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CONTENTS



6 N,S,E,W Fun in Every Direction!

COLUMNS

- 8 **Family Matters.** The 4 Parenting Styles
Family Matters can be found in Spanish at www.austinfamily.com.
- 10 **Learning Curve.** Making Closure on the School Year
- 20 **Lifelines.** Summer Safety Tips
- 24 **Austin Then and Now.** Barton Springs

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 4 **Austin In Action.** News and Notes
- 9 **Places to Go and Things to Do.** Kids, Take Mom on a Mother's Day Date
- 19 **Smart Screen Time.** Screens in Cars?
Smart Screen Time can be found in Spanish at www.austinfamily.com.
- 22 **Calendar.**
Check www.austinfamily.com for daily updates.

EXTRAS

- 9 **Memorial Day Craft**
- 12 **Camp Guide**

TUNE IN



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FILM REVIEW

By Jack Kyser

Peter Pan & Wendy

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JESS ARCHER



LEARNING CURVE
ALISON BOGLE



LIFELINES
BRENDA SCHOOLFIELD



FAMILY MATTERS
DR. BETTY RICHARDSON



SMART SCREEN
DR. BENJAMIN KRAMER



FILM REVIEW
JACK KYSER



Alex is an AFM cover kid winner who loves dinosaurs and is looking forward to summer.

Photo taken by Jordan Ashley Photography, Cedar Park.

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We are dedicated to serving the Greater Austin area by providing up-to-date information and ideas that promote smart parenting and healthy homes. We promote our clients' businesses by increasing their customer bases and enhancing their public images.

Austin Family is published monthly by KKKemper, Inc.
Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 7559, Round Rock, Texas 78683-7559
Phone Number: 512-733-0038
On the web at: www.austinfamily.com

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EDITOR'S NOTE

JESS ARCHER

Archer is a writer, a mom of two kids and a wife. She is the author of the memoir, "Finding Home with the Beatles, Bob Dylan and Billy Graham."

Texas is big, ya'll...really big. And while our capital city seems to have it all in terms of family fun, there is more out there. If you drive one hour north, east, south or west from Austin you'll find some fantastic family entertainment. And that's exactly what our feature article this month is all about, finding some fun (especially the water kind) just a stone's throw away from home. Check out the piece and start your summer planning.

May can feel like a whirlwind of spring activities, sports and graduation events. Alison Bogle, our education columnist, offers some great advice this month for helping your kids wrap up the school year with intentionality.

If you're looking for a new, fun way to do Mother's Day this year, see our Places to Go & Things to Do column. Catherine Michalk suggests some cool ways to have a "mom and kid date" around town.

Don't forget to subscribe to our Austin Family weekly e-blasts for links to contests, calendar of events and more!

The wildflowers are still showing off and the skies are big and bright, so get out there and enjoy your spring, Austin.



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Austin IN ACTION

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May By the Numbers

81 million pounds

of avocado will be consumed on Cinco de Mayo

Source: southfloridareporter.com

100 countries

celebrate Mother's Day

Source: money.yahoo.com

135,000 people

visit Arlington National Cemetery over Memorial Day weekend.

Source: arlingtoncemetery.mil



National Merit Scholarship Finalists

It's that time in the school year for award ceremonies. Round Rock ISD has recently announced that 103 of its scholars have been chosen as National Merit Scholarship Finalists. Every year the National Merit Scholarship program chooses the highest achieving students to be Finalists, based on their academic

accomplishments, abilities and skills. A variety of information is available for National Merit Scholarship selectors to evaluate including the Finalist's academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system, two sets of test scores, the high school official's written recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the finalist's own essay according to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Approximately 7,600 National Merit Scholarship award winners will be announced by June, according to the organization.



We're Looking for a Few Good Kids ... To Brag On!

If you know a young person deserving of recognition or a youth group working to positively impact our community, let us hear about it. They just might end up in next month's "Austin in Action" section of Austin Family magazine! Send details and a photo to editor2003@austinfamily.com. Know a good kid doing a good deed in Austin? Let us know at editor2003@austinfamily.com

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Advanced Learning Opportunities at St. Michael's

St. Michael's Catholic Academy just opened its Hub for Advanced Learning Opportunities (HALO). The new 24,000 square foot building allows their faculty to teach collaborative and creative lessons in robotics, engineering, film production, business, music and data, fostering critical thinking and immersive learning where students will thrive. The advanced learning experiences that the

students enjoy will solidly position St. Michael's as one of the top secondary schools in Austin.

"I am so proud of the work of our school and committee. Supporting these educational opportunities for our students is essential to ensure they are prepared to develop strong study and career interests," said Steve Felice, alumni parent, advisor, and contributor.



St. Michael's students outside the new HALO building.

Little Chefs Welcome!



Photo credit: Little Kitchen Academy

A first of its kind Montessori cooking school is slated to make its grand opening in Austin this summer. Little Kitchen Academy will offer cooking instruction classes to kids ages three to eighteen. Kids are grouped by preschool, primary, preteen and teen. With a Montessori approach, LKA student will be thoughtfully observed and provided challenging work with attainable goals. Students will have the chance to grow in confidence and independence both in and out of the kitchen.

Little Kitchen Academy founders plan to build 75 locations throughout Texas in the next ten years. The first ever Austin location will be at The Shops at Arbor Walk, 10515 North Mopac. For more information and sign up your child future classes, go to: www.littlekitchenacademy.com

2023 Readers Poll Favorite Is Open Now for Voting

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N, E, S, W Fun in Every Direction!

JESS ARCHER

Archer is a writer, a mom of two kids and a wife. She is the author of the memoir, "Finding Home with the Beatles, Bob Dylan and Billy Graham."

Austin has so much to offer families who want some summer fun, but what else is out there? Turns out that one hour north, east, south and west of Austin yield some great summer adventure zones, each with a slightly different appeal. Fill up your gas tank, pack your swimsuit and get going, Austin!

NORTH – Cameron Park Zoo



Wanting a little more from your wildlife experience than Austin's quaint rescue zoo? Then check out Cameron Park Zoo in Waco, Texas. It's an easy one hour and 30 minute drive from central Austin, and the zoo does not disappoint.

