



There are a number of wonderful low cost summer activities for kids and families that help families keep their hard-earned money in their pockets.

With each of these ideas, you might fashion “what to do” boxes. Create two boxes - one for "outside" and one for "inside" - containing index cards with activities written on them. Rotate who in the family gets to pick the card for that day.

Low or no cost outings and activities are something consider for your own kids or a group of friends getting together that will create fun and memories without heating up your wallet or credit card bills:

- Participate in local Wildcat Extension District activities
- Visit your county fair
- Visit a farm, pet store or the animal shelter (bring a donation of dog/cat food)
- Visit a fire station
- Have cooking lessons at home (bake bread, make homemade ice cream, grandma's cookies)
- Visit a television station, radio station, or newspaper facility
- Visit the Department of Conservation’s nature centers and enjoy educational exhibits
- Learn a new craft
- Build with Legos
- Get a giant piece of paper and colored pencils and draw your dream house with all the details
- Participate in free summer reading programs and story times offered by many local libraries
- Visit every park in a community
- Go to a neighboring community’s city pool
- Visit zoos and museums that have free or reduced rates for kids on special days
- Have paper airplane or paper boat races or try making and flying your own kites (find directions on line or at the library)
- Put on a theatrical performance, a puppet show or a talent contest
- Write and illustrate a story
- Plant a small garden or container garden and watch it grow
- Plan a picnic as an activity
- Hold a bring-a-dish block party
- Rent a movie and have special "movie night" snacks
- Take your kids on a tour of family history and photos
- Search garage sales as family fun and walk away with a few really good deals
- Play board games on rainy days

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- Go swimming at the local lake, pond or pool
- Visit Vacation Bible Schools, Summer Bible Clubs, Kids Camps, Day Camps
- Walk, hike, and enjoy nature
- Go camping in the backyard

And last but certainly not least... make your own bubble solutions and spend hours dipping bubbles!

**Do-It-Yourself Bubble Solution:**

- 1 tbsp Glycerine
- 2 tbsp Dish Soap
- 9 oz water
- Mix it all up (the glycerin added to the mixture is key)
- Pour it into small plastic bottles or a pie pan, grab your favorite wand and enjoy big beautiful bubbles.

Wishing you a very busy, rarely bored and not too costly summer!

For more information contact your Wildcat Extension District office in Crawford, Labette, or Montgomery counties or contact Chuckie Hessong at 620-724-8233 or by email at [chuckiehessong@ksu.edu](mailto:chuckiehessong@ksu.edu). Visit our website at <http://www.wildcatdistrict.k-state.edu/>

*This article is adapted from one written by Megan O'Neil-Haight, The University of Maryland Extension, and originally published in Delmarva Youth Magazine.*