

Budget-Friendly Family Fun

The long-awaited summer season is here. It's time to relax, have fun, keep the children busy...but all without breaking the bank. Here's a list to give you and your family plenty of ideas to enjoy this summer even more.

The National Parks Service is offering free vouchers to 4th graders and 5th graders and their families. You'll have **free access to national parks and other federal lands** managed by the Department of the Interior through August 31, 2021.

How about a **family bowling** night where kids bowl for free! The Kids Bowl Free program is offering up to two free games of bowling each day this summer. Register at <https://www.kidsbowlfree.com/>



Check with **farms in your area** to see if they offer tours (some might be doing drive-thrus), activities or are open to a few hours of help with real farm chores from your pint-size volunteers.

Do you have any leftover paint chip sample cards from the home improvement store? Challenge your kids to a **scavenger hunt** using only those colors. What exactly can you find in nature that matches "Charcoal Gray" or "Midnight Blue?" This fun activity comes from upparent.com. Visit their website for loads of outdoor and indoor activities for kids of all ages.



Looking for some **cool experiments** for your budding scientists? [Bill Nye's website](#) has demonstrations of science experiments you can do at home.

Dining out can be expensive but many restaurants offer specials where kids eat free. Check out this list from wallethacks.com.

Take a hike! Check out the websites for your local, regional and state parks for all the hiking options in your area. Hiking trails are rated from easy to difficult so you can choose the adventure that best suits your crew. Have the kids journal about interesting things they see along the way and remember to bring plenty of water and snacks.



Need to get out of the heat? Search for **free museums** in your city. Here's a sampling of the [best free museums](#) in the US from the Travel Channel

Learn a new skill like how to perform magic tricks or juggle or cook! There are so many free how-to videos on youtube.com. Just pick a subject or activity and you'll find someone who wants to share their "know how" with you.



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