The 52 acre zoo first opened in 1993, and every year since then they've added animals in lush, well cared for habitats. The zoo boasts over 1,700 animals, representing 300 different species. That includes endangered orangutans, tigers and Komodo dragons.

Keep in mind that weekdays at the zoo are less crowded than weekends. Pack your lunch if you want to cut cost, but know that there are several eateries on the zoo grounds to choose from. The Treetop Café provides a kid-friendly menu and a zoo souvenir with a kids' meal.

Ever wonder how a zoo sounds at night? Find out at Cameron Park's "Wild Night" events. Kids can bring flashlights and the tour guides will lead visitors through the various exhibits to see and hear how the animals live it up at night!

For tickets and more information, go to: www.cameronparkzoo.com

EAST – Splashway Water Park



Tired of long lines at water parks? Then it's time to head east out of Austin.

At one hour and 55 minutes by car, Splashway Waterpark and Campground is going to be your new favorite way to cool off this summer.

People who love the park say that it's never too crowded, always clean and the staff is genuinely happy to serve you. You can pay for a day pass and get wet all day on the water rides or really dig in for the full Splashway experience by staying at one of their campgrounds. Overnighters can choose to stay in cabins, tents, bungalows or drive and park their own RV. The campgrounds are lush and quiet and will feel like a real getaway.

Splashway has over 24 water rides and pools. Military persons receive a discount on tickets and every day at 1 p.m. the whole park pauses to hear The Star Spangled Banner as a salute to those who have served our country.

For more information and tickets, head to: www.splashway.com

SOUTH – ZDT Amusement Park

If you're seriously into family fun, ZDT Amusement park (exactly one hour south of Austin in Seguin) is exactly what you're looking for. Named for the founder's three children- Zac, Danielle and Tiffany, the park is a unique mix of new and old.

Many of the park attractions include repurposed buildings from a time when

the land was used for agriculture. The silo climbing wall, for example, was built on the side of an old silo that once stored grain for local farmers.

ZDT continues to expand its entertainment offerings. In 2010 they introduced a new ride to keep guests cool all summer, the Mad Raft Water Coaster. In total, the park has over twenty rides and games, all for various ages.

The park has a café with several food options but guests are also welcome to bring coolers and picnic on the grounds. ZDT is still run by the Donhauser family, its original owners. You may even see one of his three grown kids operating a ride, so be sure to say hello.

For more information check out:
www.zdtamusement.com



Mad Raft Water Coaster at ZDT Amusement Park.

WEST - Pedernales Falls State Park



Pedernales Falls State Park. Photo credit: www.tpwd.texas.gov

When the weather gets really sizzling in Austin, there's nothing that compares to a cool-off in the Greenbelt water. And no other place is as picture-perfect as Pedernales Falls State Park, just one hour west of central Austin.

The Pedernales River can be swift if the hill country has received a lot of rain, but for the most part the river has a tranquil flow to it, making the banks and pools a perfect place to rest and relax on a hot day. True Austinites know how to set their camping chairs right in the water,

sit back with a beverage and let their feet and legs cool off. If you need more activity for your day on the Pedernales, guests are welcome to bring tubes, fishing gear, even kayaks or canoes.

Once you've cooled off in the water, the surrounding area is ideal for hiking and camping.

The important thing to know about making plans to visit Pedernales Falls is that you must make a reservation online. Don't be intimidated by the reservation

process. The available dates for a day at the Falls only show up a month in advance, so check the website often to get your spot. You won't regret a day on the Pedernales River.

To make your reservations and learn more about the river, visit:
www.tpwd.texas.gov

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The 4 Parenting Styles



Neglectful



Permissive



Authoritarian



Authoritative

FAMILY MATTERS

DR. BETTY RICHARDSON

Richardson, PhD, RN, CS, LPC, LMFT, is an Austin-based psychotherapist.

Q My sister and I were raised by an authoritarian father and a mother who supported our dad. In raising our kids, my husband and I tend to be authoritarian like my father. My sister hated Dad's style of parenting, so she is permissive with her children. We tend to tell the kids "Do it because I said so." My sister says, "What would you like to do?" Maybe neither of us is using the best parenting style. What are the major parenting styles and the advantages and disadvantages of each style?

A The four major styles of parenting are: authoritarian and permissive (which you mentioned) as well as two more: authoritative and neglectful. As a parent, you don't have to consistently stick to one of these four styles. You can change your style depending on the situation. Let's look at these styles.

Neglectful Style of Parenting - In this style, parents are not warm and loving. They have few, if any, limits and boundaries. Children raised in this parenting style tend to have problems in school and in relationships. They tend to have depression, experience anxiety, make poor choices, may end up using alcohol and drugs or outside the law. Kids raised by neglectful parents tend to have low self-esteem. These children basically raise themselves. If they find a good person to guide them, it's possible they can succeed in life.

Permissive Style of Parenting - Unlike the neglectful style where parents are not warm and loving, in the permissive style parents are super warm and loving. They are short on limits and boundaries. They let their children get away with just about everything. Parents focus on being a child's friend instead of the parent. Children raised in this style of parenting have a tendency to behave in entitled ways. These children may resist limits as they are not used to them. Advantages include a close parent and child relationship. Kids may also be more willing to try new things and be more independent.

Authoritarian Style of Parenting - Like the neglectful parent, these parents are usually lacking in some warmth. These parents expect children to not question their commands and will punish them if they do. Advantages of this style include instilling a sense of respect for authority, a strong work ethic, a sense of duty and discipline. Disadvantages of this style include not preparing kids with relationship skills or skills to deal with the unexpected.

Authoritative Style of Parenting - The parents warmly set limits while conveying to the kids they are the parents and are in charge. This parent solves problems collaboratively with their child and keeps an open communication style. There are natural consequences for behavior. Kids raised in this style tend to build strong emotional and social skills and to become responsible members of society. Authoritative parents tend to raise kids who are socially adept, independent, self-reliant, happy, successful and capable. If you want to move closer to an authoritative style, it is suggested that you need to listen to your child/children, establish rules and share why the rules exist. Try to enforce rules consistently by providing consequences that are fair.

