



4 Cheap & Summer Activities for Families

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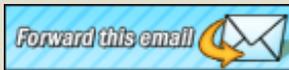
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Summer weekends are the perfect time for family bonding. The kids are out of school and often out of extracurricular activities. The weather is typically gorgeous. Even parents sometimes have a bit more work flexibility during the summer months when lots of people are vacationing.



So what can you do to fill those hours of freedom? Plan some big weekend activities during the summer where you can spend a full weekend day - or even an entire weekend - doing something together.

Below are 4 cheap and fun summer activities to try with your family:

1) Geocaching

For those unfamiliar, geocaching is a completely free scavenger hunt activity that anyone can try using GPS devices (a smartphone or a Garmin GPS device, for example). There are small "caches" hidden all around the world (probably even in your neighborhood) by volunteers who want to make geocaching fun. The thrill is finding them, and you can start by learning more at geocaching.com.

2) Volunteering

There are countless opportunities to volunteer in your community, from cleaning up parks and building a Habitat for Humanity house to collecting food for a food pantry and helping out at a soup kitchen. The best volunteer opportunities not only help fill your day with the joy of helping others, but can also teach you useful skills.

3) Festival-hopping

Within an hour or two of your home, you'll likely find a lot of towns and cities hosting summer community festivals. Watch the parades and demonstrations. Take part in the activities, particularly if they're culturally unusual. Sample different foods. To cut down on cost, pack a picnic lunch and enjoy a small snack or two while

there.

4) Hiking

There are few things more refreshing than a hike through the wilderness, whether on trails or far off the beaten path. A good hike offers great exercise, fresh air and lots of nature, along with some unexpected surprises.

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