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TUNE IN



Catch *Austin Family* magazine live on "Good Day Austin" every Thursday morning.



Harper is 7 years old and a Cover Kid Contest Winner. She's spunky, creative, and loves family vacations. Photo taken by Jordan Ashley Photography.



View the magazine online

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Editor's Note



CELESTE DIANNE WADE

Wade is a writer, public speaker, and a popular health coach in Austin. The eldest of seven children, she loves travel adventures with family.

Spring is in full swing. Austin is new and refreshed with bluebonnets, Indian paintbrushes, and bright green leaves adorning the heritage trees of our fair capital city. It is the perfect season to do everything in Austin.

The weather is perfect. The mild temperatures call our names to come outside and play.

- Walk the dogs.
- Enjoy the birds and butterflies.
- Plan to dine outside on the deck.
- Explore the trails around Lady Bird Lake.
- Discover new adventures and embrace all that Austin has to offer.

This issue of *Austin Family* encourages you to have fun with family and friends and find more ways to laugh with your kids. We hope to inspire you to enjoy today and plan for tomorrow.

It is never too early to plan your summer vacation, and the following pages will help you and your kids design a summer plan that is best for your family.

Find inspiration in our camp guide to help you make your summer plans. Check out our social media pages on Instagram @ATXFamily and Facebook @Austin Family Magazine for parenting inspiration throughout the month.

Remember to catch our media correspondent, Alison Bogle, on Thursday mornings, on FOX 7 Austin discussing all the great content you can find inside the pages of *Austin Family* magazine.

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Austin IN ACTION

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April Must Do's

April 5th

ABC Kite Fest

Source: www.abckitefest.org

April 6th

STATESMAN CAPIOK

Source: www.cap10k.com

April 19th

ASH Dash 5K Bunny Run

Source: www.friendsofash.org

Celebrate Earth Day the Trail Way

Austin is famous for its gorgeous green spaces, from the scenic Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail to the sparkling waters of Lady Bird Lake. These spots provide endless adventure, relaxation, and skyline views—and you and your family are invited to “show them some love.” Grab your crew, roll up your sleeves, and plan to help make Austin shine even brighter for Earth Day Clean-Up.

The fun begins at the Rowing Dock on Friday, April 25, 2025, for Austin’s largest land and lake Earth Day clean-up. Then, relax and celebrate the beauty of the trail at The Trail Conservancy’s (“TTC”) Earth Day Jubilee on April 26, 2025. Enjoy the free event featuring workshops by community partners, resources, unique earth-friendly vendors, food and beverages, and family-friendly entertainment.

Additionally, The Trail Conservancy is bringing the community together for the annual Earth Day Jubilee; a celebration of the Butler Trail and the vital role it plays in Austin’s environment. This free, family-friendly event is filled with live music, interactive eco-friendly activities, a vibrant maker’s market, and fun for all ages.



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

Know a young person doing something good for the community?

Tell us about it! Send your story and photo to:
editor2003@austinfamily.com



Lilly B., Kolben N., and Frankie I. Photo Credit: Redeemer Lutheran School

The American Heart Association Recognizes Redeemer Lutheran School as Austin leader for promoting physical and mental well-being

Redeemer Lutheran School has been named one of the top schools in Austin by the American Heart Association for its outstanding participation in the Kids Heart Challenge™. The American Heart Association’s Kids Heart Challenge™ is a fundraising, service-learning program

that provides lessons, tools, and activities to support the mental and physical well-being of students, families, and staff.

Redeemer Lutheran School has participated in the Kids Heart Challenge for over 30 years. This year more than 200 students raised \$35,823.37 in donations and the school was honored as the fundraising leader in Austin. The program is led by Physical Education Teacher, Jana Redmond, who taught 99 students and families the lifesaving skill of Hands-Only CPR and the warning signs of a stroke. Funds raised by Kids Heart Challenge participants support the American Heart Association’s scientific research and outreach programs, paving the way for breakthroughs and advancements that improve health outcomes and create healthier communities.



Annie Returns to Austin's Bass Concert Hall in May

The classic Broadway musical Annie will return to Austin this May as part of Texas Performing Arts' Broadway in Austin series. The production will run at Bass Concert Hall from May 2 through May 4.

Directed by Jenn Thompson, the production stays true to the original, featuring the iconic book and score by Tony Award®-winners Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse, and Martin Charnin. Set during the Great Depression, Annie tells the story of a spunky orphan who, despite her hardships,

holds on to the belief that "the sun will come out tomorrow." Annie's journey leads her to the wealthy businessman Oliver Warbucks, who becomes a father figure and helps her realize her dreams.