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¿Cómo puedo permanecer
cerca de mis nietos?



Kids, Take Mom on a Mother's Day Date

CATHERINE MICHALK

Catherine Michalk is a native Austinite, writer and mom of three. You can follow her family's adventures at www.catherinemichalk.com

Mother's Day is right around the corner, Sunday, May 14th. While we all love macaroni art and pancakes that spell "MOM," Mother's Day is also the perfect time to set aside extra, one-on-one time with your kids. A mother-daughter or mother-son date is a sweet time to bond and create special memories. This is especially true of elementary-age kids. Here are three places in Austin your kids can take YOU on a Mother's Day date.

1. Museum of Illusion - 11010 Domain Dr #100, Austin, TX 78758



The Museum of Illusion just opened in the Domain, and it is the perfect place to go with kids of any age. The museum includes 70 exhibits, most of which you can touch or even step inside to experience. It is like a book of optical illusions, come to life. Try to walk through a spinning vortex, play with shadow and light and take

gravity-defying pictures. Each exhibit has a placard describing the best way to experience the illusion and why it tricks our brains. Make sure you buy tickets in advance if you plan to visit on a weekend. *Photo credit: Museum of Illusion.*

2. Halcyon - 1905 Aldrich Street, #110, Austin, TX 78723

There are two Halcyon locations, one downtown and one in Mueller. This coffee shop is a fun little spot with plenty of food and drinks to choose from, including vegan and gluten-free options. What makes this spot especially fun and unique for kids is the tabletop S'mores. Order a tray filled with s'mores fixings and a small roasting stick. Now you can enjoy the fun part of camping without setting up a tent or swatting away bugs. Bonus: the Mueller location is walking distance to Mueller Lake Park and The Thinkery so you can head over to either spot when you're done with your s'mores!

3. Cidercade Austin - 600 E Riverside Dr, Austin, TX 78704



If your kid likes arcade games you must visit Cidercade Austin. With over 150 games you can spend hours here trying to beat the pinball high score or challenging each other at air hockey. Cidercade is unique among arcades because, rather than loading a card with

funds and swiping to play each game, you simply pay an entrance fee (\$10) at the door and all the games are free. This lets you play without worrying about how much each game costs. They offer a small menu, mostly pizza and wings, along with Maine-root soda and their own hard ciders and seltzers. We recommend getting there early to play the most popular games without a long line (looking at you, Jurassic Park!), and staying for lunch. Be aware that they are family-friendly during the day, but 21+ starting at 8pm. *Photo credit: Cidercade.*

LET'S MAKE RAD STUFF!

Memorial Day Craft

Patriotic Windsock

This is a simple craft for kids, and they will have fun using their creativity. Once finished, kids can hang their windsock at home or give it to a family who has lost a Veteran, or a Veteran they know.



Items Needed:

- White string
- White poster board or construction paper
- Crepe paper or tissue paper
- Stars or Red and Blue Markers (if you want to draw your own)

Instructions:

1. **Decorate a sheet of paper with markers, crayons, paint, or stickers.**
2. **Roll the paper widthwise into a tube, then glue, tape, or staple it shut.** Bring the narrow ends of the paper together to form a tube. Secure the tube with glue, tape or staples
3. **Cut tissue paper or crepe paper into streamers.**
4. **Tape or glue the streamers to the inside bottom edge of the windsock.** Keep going until you've covered the entire inside edge with streamers.
5. **Punch 2 holes in the top of the windsock, directly across from each other.**
6. **Thread a piece of string through both holes, then tie the ends together.**

Source:
www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Windsock-for-Children



Tips for Making Closure on the School Year

THE LEARNING CURVE

ALISON BOGLE

Bogle is a writer living in Austin with her husband and three children. A former fourth grade teacher, she now enjoys writing about children and education. You can also catch her talking about articles from Austin Family magazine each Thursday morning on FOX 7 Austin.

My mom friends and I refer to the fifth month of the year as The Month of May-hem. The time between Spring Break and the end of the school year is invariably a wild ride of final school projects, assemblies, parties, book fairs, sorting out summer plans and more. And that's all on top of the usual craziness of life with kids!

I recently learned that pausing to reflect on skills gained, memories made, the highs and even the lows is a powerful way to encourage growth and change in our kids. I typically feel like I slide into June on two wheels, so it's helpful to remember that reflection can be informal and can take place over

multiple days. Consider the following suggestions to help you institute an end of year review for your family:

ACADEMICS

Listing the concepts and skills that your child learned this year is a great way to help him build confidence. Children learn a staggering amount of information each year, but because they tend to live in the moment, they don't always appreciate just how far they've come.

As you talk together about what he's learned, encourage your child to reflect on the fact that some skills came easily, but others were harder won. This will help him during the next school year when he struggles. You can remind him that he has experienced struggles in the past, yet managed to persevere and learn what was necessary.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL

The end of the school year is a good time to talk about your child's experience with friends and classmates. Encourage him to recall enjoyable times and to reflect on what made those

times so fun. Ask him to also reflect on times he felt frustrated, hurt, or sad and discuss what happened. What helped him to feel better or helped the situation to improve? Is there anything that could be done to avoid similar situations next year? Discuss which friends build him up and which friends leave him feeling depleted, uncomfortable or insecure. If you have a younger child, his answers will be good information to have so that you can encourage summer get-togethers with friends. Take a break over the summer from those school relationships that bring down his self-esteem.

MAKE IT VISUAL

Visual supports offer a concrete way to demonstrate all that our kids have learned during the school year. Consider creating one of the following visual supports with your child as part of your end of year review:

- **Walk of fame** – write each of your child's accomplishments, both academic and social/emotional, from the school year on separate pieces of paper and hang them in

your home. Have your child lead the whole family through a tour of his accomplishments.

