



# Explore Eastern Iowa

BY JENNIFER CIHA

**P**lan a family-focused visit to Eastern Iowa this year when you attend the 2018 Homeschool Iowa Conference.

## Close to Conference

Dive into history at University of Iowa (UI) Hospitals and Clinics Medical Museum, UI Museum of Natural History, Old Capitol Museum and State Historical Library. Just a short distance to the east is The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum.

The Iowa Children's Museum offers hours of play. Inside Coral Ridge Mall, you'll also find ice skating, a movie theatre and over 100 stores. Looking for a bargain? Iowa City is notorious for great thrift stores.

Challenge yourself on the University of Iowa Recreation Center's 50-foot rock climbing wall. Stroll along the Iowa Avenue Literary Walk and be inspired.

## Cruise to Cedar Rapids

Cedar Rapids, located 30 minutes north of Iowa City, offers opportunities for art and culture including Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Grant Wood Studio and Visitor Center, National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. Experience Brucemore, a historic 26-acre nineteenth-century estate mansion.

## Explore Outdoors

In Iowa City, you'll find hiking at Hickory Hill Park, paddleboard

rental at Terry Trueblood Recreation Area or the Iowa River Landing Wetland Park for nature journaling.

Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids offers unique outdoor learning opportunities.

Between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids is Coralville Lake, Devonian Fossil Gorge, Sugar Bottom Recreation Area, and Macbride Nature Recreation Area. Camp, fish, hike, and more at these wonderful natural resources.

Check out the Iowa City Mom's Blog: Mom's Guide to Iowa City for family restaurant deals and where kids eat free.

Download the Iowa Culture App. An interactive map highlights the arts, history, science and nature all across the state. Planning is a snap with the favorites tool.

As you join NICHE for the 2018 Homeschool Iowa Conference, plan a couple extra days to connect as a family and make some memories.



*Jennifer Ciha is a NICHE homeschool graduate and helps coordinate the social media for HomeSchoolIowa.org. She and her husband, Tom, currently homeschool their two children in Ankeny, Iowa. Jennifer blogs about her family's field trips and adventures at [www.fieldtriplowa.com](http://www.fieldtriplowa.com) where you can find practical information and inspirational photographs.*