Since its Broadway debut in 1977, Annie has become a cultural phenomenon, known for its memorable songs like "Tomorrow" and "It's a Hard Knock Life." The musical's themes of optimism, resilience, and family continue to resonate with audiences of all ages, making it a beloved classic.

"The story of Annie is timeless, and its messages of hope and perseverance are more relevant than ever," said Thompson. "We're thrilled to bring this production back to the stage with the energy and heart that audiences love, while also giving it a fresh take for a new generation."

This production promises to deliver the same joy and inspiration that fans of Annie have come to expect, featuring a talented cast and all the signature elements that have made the musical a family favorite for decades.

Tickets for Annie are now available at texasperformingarts.org. Due to anticipated high demand, patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets early.

For more information on showtimes and tickets, visit www.texasperformingarts.org.

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Give Kids Something to Laugh About

Lifelines

SANDI SCHWARTZ

Schwartz is an award-winning author, freelance journalist, and mother of two.



Sometimes life can be difficult. Whether we are feeling anxious about current affairs or dealing with a health issue, laughter—believe it or not—can help us persevere. As adults, we tend to get bogged down with our to-do lists and stresses of daily life and forget how beautiful it is to let loose and have a good laugh. Unfortunately, most adults do not laugh enough. One study found that healthy children may laugh as much as 400 times per day, but adults only laugh an average of 15 times a day.

If we stop for a moment and observe our children, they are probably laughing and playing freely without stress on their shoulders. We can learn so much from them when it comes to being lighthearted. It is important to raise them in such a way that they will continue to experience fun and laughter throughout their lives. We can create a positive environment for them, by stopping to have a laughing fit together.

Why Is Laughter So Important?

Science shows us that laughter is like medicine. According to the Mayo Clinic,

laughing is one of the easiest ways to reduce stress and anxiety. Laughing transforms the body and mind, boosting positive emotions like happiness, peace, and humor.

When we laugh, the ventromedial prefrontal cortex of our brain is activated. It releases feel-good hormones called endorphins to allow us to experience pleasure and satisfaction. Laughing also reduces our stress response because the stress hormones like cortisol, epinephrine (adrenaline), and dopamine are lowered. We feel energized since we take in more oxygen-rich air when we laugh. Finally, laughing relaxes our muscles, which soothes tension from stress. A good laugh can leave muscles relaxed for up to forty-five minutes.

The muscles that help us smile also affect how we feel. When we use these muscles, we trigger a part of our brains that improves our mood. One research study involved having participants hold a pencil in one of three ways to get them to make certain facial expressions without telling them exactly what they

were doing. The first group held the pencil sideways in their mouths to force a smile. The second group stuck the pencil in lengthwise to force a frown. The last group, the control group, held the pencil in their hands. Participants were asked to watch cartoons and rate how funny they were to them. The group with the sideways pencils (the “smiling” group) had higher funny ratings than the lengthwise group (the “frowning” group). The control group scored between the other two groups. This study showed how smiling and laughing can change how we perceive the world.

Researchers also found that facial expressions can reduce negative feelings like pain and sadness. In one study, researchers applied an uncomfortable heat to subjects’ arms and then asked them to make either a relaxed face, an uncomfortable face, or a neutral face. The results showed that the people who made a relaxed face experienced less pain than those who made an uncomfortable or neutral face. This happens because smiling releases endorphins and serotonin, which are

thought to minimize any pain we feel. Laughter is beneficial because it also changes how we look at a situation. A silly moment can distract from negative emotions like anger, guilt, and stress. It sure is hard to feel negatively when you are cracking up! Laughter gives us a more lighthearted perspective when faced with challenges and helps us view such events as positive opportunities as opposed to threats.

Next, laughter builds resilience, the ability to adapt well to adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or significant sources of stress. When children are resilient, they are braver, more curious, more adaptable, and more able to obtain happiness and success. Additionally, resilience can help cushion us from mental health conditions like anxiety and depression because it improves our ability to cope, according to the Mayo Clinic. Laughter plays a significant role in how we process adversity by allowing us to escape from our problems for a little while. By teaching our kids to laugh even in times of pain, we are giving them a tool to help them be more resilient as they mature.

- Start a laughing contest to see who can make the other person laugh first.
- Play fun games like Charades, Twister, and Pictionary.
- Read joke books and websites and share your favorites.
- Create funny stories using Mad Libs or whisper down the lane.
- Have a family talent show and see who has the funniest routine.
- Dress up in silly costumes.
- Watch a comedy television show or movie together as a family.
- Talk in a silly language like pig Latin.
- Keep a collection of funny quotes and pictures that you can bring out to get everyone laughing.
- Try laughter yoga with your kids. This practice combines breathing exercises, yoga, stretching, and laughing.