- **Paper chain** – write an accomplishment on a strip of paper, then tape the paper strip into a circle. Connect the circle to additional accomplishment circles to form a long chain. Allow your child to proudly display the chain in his room or elsewhere in your home.
- **Balloon brags** – write each accomplishment on a separate balloon, inflate the balloons, and encourage your child to revel in how many balloons he needed to inflate. Have fun kicking and batting the balloons back and forth.
- **Keepsake album** – help your child make a scrapbook of his accomplishments and favorite memories. He can refer to these in the future when he needs a little boost of confidence.

EXPRESS GRATITUDE

Studies have shown that expressing gratitude and feeling thankful can help with memory formation, decrease stress and anxiety, improve sleep and even increase immunity. Focusing on what we're grateful for can help buffer us and our children from end of school stress and craziness.

Take time to express gratitude to your child – for working hard, trying his best, and contributing to your family and to society by learning and growing at school. You can also brainstorm with your child how to thank those who have supported him in his endeavors during the year, including people like his classroom teacher, P.E., art, and music teachers.

Simple, but meaningful gifts include:

- personal notes of gratitude sharing what your child will remember most about his time with the recipient
- handmade drawings or crafts
- coffee shop gift cards
- small plants or flowers
- class scrapbooks or photo albums
- trail mix, chocolates, or other favorite snacks
- school supply store gift cards

- bookstore gift cards
- books for the classroom library
- summer supplies: beach towel, beach blanket, beach reads, sun hat, or selection of sunscreens

I'm looking forward to talking with my kids and hearing what they have to say, and I'm relieved to know that I don't

have to carve out a huge chunk of time – our conversations can be pieced together from talks in the car, dinner table discussion and bedtime musings. The important thing is to encourage our kids to reflect on how far they've come, what they've learned, and what they've overcome. Let them feel just how very proud of them we are. Now, bring on summer!



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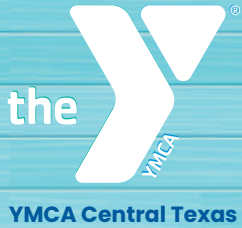
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COUNTRY HOME LEARNING CENTER	5-13	www.countryhomelearningcenter.com	512-288-8220	N, S
DANCE DISCOVERY	3-18	www.dancediscovery.com	512-419-7611	C, RR
FANTASTIC MAGIC CAMP	5-12	www.magiccamp.com	512-988-3045	C
IDEA LAB	5-13	www.austin.idealabkids.com	512-710-9654	C
ILLUME CHOIR	5-18	www.illuminechoirs.org/summer2023/		N
IMAGINE ARTS ACADEMY OF AUSTIN	4-12	www.imagineartsacademy.com	512-892-1143	Multiple
IRON HORSE MOTOCROSS	8-13	www.ironhorsecountry.com	512-917-5733	Bertram, TX
JUMP! GYMNASTICS	3-10	www.jump-austin.com	512-705-9659	S, C
KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS	4-18	www.kidsactingstudio.com	512-836-5437	18 Locations
MAD SCIENCE	4-12	www.austin.madscience.org	512-892-1143	Multiple
PARAGON PREP SUMMER CAMP	3yo-8th	www.paragonprep.org	512-459-5040	N
ROCK ABOUT CLIMBING	9-18	www.rock-about.com	512-415-0804	Multiple
SPICEWOOD COUNTRY CAMP	3 ½-10 ½	www.spicewoodcountry.com	512-346-2992	NW
STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS	5-11	www.steppingstoneschool.com	512-459-0258	17 locations
STEVE AND KATE'S CAMP	4-12	www.steveandkatescamp.com		N, S
SYNERGY DANCE	2 & up	www.synergydance.com	512-327-4130	WL
TEX-ARTS	5-18	www.tex-arts.org		LW
UT RADIO-TELEVISION-FILM MEDIA CAMPS	6-18	www.rtf.utexas.edu/camps	512-471-6617	UT Campus
UTReach	8-18	www.outreach.utexas.edu/camps	512-471-4992	C
YMCA AUSTIN	4-14	www.austinyymca.org	512-322-9622	Multiple
YMCA CENTRAL TEXAS	4-14	www.ymcactx.org	512-250-9622	RR, CP, G, H

LOCATIONS

N, C, S, E, W, NW, SW
for Austin locations
BC = Bee Caves

CP = Cedar Park
G = Georgetown
L = Leander

PF = Pflugerville
RR = Round Rock
WL = Westlake

OVERNIGHT CAMPS

CAMP CHAMPIONS	6-17	www.campchampions.com	830-598-2571	Marble Falls, TX
CAMP EAGLE	6-18	www.campeagle.org	830-928-7288	Rocksprings, TX
CAMP HEART O' THE HILLS FOR GIRLS	6-16	www.hohcamp.com	830-238-4650	Hunt, TX
CAMP STEWART FOR BOYS	6-16	www.campstewart.com	830-238-4670	Hunt, TX
NEWK'S OUTBACK ADVENTURE CAMP	8-17	www.newktennis.com	830-625-9105	New Braunfels, TX
SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP	5 & up	www.texasHORSECAMPS.com	830-460-8487	Bandera, TX
YMCA CAMP TWIN LAKES	6-16	www.ymcactx.org	512-250-9622	CP

ARTS

AI CAMP CREATOR	6-13	www.creatorcamp.org	713-417-9025	N, S
ART CAMPS OF CORDOVAN ART SCHOOL	5-16	www.cordovanartschool.com	512-275-4040	CP, NW SW
AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL	9-18	www.austinfilmfestival.com	512-478-4795	C
BADGERDOG CREATIVE WRITING CAMPS	9-18	www.austinlibrary.org/creative-writing-camps	512-542-0076	C
BEE CAVES ART FOUNDATION YOUNG ARTISTS	5-12	www.beecavesartfoundation.org	512-731-5868	BC
DANCE DISCOVERY	3-18	www.dancediscovery.com	512-419-7611	C, RR
IMAGINE ARTS ACADEMY OF AUSTIN	4-12	www.imagineartsacademy.com	512-892-1143	Multiple
ILLUME CHOIR	5-18	www.illuminechoirs.org/summer2023/		N
KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS	4-18	www.kidsactingstudio.com	512-836-5437	18 Locations
SCHOOL OF ROCK MUSIC CAMP	6-18	www.schoolofrock.com	512-246-7625	RR, N, SW
SYNERGY DANCE	2 & up	www.synergydance.com	512-327-4130	WL
TEX-ARTS	5-18	www.tex-arts.org		LW
UT RADIO-TELEVISION-FILM MEDIA CAMPS	6-18	www.rtf.utexas.edu/camps	512-471-6617	UT Campus

