

Winter Break Option: Indiana Chinese Lantern Festival

By Shawnta S. Barnes – November 26, 2017



Tomorrow students will return to school after a few days off for Thanksgiving break. Now, the countdown to winter break begins. For parents, the thought of having their children at home for two weeks might bring anxiety. Yes, we want to spend time with our kids, but when they are at school there is a nice schedule of activities for them to complete and topics to learn. When your children are at home, this responsibility of scheduling their

day falls to you. Beginning now throughout the next several weeks, I plan to highlight options, free and for a fee, parents can take advantage of during the next break with their children.

Yesterday, my husband and I decided to take our first grade twin boys to the Indiana State Fairgrounds to attend the Indiana Chinese Lantern Festival. This event is open each night November 24, 2017 – January 7, 2018 from 5:30-10:00 p.m. The festival is presented by Tianyu Arts & Culture, Inc and it includes 33 larger than life lantern displays crafted by Chinese artisans, live performances and handicrafts for sale. We purchased the family four pack for \$40; adult admission is \$15 and youth admission is \$10.

Although is it important to my husband and I that our black boys are confident and proud of their heritage, we also believe it is important for them to be exposed to and learn about other cultures. One culture they have been interested in lately is the Chinese culture. This began last school year when they learned about China at school and when two of our aunts and one uncle went to China for three weeks. They really want to go to China like our relatives did, but that's not in the budget at the moment. Instead, if there is an event that features Chinese culture, we try to attend.

From our boys:

***JB:** This festival was fun and I really liked talking to my brother at the festival about what we saw. My favorite lanterns were the ones that moved and I also liked the music that was playing.*

***JJ:** The festival was cool and fun. There were so many different animals and I liked the necklaces they made. I think kids should go to the festival because they can learn a little about Chinese people and China.*

If you are looking for an educational evening of fun now or during winter break, I recommend this festival.

Indiana Chinese Lantern Festival

