

# It's a family affair

By HOLLY BIGELOW MARTIN

Don't let winter weather keep your family indoors watching TV reruns. Museums, environmental centers, and parks and recreation facilities in the area offer a wide variety of activities for the whole family at prices that won't break the bank.

The Museum of Early Trades and Crafts, at the corner of Main Street (Rt. 24) and Green Village Road in Madison, teaches visitors about the craftsmen who first settled New Jersey. The museum is housed in a turn-of-the-century stone building with a bell tower and stained glass windows. Live demonstrations are featured every first and third Saturday, and are included in the admission

price, which is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children and free to senior citizens. Upcoming demonstrations include lace making (Nov. 17), straw-hat making (Dec. 13) and gold-leaf gilding (Dec. 15). The museum is open all year from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. (Closed on major holidays.)

A farmhouse built in 1740 and furnished in antiques of the 1820s era has been preserved as the Miller Corey Museum. Located at 614 Mountain Ave. in Westfield, it is open Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m. (2 to 4 p.m. in January and February). Admission is \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children, and includes a tour of the house by a costumed guide and demonstrations of 18th-century crafts and open-hearth cooking. Demonstrations include

cooking a Thanksgiving dinner over the open hearth (Nov. 18), pulled-thread embroidery (Dec. 2), dulcimer music (Dec. 9) and holiday customs (Dec. 16). The museum is closed Nov. 25, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30; reopens on Jan. 6.

The Morris Museum, located at the corner of Normandy Heights Road and Columbia Turnpike in Morristown, offers permanent exhibits of dinosaurs, electric trains and live animals, as well as a rock and mineral gallery, an early American kitchen, an American Indian gallery and a five-senses discovery room for young children. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children and senior citizens. Special children's programs at the museum are included with admission. Dec. 28 is Winterfest, featuring films on winter and indoor bulb planting. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Concerned about the environ-

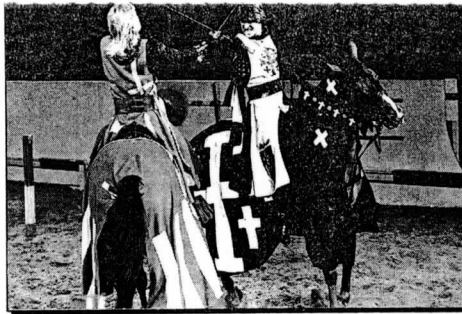


PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDIEVAL TIMES

A multitude of indoor activities, such as revisiting 11th century Spain at a family dinner theater, are scheduled this winter.

ment? Visit the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission Environmental Center to learn about solid waste and how to dispose of it. Exhibits include computer games, "Where Does Garbage Go?" artwork made from recyclable materials and a life-size game that teaches you how to set up your own compost pile. The museum is located at the east end of Valley Brook Avenue in Lyndhurst, near Giants Stadium. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10

a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is \$1 for adults, free for children under 12.

Want to experience the days of yore? Medieval Times, a family dinner theater located at 149 Polito Ave. in Lyndhurst, takes you back to 11th century Spain. Knights on horseback, sword fighting and jousting are featured in the two-hour live-action show as you feast—hands on—on a hearty meal. Reservations are recommended.

If the snow decides to blow this year, visit one of the many Morris County parks for outdoor recreation. Sledding and cross-country skiing are permitted during normal park hours in designated areas of Flanders Valley Golf Course in Mt. Olive Township, Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Hanover Township, Loantaka Brook Reservation in Chatham Township, Tourne Park in Bonton Township and the Mahlon Dickerson Reservation in Jefferson Township. Call the Morris County Parks Commission, (201) 326-7600 for other locations.

Many parks offer ice skating in winter. To make sure the ice is safe, call the Morris County Park Police at (201) 326-7631.

If you'd rather skate indoors, the Mennen Sports Arena, 161 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township, offers ice skating sessions Monday through Sunday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon; afternoon sessions from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; afternoon sessions on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 4:30 p.m.; and Wednesday from 8 to 10 p.m.

For something a little different, try a night hike at Jockey Hollow National Historic Park, on Tempe Wick Road in Morristown. The hike, on Jan. 5 from 8 to 10 p.m. commemorates the Revolutionary Army mutiny of 1781 and features costumed actors. Hikers can decide whether to go with the mutineers or stay with the army. Reservations starting Dec. 15, (201) 539-2085.

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