SPORTS

AUSTIN YACHT CLUB	5-16	www.austinyachtclub.net	512-266-1336	LT
BRANDY PERRYMAN SHOOTING CAMP	7-16	www.bperrymanshootingcamp.com	512-799-8591	13 locations
CAMP DOUBLECREEK	4-14	www.campdoublecreek.com	512-255-3661	PF
CAMP ROUND ROCK	4-14	www.ymcactx.org	512-246-9622	RR
CAMP SWITCH WILLO	6-13	www.switchwillo.com	512-920-0554	N
CLUB Z	5-12	www.zsclubhouse.com	512-219-0700	NW, S, SW
IRON HORSE MOTOCROSS	8-13	www.ironhorsecountry.com	512-917-5733	Bertram, TX
JUMP! GYMNASTICS	3-10	www.jump-austin.com	512-705-9659	S, C
NEWK'S OUTBACK ADVENTURE CAMP	8-17	www.newktennis.com	830-625-9105	New Braunfels, TX
ROCK ABOUT CLIMBING	9-18	www.rock-about.com	512-415-0804	Multiple
SPICEWOOD COUNTRY CAMP	3 ½-10 ½	www.spicewoodcountry.com	512-346-2992	NW
STEVE AND KATE'S CAMP	4-12	www.steveandkatescamp.com		N, S
YMCA AUSTIN	4-14	www.austinyymca.org	512-322-9622	Multiple
YMCA CENTRAL TEXAS	4-14	www.ymcactx.org	512-250-9622	RR, CP, G, H

ACADEMIC

CLUB SCIKIDZ	4-15	www.clubscikidz.com	229-444-3231	C
COUNTRY HOME LEARNING CENTER	5-13	www.countryhomelearningcenter.com	512-288-8220	N
FANTASTIC MAGIC CAMP	5-12	www.magiccamp.com	512-988-3045	C
IDEA LAB	5-13	www.austin.idealabkids.com	512-710-9654	C
MAD SCIENCE	4-12	www.austin.madscience.org	512-892-1143	Multiple
PARAGON PREP SUMMER CAMP	3yo-8th	www.paragonprep.org	512-459-5040	N
STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS	5-11	www.stepsstoneschool.com	512-459-0258	17 locations
UTReach	8-18	www.outreach.utexas.edu/camps	512-471-4992	C

TECHNOLOGY

CODE WIZARDSHQ	8-18	www.codewizardshq.com		Virtual
CODING WITH KIDS	5-18	www.codingwithkids.com		S, C, N, CP, RR, L, DP, BC
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SMART SCREEN TIME

DR. BENJAMIN KRAMER

Kramer, PhD, is the director of education for Austin PBS.



Screens in Cars?

May is a busy month - several holidays, end-of-school-year events, sports leagues in full gear, and let's not forget No Sock Day (May 8). All of these occasions likely add up to significant travel time, which in turn means screen time in cars for many kids.

Some years ago, I heard this generation of youth called "the pass-back generation," implying that we adults pass back our devices when we want to keep them occupied during car trips. I think it's even more likely these days that many kids are carrying their own devices, so no passing is required. Devices can bring peace and good humor on a road trip, especially a long one. Every child gets to choose their own media and adults get their own channels up front, or even a chance for a lengthy, uninterrupted conversation. And yet, I'd still like to advocate for a bit of noise.

For a birthday party, we took my daughter and a bunch of her friends in our minivan for an outing. Before we had even made it out of the driveway, phones were out and the girls were texting each other while wedged shoulder to shoulder. My wife said, "Ok, we're not doing this - pass all your phones up front for this trip." They

obliged and within a minute, song had broken out, then happy chatter carried us down the highway. We did the same on the return trip and relished the moment when interaction yielded to happy fatigue. We actually wore out a van full of birthday parties!

This was a reminder to me that as attractive as the devices are, kids can quickly pivot to engaging in real life with the people literally closest to them. Devices can help this engagement - we've looked up silly jokes and conversation starters, played online trivia games, and asked kids for help mapping our route or finding suitable stopping points.

And yes, we've often fallen back on devices to help smooth the ride. In other words, while we still qualify as "pass-back" parents, we try to balance that out with some "pass-forward" moments, too.

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SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

LIFELINES

BRENDA SCHOOLFIELD

Schoolfield is a medical writer and editor who lives in Austin. Sugar, her cocker spaniel, and sometimes a rescue foster dog or two keep her company while she writes.

Kids enjoy being outside in the summer – riding bikes, swimming, playing at the park and watching fireworks. Unfortunately, more time outside can provide more opportunities for injury. According to a recent report, activities most frequently associated with summer injuries to kids are biking, swimming and playground activities. Use the following checklists to help you prepare for an injury-free, kid safe summer.

Safe Biking

Bikes are a leading cause of emergency room visits for children ages 5 to 14

years old. Start with this basic bike safety checklist to help keep your child safe.

Make sure your child wears a bike helmet. Correctly wearing a properly-fitted helmet protects against brain and head injury. Check the helmet for a Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) sticker. If it doesn't have one, get another helmet that does. The helmet should fit snugly and not move side to side. It should sit low on the forehead, about 1 to 2 finger-widths above the eyebrow. When fastened, you should not be able to get more than one finger under the chin strap. Get a new helmet if it is dropped or your child takes a spill while wearing it.

- ✓ Check the tire pressure. Check the chain. Clean and oil as needed.
- ✓ Inspect the seat and handlebars; tighten if needed.
- ✓ Test the brakes to make sure they work and don't stick.

- ✓ Put reflectors on the bike and the child's helmet. Also consider adding a flashing device to increase visibility.
- ✓ Add a tall flag to low tricycles or riding toys.
- ✓ Don't let your child wear loose clothing or untied shoe strings that could get caught in the wheels. Don't allow your child to wear headphones while riding.
- ✓ Teach your child the rules of the road and how to use hand signals.

