



JULY 25TH
CAROUSEL DAY – MERRY-GO-ROUND DAY.

The holiday was created to honor the 1871 carousel patented by William Schneider of Davenport, Iowa. It's a great time to take your troop/group, and girls out and ride and support your local

VISIT A LOCAL CAROUSEL

Rhode Island's local carousels play a significant role in carousel history. Four of the area's carousels were made during the golden age of carousel art, and a reproduction at Roger Williams Park pays homage to the great carousel builders of the nineteenth century. There are plenty of fun facts to share with your kids during your next visit to a local carousel. Not only will they enjoy the ride, they will also be able to learn about Rhode Island's history. And if they're lucky, they may just get the brass ring!

Crescent Park Looff Carousel

End of Bullock's Point Avenue, East Providence, RI
(401) 435-7518 or (401) 433-2828

Cost: \$1 per ride

Summer hours: Open Thursday – Sunday, Noon – 8pm

The Crescent Park Carousel was made in 1895 by Charles I. D. Looff, one of the world's foremost carousel makers and producer of Coney Island's first merry-go-round. Looff moved his factory from New York to East Providence and designed the Crescent Park carousel as a showcase for prospective clients. As a result, no two figures are alike and each horse is designed to complement the next. Historians consider this carousel a treasure of American folk art and a museum to the work of Looff. The carousel is a National Historic Site and was proclaimed the Rhode Island Symbol of Folk Art in 1985.

Flying Horse Carousel, Watch Hill

Bay Street, Watch Hill, RI
(401) 348-6007

Open every day during the summer.

The Flying Horse Carousel is believed to be the oldest carousel of its type in America. The design of the carousel is unique in that its horses are not attached to the floor, but hang by chains suspended from overhead. The horses appear to fly as the carousel increases in speed, hence the name "Flying Horse Carousel." The carousel was built sometime between 1867 and 1876 and was part of a traveling carnival until 1879, when the carnival was forced to abandon the carousel in Watch Hill. The carousel was originally drawn from place to place by a horse, and legend has it that this horse was so faithful to the carousel that when he died, his tail was cured and inset onto one of the carousel horses as a permanent memorial. (Note: Riders are limited to children under 12 years of age.)

Slater Memorial Park Carousel

Newport Avenue, Pawtucket, RI
(401) 728-0500, x 252

Hours of Operation: Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Call ahead for changes in hours.

Rides are a mere 25 cents.

The Looff Carousel was built in 1895 by Charles I.D. Looff. This is a stationary carousel. Considered the fastest Looff made. Originally at Lee Funland in upstate NY, it was moved here in 1910. This carousel has three rows with 42 horses, three dogs, one camel, one giraffe, one lion and two chariots. The horses have horsehair tails and many have detailed blanket rolls. It also features a band organ from 1910.

Carousel Village,

Roger Williams Park 100 Elmwood Drive, Providence, RI
(401) 785-9450 ext. 261

Cost: \$1 per ride

Hours of Operation: Open daily from 10 am – 5pm

This carousel is actually a reproduction built in 1989. The carousel is made up of fiberglass reproductions of designs by the masters of carousel art, including the “Looff Lion,” a jumping rabbit based on a signature design by Gustav Dentzel, and scenery panels, including one which displays a portrait of Dentzel. Each of the sixty carousel animals took over 100 hours to paint and detail!

Carousel at Battleship Cove +

5 Water Street, Fall River, MA

(508) 678-1100

Cost: \$1 per ride

Summer Hours: Open seven days a week from 11am – 5pm.

Moved from Lincoln Amusement Park in North Dartmouth where it was operated for seventy years, the carousel has been restored and moved to Battleship Cove. Built by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company in 1920, the carousel is made up of forty-eight horses, two multi-passenger chariots, and a Wurlitzer band organ. It sits in a gorgeous Victorian-style pavilion overlooking Heritage Park and Mt. Hope Bay.

Easton's Beach Carousel

175 Memorial Boulevard, Newport, RI

(401) 845-5810

Cost: \$1 per ride

Summer Hours: Open seven days a week from 11am – 6pm.

The Easton's Beach Carousel was built in 1952 by the Allan Herschell Company. In addition to the carousel, Easton's Beach is the home of the Save The Bay Exploration Center. The Center houses fourteen tanks and exhibits and over 150 species of animals from Narragansett Bay. Between the carousel, the Exploration Center, sand, and surf, there's something for everyone at Easton's Beach

Carousel at Emerald Square Mall

(Located in the Food Court on the 3rd floor near Macy's)

999 S Washington St, North Attleboro, MA

(508) 695-4722

Cost: \$2 per ride or 6 tickets for \$10

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday from 10am – 9:30pm; Sunday from 11am – 6pm.

This might not be a vintage carousel, but when you're looking to escape the summer heat, Emerald Square provides you with a great alternative (and air-conditioned) activity. Enjoy a carousel ride and have lunch in the food court, a double crowd pleaser!

