for the kids in your group.

Easter egg hunts are just another way to create healthy family fun. Make sure the younger members of the family get a fair chance to find the treasures. Older kids can pair up with younger ones to help make this happen.

Whichever hunt you choose will be a highlight of your Easter celebration.



Enjoy! ■

Jan Pierce, M.Ed. is a retired teacher and the author of *Homegrown Readers* and *Homegrown Family Fun*. Find her at www.janpierce.net.

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