Safe Around Water

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends the following steps for keeping children safe when they are around or in the water.

- ✓ Make sure your child learns swimming basics – how to float and how to move through the water.
- ✓ Learn CPR for both adults and children. Keep your skills current.
- ✓ Watch children around or in the water at all times. This includes bathtubs,

wading pools, hot tubs and water playgrounds. Adults in charge of watching should avoid distractions. Some distractions are talking with other adults, looking at your phone or reading a book.

- ✓ Protect your child and others from germs that can make swimmers sick. Most germs are killed by pool disinfectants, but certain germs aren't. Don't let your child swim if she has diarrhea. Take your child out of the pool every hour for a bathroom break. Change diapers away from poolside. Make sure your child knows not to pee or poop in the water or swallow the water. Remember to shower for at least 1 minute before getting in the water to rinse off any germs that might be on the body.
- ✓ Insist that your child wear a life jacket when in and around lakes, oceans and other bodies of water – even if she knows how to swim. Weak swimmers should wear a life jacket in and around pools.
- ✓ Ensure that your child cannot access a pool without your knowledge. All pools should be fenced on all sides, with self-latching and self-closing gates. The fence should separate the pool from the house and play areas.

Safe on the Playground

Falls are a common cause of injury for children of all ages. Falls can cause traumatic brain injury, fractures and other injuries. On public playgrounds, more children are injured when playing on monkey bars and climbing equipment than on swings and slides. Here are a few safety tips:

- ✓ Choose a playground that has a proper protective surface, like tire crumb or mulch—not dirt or grass.
- ✓ Look around at the equipment to make sure it is safe. Equipment should not be rusty, broken, or have missing pieces or sharp edges.
- ✓ Insist that your child use the equipment as designed. For example, she should use the swing set for swinging in the seat, as opposed to using it as a jungle gym and climbing up to the top bar.
- ✓ Supervise children so that they use equipment designed for their age range. Young children should stay off equipment built for older children. Don't allow older children to engage in rough play on equipment designed for younger children.

Safe with Fireworks

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends enjoying fireworks at community displays run by professionals instead of buying and using fireworks at home. This is because all types of consumer fireworks have been associated with severe burns and serious injuries. Even sparklers are dangerous, particularly when used by younger children. Sparklers can reach temperatures of over 1000 degrees! The best way to stay safe around fireworks is to leave it to the professionals.

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May 2023 calendar

Go to www.austinfamily.com for expanded listings.

Check our calendar online which is updated daily. Any family-friendly events can be posted at www.austinfamily.com and will be made live once approved. Certain restrictions apply.

MON 1

TUE 2

Morning Glories. 10 - 11 a.m. Join Creative Action for an interactive storybook/music & movement class inspired by Divya Srinivasan's new book, "Little Owl Love." Moody Amphitheater, 1401 Trinity St. www.waterloogreenway.org.

Lunchtime Series. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Our Spring 2023 season of free live lunchtime concerts is filled with jazz, blues, rock n roll, soul, folk and more. Downtown Round Rock, 221 E. Main St. www.roundrocktexas.gov.

Kids Club. 3:30 - 4 p.m. Kids ages 5-8, join us for an engaging crafting, reading, building or exploring afternoon. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. www.library.pflugervilletx.gov.

Kitty Cafe. 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Come socialize with adoptable felines from Pflugerville Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) and enjoy a cup of cocoa or coffee. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. www.library.pflugervilletx.gov.

Round Rock Express vs. Reno. 8:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd. www.milb.com.

WED 3

Little Sprouts. 10 - 11 a.m. Tailored for children ages three to five years, Little Sprouts is a celebration of nature play, led by trained guides. Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave. www.wildflower.org.

Tween Book Club. 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. Tween Time happens every Wednesday at the library. Tween programs are different every week. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. www.library.pflugervilletx.gov.

Mario Kart 8 Tournament (All ages). 6 - 8 p.m. Join us for a friendly, recreational competition of Mario Kart 8. We'll play in the game room of the Rec. Center on the big screen. Pflugerville Recreation Center, 400 Immanuel Rd. www.parks.pflugervilletx.gov.

Music on Main. 7 - 9 p.m. Music on Main returns for the Spring 2023 season, when we'll present a roster of diverse genres of music - rock n roll, Tejano, country and boogie. Prete Main St. Plaza, 221 East Main Street. www.roundrocktexas.gov.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs. Reno, see Tue 2.

THU 4

Homeschool Teens. 2 - 3 p.m. The Homeschool Teen group meets once a week to socialize, play games, make crafts and learn new skills. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger Street. www.library.pflugervilletx.gov.

Austin Bat Refuge Presentation: Peaceful Coexistence with Bats. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Join Austin Bat Refuge for a presentation on local wildlife and see some bats up close. Anyone 18 and up may attend. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger Street. www.library.pflugervilletx.gov.

Star Wars Movie Event. 8 - 10 p.m. 502 Hurst Creek Rd. www.lakeway-tx.gov.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs. Reno, see Tue 2; Lunchtime Series, see Tue 2.

FRI 5

ManorPalooza. 5 - 10 p.m. Music, food and carnival. Downtown Manor. www.cityofmanor.org.

KUTX Rock the Park. 6:45 p.m. Mueller, KUTX, and Dell Children's Medical Center are excited to rock the amphitheater at Mueller Lake Park again this spring. Mueller Lake Park, 4550 Mueller Blvd. FREE. www.kutx.org.

Music in the Park. 7 - 9 p.m. Be sure to bring your friends and family, beverages, snacks, blanket or lawn chair to enjoy this event to its fullest. Veterans Memorial Park, 109 Depot St. FREE. www.elgintexas.gov.

ASO About Town. 7:30 p.m. A new Chamber Orchestra Series is the vision of ASO Music Director, Peter Bay. Performed throughout the Austin area. Hide Bates Recital Hall, 2406 Robert Dedman Dr. \$0 - \$20. www.my.austinsymphony.org.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs. Reno, see Tue 2.