Warwick Mall Carousel

400 Bald Hill Road, Warwick, RI 02886

There was a time when most malls had their own carousel. Warwick Mall still has one! Another place to escape the summer heat.

READ A GREAT STORY ABOUT CAROUSELS!

Children's Stories

The "Magical Merry-Go-Round" by Ruth Muggidge ...

Danny and the Merry-Go-Round by Nan Holcomb

Gigi: The Story of a Merry Go Round Horse - Elizabeth Foster

Lio the Carousel Horse by Carol Moen Wing,

The Story of a Merry-Go-Round Horse. by Elizabeth Foster

Up and Down on the Merry Go Round by Bill Martin Jr & John Archambault

Pictorial Histories

A Pictorial History of the Carousel - Frederick Fried

Painted Ponies - Marianne Stevens, William Manns et al 1986

Fairground Art- Geoff Weedon 1985

Carousel Horses, A Photographic Celebration; Sherrell S Anderson

Art of the Carousel - Charlotte Dinger 1983

Grab the Brass Ring - Anne Hinds 1999

Carousel History:

Smithsonian Magazine - article by Barbara Charles, July 1972

The American Carousel - Nina Fraley - 1979

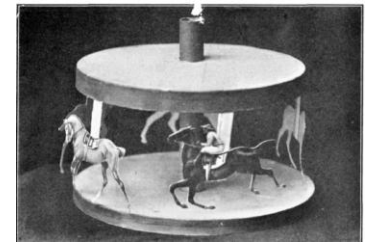
Introduction to the Carousel - Maurice Fraley 1987

Carousel Animals, Artistry in Motion- Tobin Fraley 2002

Great American Carousel - Tobin Fraley 1995

The Carousel Animal - Tobin Fraley 1984

The Carousel Keepers- Carrie Papa 1998



MAKE A FUN CAROUSEL CRAFTS

Toy Merry-Go-Round

Material Required: two round bandbox covers, or the two halves of some large round box, cut-out pictures of horses or animals, and a cardboard mailing-tube or a hoop-stick.

Directions: Take the cardboard mailing-tube and run it down through the center of one bandbox cover, as the bandbox cover stands on its rims like a platform. Cut a small hole in the center of the other band-box cover, and press this down over the cardboard mailing-tube, a third of the way down its length, just as you see it in the picture. Cut narrow half-inch strips of cardboard for the poles of the animals. Glue them at equal intervals around the rim of the upper bandbox cover, inside. Glue the animals to the cardboard strips. Turn the top of the mailing-tube, the merry-go-round will twirl.

Carousel Horses

Materials required: horse template, pipe cleaners, scrap construction paper, felt, scraps of fabric, etc.

Directions: Cut out a horse using the template. Attach a pipe cleaner with tape to the back side of the horse, and bend the ends of the pipe cleaner. Decorate your carousel horse with bright carousel colors. Add paper shreds for a mane, and anything else you want.



Apple Carousel

Materials needed: 1 apple per girl, three plastic straws each, peanut butter, animal crackers, scissors

Directions: Wash the apple. Cut the apple in half. Cut three straws in half. Put the bottom half of the apple on a plate, skin side down. Stick the 6 straw pieces into the bottom half of the apple and stick the top half of the apple onto the straws, skin side up. It should now look like the top and the bottom of your carousel. Put peanut butter on the back of the animal crackers and attach them to the straws.

Stick Horse

Materials needed: a stick (about 48" long), an old large sock, string or light rope, something to stuff inside the sock, 2 buttons, odds and ends to decorate the horse's head



Directions: Choose a stick. It needs to be long enough for the child to straddle it with one end on the ground and the other end about chest-high. Find a sock (could be white, black, gray, tan or brown) and some string, rope or yarn. Fill the sock with whatever you chose for the stuffing. (old rags make an adequate stuffing for the horse's head or some old-pillow stuffing). Place the sock over the end of the stick. Wiggle the stick up into the stuffing. Add more stuffing if needed. Use the string, lightweight rope, or yarn to tightly tie the sock's ankle part to the stick. Tie the rope tightly enough that the head won't fall off. Tie the rope or string around the horse's nose (the toe of the sock) and make reins for the rider of the stick horse. You can make a full bridle for the sock horse head using ribbon or colored yarn. Decorate the sock horse head anyway you want. Glue or sew on buttons for [eyes](#) or just add them with a felt-tipped marker. Give the horse a mane.

CAROUSEL FUN

Stick horses give the feel of a carousel. Prance around on a stick horse
Bring Carousel music to their ears. Try:

"Come To The Fair" Old Time Wurlitzer Carousel Music, Good Old USA

"Carousel Music Volume 1" by Wurlitzer Model 146-A Band

"Old Time Carousel Music" by The Wurlitzer Band Organ or

"Carousel Memories" by Replica Wurlitzer Band Organ and Verbeeck Band Organ.