

## **IS THE BOAT SHOW FOR KIDS?**

If kids like the wacky antics of a Great Lakes pirate or participating in a variety of hands-on activities, they won't be disappointed at this year's Progressive Mid-America Boat Show in the I-X Center, January 12-16.

“Kids are a big reason we own our boats,” says show manager Bryan Ralston, “and boating is America's number one family sport. We want them to expect a good time at the show so we take care to build in activities just for them.” Here are some highlights:

**The Capt. Willie Show!** It's a unique combination of education and entertainment – call it “edu-tainment” -- combining real facts about the lakes and water safety with music, stories and the zany personality of Capt. Willie, the Great Lakes Pirate. “Shiver me timbers,” before each show is over, he'll have the kids literally parading around as wannabe pirates. Why even adults are often seen jumping into the fun. When the kids hear “Arrrrrgh,” they'll know it's the start of another Capt. Willie stage show. His schedule is: **FRIDAY** at 4:30pm and 6:30pm; **SATURDAY** at 1:30pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm and 7:30pm; **SUNDAY** 2:00pm and 4:00pm; and **MONDAY** all pirates rally in West Lobby at 1:15pm for a special Pirate Parade. Shows at 2:00pm and 4:00pm.

**Rollin' On The River!** If parading like a pirate isn't enough, kids will be able to make like a hamster running their wheels in the floating Water Rollerz feature. These popular giant clear inflatable bubbles are floating in a special pool and are the latest craze in “water-walking” – sort of a contemporary version of log rolling, but dry! (*Note: There is a \$5 fee*)

**Yes, There are Mermaids!** Who says Mermaids are just in story books? Kids will meet the Boat Show Mermaid. It's a unique photo op for the whole family (bring you camera or smartphone) to be pictured with this beautiful lady, fish tail and all! (*Saturday and Sunday Only*)

**Ride the Giant Wheel!** Kids can pick up a “Passport to Fun” at the Public Service Exhibits section where they can participate in many hands-on activities, ranging from rope tying to building a little sailboat, offered by those exhibitors. Kids having their “Passport” stamped at every activity will earn a free ride on the I-X Center's iconic giant Ferris Wheel.

**Kids Fishing Clinic!** Their goal is to create excitement in kids for fishing. So, local tournament anglers Travis Hartman, Dan Gies, Randy Eyre and Matt Davis will conduct the Future Anglers Foundation “Kids Fishing Clinic” on Sunday (1/15) at 1:00 PM for youngsters up to 16 years old. One of the most popular events at the boat show, the kids are kept fully engaged with games and prizes uniquely designed to help develop fishing skills. The Kids Fishing Clinic is presented by National Professional Anglers Association (NPAA), Buckeye Sports Center, and Lund Boats.

Show Hours for 2017 will be: Thursday (1/12) Noon – 9 pm; Friday (1/13) Noon to 9 pm; Saturday (1/14) 11 am – 9 pm; Sunday (1/15) 11 am – 6 pm; and Monday (Martin Luther King Holiday), 11 am – 5 pm.

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