SAT 6

Muddy Miler Family Adventure 2023. 8 - 10 a.m. The Round Rock Parks and Recreation Department presents the FREE Muddy Miler Family Adventure. Old Settlers Park, www.roundrocktexas.gov.

Learn To Fish. 8 - 12 p.m. Come out and learn fishing tips and tricks at this fun, FREE, family event. Southwest Williamson County Regional Park, 219 Perry Mayfield Blvd. www.wilco.org.

Cinco de Mayo. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Live music, arts and food. Fiesta Gardens West End, 2100 Jessie Sevovia. Free until noon. \$5 presale, \$7 at gate. www.fiestaaustin.org.

Blue Genie Art Bazaar's May Market. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. The creators of the award-winning Blue Genie Art Bazaar are bringing back their spring arts shopping event, May Market. Blue Genie Art Bazaar, 6100 Airport Blvd. FREE. www.bluegenieartbazaar.com.

17th Annual Pioneer Day. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Williamson Museum invites you to the 17th annual Pioneer Days at Old Settlers Association of Williamson County, 3300 East Palm Valley Rd. www.roundrocktexas.gov.

2023 Pecan Street Festival. 11 a.m. Food, craft artisans, kids' area and activities. 6th Street, Between Brazos and IH 35. FREE. www.pecanstreetfestival.org.

Mommy and Me Craft & Lunch. (Ages 3-12). 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Make the perfect Mother's Day present during our craft and lunch. Pflugerville Recreation Center, 400 Immanuel Rd. www.parks.pflugervilletx.gov.

Kite Festival. 11 a.m. Join Leander Parks & Recreation every spring for the city's annual Kite Festival at Devine Lake Park. Leander Public Library, 1011 S. Bagdad. www.leandertx.gov.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs. Reno, see Tue 2; Manor Palooza, see Fri 5; 2023 Pecan Street Festival, see Sat 5.

SUN 7

Kids Makers' Market. 2 - 5 p.m. Join us for our monthly Kids Maker's Market. The Hive, 10542 Menchaca Rd. www.hiveaustin.com.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs. Reno, see Tue 2; 2023 Pecan Street Festival, see Sat 6; Blue Genie Art Bazaar's May Market, see Sat 6.

MON 8

Magic and Balloons with Bobby Cordell. 10 - 10:45 a.m. For children up to age five. Join us for a free, magic-filled story time. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger Street. www.library.pflugervilletx.gov.

TUE 9

Round Rock Express vs Oklahoma City. 7:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd. www.milb.com.

Spring Bat Walk. 8 - 9 p.m. Austin is well known for its bat colonies that reside in buildings, under bridges and in caves. Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave. www.wildflower.org.

CONTINUED: Morning Glories, see Tue 2; Kids Club, see Tue 2.

WED 10

Playdates in the Park at Armadillo Neighborhood Park. 10 - 11:30 a.m. Crafts, music, and movement at this community event series designed to activate families with young children. FREE www.austinparks.org.

Tween Scene: Stick Birdhouses. 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. Tween Time happens every Wednesday at the library. Tween programs are different every week. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. www.library.pflugervilletx.gov.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs Oklahoma City, see Tue 9; Little Sprouts, see Wed 3; Music on Main, see Wed 3.

THU 11

Board Game Night. (All Ages). 5:30 - 8 p.m. Come join us for a fun night of playing board games! Pflugerville Recreation Center, 400 Immanuel Rd. www.parks.pflugervilletx.gov.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs Oklahoma City, see Tue 9; Homeschool Teens, see Thu 4.

FRI 12

Ballet Austin presents Cinderella. 8 p.m. An enduring rags-to-princess story that offers the promise of "happily ever after!" The Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W Riverside Dr. \$15 - \$125. www.balletaustin.org.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs. Oklahoma City, see Thu 11; Music in the Park, see Fri 5.

SAT 13

Unplug and Explore: Barton Springs (Ages 6-12). 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will enjoy the day swimming and exploring. Beverly

S. Pflugerville Recreation Center, 400 Immanuel Rd. \$10 – \$15.
www.parks.pflugervilletx.gov.

CelebrASIA Austin 2023. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. The City of Austin celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at this 10th annual family-friendly event. Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron Rd. FREE. www.austintexas.gov/department/asian-american-resource-center.

BookSpring Fest: A Read Aloud Celebration. 2 – 8 p.m. Come one, come all to a fun-filled outdoor festival celebrating books and fun family activities. 1807 W Slaughter Ln. Bldg. #1. FREE. www.bookspringfest.org.

CONTINUED: Blue Genie Art Bazaar's May Market, see Sat 6, Round Rock Express vs. Oklahoma City, see Thu 11; Ballet Austin presents Cinderella, see Fri 12.

SUN 14

Mother's Day Market at Meanwhile Brewing. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are hosting a curated market for Mother's Day featuring local vendors and artisans. Meanwhile Brewing Co., 3901 Promontory Point Dr. FREE. www.meanwhilebeer.com.

Sunday Funday: Family Painting w/ Reji Thomas. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Free Family Fun in West Campus. Neill-Cochran House Museum, 2310 San Gabriel St. www.nchmuseum.org.

CONTINUED: Blue Genie Art Bazaar's May Market, see Sat 6, Round Rock Express vs. Oklahoma City, see Thu 11; Ballet Austin presents Cinderella, see Fri 12; Kids Makers' Market, see Sun 2.

MON 15

Food for Fines – Spring Harvest Food Drive for Hays County Food Bank. Food for Fines – How: 1 food item = \$2.00 in fines forgiven Where: www.cityofkyle.com.

TUE 16

Round Rock Express vs El Paso. 7:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd. www.milb.com.

CONTINUED: Morning Glories, see Tue 2; Kids Club, see Tue 2.

WED 17

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs El Paso, see Tue 16; Music on Main, see Wed 3; Tween Graphic Novel Book Club, see Wed 5; Super Smash Bros Ultimate Tournament, see Wed 5.

