

# January 2026

**Allison Galyon- Program Director**  
allison@gatewaytn.org (865) 936-4283

**Erin Rhoades- Executive Director**  
erin@gatewaytn.org (865) 317-4283

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
				1 <b>Happy New Year!!</b> <b>GATE CLOSED</b> <b>WINTER BREAK</b> <b>We will return Jan. 6th</b>	2	3
4	5 <b>GATE CLOSED</b> <b>WINTER BREAK</b> <b>We will return Jan. 6th</b>	6 3v3 Basketball Practice- 9:30am  Tuesday Talks  Chair Yoga  Book Club / Cards / Games	7 Basketball Practice  Rock Painting  Show and Tell  Book Club / Cards / Games	8 Basketball Practice & Fitness  Rock Painting  Book Club / Cards / Games	9	10
11 Barrier Free Worship- 2pm- 1830 Clydesdale St, Maryville	12 Pictionary  Mad Libs  Musical Chairs	13 3v3 Basketball Practice- 9:30am  Planning Committee  Musical Chairs  Book Club / Cards / Games	14 Basketball Practice  That's It!  Art Club  Book Club / Cards / Games	15 Basketball Practice & Fitness  Cooking Club  Book Club / Cards / Games	16	17
18	19 <b>GATE CLOSED</b> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday</b>	20 3v3 Basketball Practice- 9:30am  Cooking Club  <b>Aktion Club</b>  Book Club / Cards / Games	21 Basketball Practice  Pictionary  Life Skills  Book Club / Cards / Games	22 Basketball Practice & Fitness  Sign Language  Book Club / Cards / Games	23	24
25	26 Uno Exercise  Musical Chairs  Rock Painting	27 3v3 Basketball Practice-9:30am  <b>Movie Day</b>  Book Club / Cards / Games	28 Basketball Practice  Tenzi  Book Club / Cards / Games	29 Basketball Practice Fitness  Sign Language <b>Birthday Party</b>  Book Club / Cards / Games	30	31

# Important Program Details for January 2026

**Happy New Year!** We will return to the Gate on **January 6th!**

The monthly calendars are now located on The Gate's website along with other important information! Bookmark it at **[www.GatewaytoIndependence.org](http://www.GatewaytoIndependence.org)**

## Inclement Weather

All closings of The Gate due to severe weather will be patterned after that of local school systems (Alcoa City, Blount County, or Maryville City). Closings announced for any of these three local systems will result in Gate program cancellation for the same days. These closings are routinely posted on local radio stations and news broadcasts. We will send out a text via our REMIND service email and social media (Instagram and Facebook) as soon as our staff is notified of the closing.

On **January 7th** we will have **Show and Tell**. Participants can bring an item from home. They will get to share with participants why the item is important to them.

**Tuesday, January 20th** is our monthly **Aktion Club** meeting. We're having a pizza bake casserole, salad, tea, lemonade and a dessert. The cost is \$5. The deadline to order an Aktion Club lunch is **Wednesday, January 14th**. The deadline to pay for an Aktion Club lunch is **Tuesday, January 20th**. For our January Aktion Club Service Project, we're pointing rocks and placing them around our community to spread kindness.

**Thursday, January 29th** is our monthly **birthday party!** We will be serving pizza, salad, cake, and a drink. There is no cost for this meal. **Happy Birthday to: Vera, Jacob, Alex, Bonnie, Eric, Abby, Brandi and Jessica!** Thank you, Mike and Carolyn Harrison, for sponsoring our birthday party this month!

## Special Olympics Basketball Competition

**Will be on one of the following days: February 17, 18, or 19.**

We'll be practicing for Special Olympics Basketball in January and February on Wednesdays and Thursdays. If practice is on a day you are not scheduled to attend the Gate, you may come to practice on these days. A parent or caregiver **MUST** transport participants to and from practice and stay with your participant during practice. We'll take a few days to assess participants. Once teams are determined, I will let you know what days they will practice.

## Coke Machine Fundraiser

The coke machine fundraiser was awesome the first semester! We raised \$709.41 to donate to the Empty Pantry Fund! This semester we will be donating the money to Blount County Luke 14. We are always accepting donations of any canned beverages to place in our coke machine. Thank you for supporting this project!