THU 18

Celeste: Manta de cielo Artist Talk & Community Picnic. 6 p.m. Join us on the lower grounds of Laguna Gloria as we welcome creative duo Celeste back to Laguna Gloria, 3809 West 35th St. www.thecontemporaryaustin.org.

Texas Trivia Night. Gather up your friends for a fun night of Lone Star trivia and prizes at the Bullock Museum. Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress Ave. www.thestoryoftexas.com.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs El Paso, see Tue 16; Homeschool Teens, see Thu 4.

FRI 19

2023 Kyle Fair A Tex-Travaganza. 4 – 11 p.m. Join us for a southern, heel-kickin' good time! www.cityofkyle.com.

Ash Pavilion Skate Night. 7 – 9 p.m. Join the Kyle Parks and Recreation Department on Friday, Ash Pavilion Skate Night at Gregg-Clarke Park, 1231 W. Center St. www.cityofkyle.com.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs El Paso, see Tue 16; Music in the Park, see Fri 5.

SAT 20

Cedar Park Market Days. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Head out for live music, yummy food trucks and over 70 local artisans. 11066 Pecan Park Blvd. Cedar Park. www.visitcedarparktexas.com.

What Juneteenth Means. (To Me) Awards Reception. 10 – 11:30 a.m. What Juneteenth Means (To Me) Poetry Contest Awards Reception Grade 8-12 student winners are honored at Neill-Cochran House Museum, 2310 San Gabriel St. www.nchmuseum.org.

Spring 2023 Round Rock PopUp Art Shows. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Shop for unique and original artwork by local and area fine artists in our Round Rock PopUp Art Show. Prete Main Street Plaza, 221 East Main St. FREE. www.roundrocktexas.gov.

Fairytales Tea Party (Ages 3-12). 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Join us for Fairytales tea party fun. Come dressed like your favorite fairytales character and enjoy mini sandwiches, snacks, tea and crafts. Pflugerville Recreation Center, 400 Immanuel Rd. www.parks.pflugervilletx.gov.

Tiny Tails for Teens. 2 – 3 p.m. Ages 10-18 only. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Drive. www.wblibrary.org.

Williamson County Symphony Orchestra Concert. 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Free concert with Williamson County Symphony Orchestra. www.roundrocktexas.gov.

CONTINUED: Blue Genie Art Bazaar's May Market, see Sat 6; Round Rock Express vs El Paso, see Fri 19; 2023 Kyle Fair A Tex-Travaganza, see Fri 19.

SUN 21

Crafty Café – Painted Bricks. 2 – 3:30 p.m. Be Crafty for ages 12+. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. www.library.pflugervilletx.gov.

CONTINUED: Blue Genie Art Bazaar's May Market, see Sat 6; Kids Makers' Market, see Sun 2; 2023 Kyle Fair A Tex-Travaganza, see Fri 19; Round Rock Express vs El Paso, see Tue 16.

TUE 23

Round Rock Express vs. Albuquerque. 7:35 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd. www.milb.com.

WED 24

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs. Albuquerque, see Tue 23; Music on Main, see Tue 3.

THU 25

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs. Albuquerque, see Tue 23.

FRI 26

Music in the Park. 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Spend your Friday nights every summer with us at Pfluger Park, 515 City Park Rd. www.parks.pflugervilletx.gov.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs. Albuquerque, see Tue 23; Music in the Park, see Fri 5.

SAT 27

Playdates in the Park at Patterson Park. 10 – 11:30 a.m. Playdates in the Park is an inclusive, free community event series designed to activate families with young children. Patterson Park, 4200 Brookview Rd. www.austinparks.org.

Dripping Springs Fair and Rodeo. Rodeo, dance, vendors, lots of fun for the whole family. 1042 Event Center Dr., Dripping Springs. www.cityofdrippingsprings.com/fair-rodeo.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs. Albuquerque, see Tue 23; Blue Genie Art Bazaar's May Market, see Sat 6.

SUN 28

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs. Albuquerque, see Wed 24; Blue Genie Art Bazaar's May Market, see Sat 6; Kids Makers' Market, see Sun 2; Dripping Springs Fair and Rodeo, see Sat 27.

MON 29

MEMORIAL DAY

CONTINUED: Dripping Springs Fair and Rodeo, see Sat 27.

TUE 30

Round Rock Express vs Sugar Land. 7:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd. www.milb.com.

WED 31

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs Sugar Land, see Tue 30; Music on Main, see Wed 3.

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Austin Then *and* Now

Barton Springs

BRITTANY WILLIAMS

Brittany is a writer and realtor in Austin where she loves exploring the city's green spaces with her husband, son and daughter.

Then

The crown jewel of Austin, Barton Springs, has brought people together for decades. Before it was a beloved public pool, Native Americans used the springs as a water source and gathering place. It later became a favored destination for carriage rides and military reunions. Others harnessed the power of the natural springs to mill wheat into flour. Over the years the land made its way into William Barton's hands, with Andrew Zilker being the final private owner before moving into the city's possession. Once public, civic events continued to be held on the grounds, and it remains a thriving gathering place to this day. In the 1920's, the city expanded the pool and added sidewalks in an effort to make "the finest municipal resort in the entire southwest" (www.zilkerneighborhood.org). The reconstructed bathhouses went up in 1947, but stay tuned for the Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation slated for this year!

Barton Springs, circa 1950
Credit: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library



Now

Much has changed since the early days of Barton Springs Pool, but much has remained the same. The water is still a cool 68-70 degrees year-round, it's still home to one of the last remaining public diving boards, and it greets nearly one million visitors per year, while regularly making top 10 lists for natural swimming holes. Early birds can enjoy free "swim at your own risk" hours (5-8am) for a slower pace and smaller crowd. Barton Springs is also seasonally free November-February. And don't miss Austin's annual New Year's Day Polar Bear Plunge! Daily entry fees remain under \$10, but visitors should factor in parking meter fees.

As you craft your summer plans, add a day at Barton Springs to the list. Whether you splash in the shallow end, nap on the grassy hillside, or cannonball off the diving board, it's a classic Austin slam dunk for the whole family.

Barton Springs, 2022.



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