Laughter builds resilience in children, helping them navigate life's challenges.'

Laughing with our kids builds a bond with them. Joyous moments create an uplifting environment at home. What's fun is that laughter tends to be contagious, so your whole house could be giggling up a storm. Finally, the best part of laughing is that it's completely free and always accessible to us, without any side effects (except for maybe a few aches on your side from laughing so hard).

So, how can we laugh more with our kids? Here are 10 ideas to get you rolling (on the floor).

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7 Summer Vacation Planning Tips



CATHERINE MICHALK

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

It may only be April, but it is never too early to plan a summer vacation! The sooner you start planning, the more options you will have. If traveling with young children, the more options you have, the better. Here are our top tips for planning for your summer vacation.

1. Narrow Down Your Possible Vacation Spots

The world is big, so start by narrowing down your travel options. While you want to involve your kids in planning (more on that below), giving them too many choices will feel overwhelming. Think through what you want from a vacation. Do you want to visit a big city and museum hop, or are you looking for a relaxing beach vacation? Are your kids the perfect age for a road trip, or are you planning to fly somewhere? If you have airline or hotel rewards points, you can use them to help narrow down where to go. For example, if you want to use your miles, plan to travel to cities where that airline flies. Once you have a list of destinations, it is time to look at your budget.

2. Set a Budget

Travel can get expensive, so sitting down and deciding what your budget will be is a necessity. Your budget will impact where you travel and how you get there. First, account for expensive items like airfare, rental cars, and hotels, as these will take most of your budget. Second, think of variable costs such as eating at restaurants. Research the cost of living at your destination so you can plan accordingly. For example,

it costs around \$45 per person to eat dinner at a restaurant in Hawaii, but closer to \$20 per person if you visit one of Florida's beach towns. Calculating these costs can also help you decide if your family would benefit from staying in a vacation home where you can cook, or a hotel where you must eat out for every meal. Finally, remember the smaller items such as lunch during an airport layover, or buying souvenirs for your kids. These smaller purchases can add up, and if you don't plan or keep track of them you could be regretting it when you get home.

3. Get the Kids Involved

What is the number one way to ensure everyone has a great time on vacation? You need buy-in from every member of your family! Talk to your kids about the places they want to go and the activities they want to do there. If you selected a location, involve the kids by having them choose a fun activity or a restaurant to visit. If you're going to the beach, think of ways to get the kids to try something new. Ask if they want surf lessons, to visit an aquarium, or take a boat to a snorkeling spot. Flying to a theme park? Let each child pick an in-park restaurant to stop for lunch. The more you can involve your kids in the planning, the more excited they'll be.

4. Plan Your Itinerary

Now that you have chosen your location, budget, and special activities it is time to plan your itinerary. This is especially important for parents of young kids so you can avoid midday meltdowns and overtired bedtimes. If you're planning to visit museums or other city attractions make sure you review

their operating hours as many close at least one day a week. Even if your kids are past the napping phase, it is a good idea to schedule some rest time every day to avoid burn-out. Beachgoers can benefit from spending a few hours in their hotel room and out of the sun. Popular activities such as surf lessons or zip line adventures can fill up quickly so make sure you book those in advance, then plan the rest of your vacation around those activities.

5. Gather What You Need from Home

You're starting early, so you will have plenty of time to plan and gather the items for your trip. Sometimes, buying vacation necessities, like good walking shoes or new swimsuits, will be cheaper at home than on the road. Look at the activities you're planning to do and figure out what you need to bring and what you can rent or buy when you get there. If you're planning a road trip, head to the dollar store to pick up fun items for your kids to play with in the car. If you're flying, select portable toys and kid-safe headphones so your little one can watch a movie on the plane. Planning for what you need in advance allows time to borrow things from friends and neighbors. Kids grow out of clothing, shoes, and gear quickly, so if you buy them something specifically for your trip, they will only use it once. Consider asking your fellow parents if they have specialized gear such as a hiking backpack you can slip your toddler in while you hike around the Rockies.

6. Set Expectations with Your Kids

Setting realistic expectations with your kids is essential when you're traveling. Think about how often you hear "Are we there yet?" on a road

trip. Talk through your reasons for traveling so your kids know what the trip will be like. For instance, if you're traveling to visit family you might not do as much sightseeing as you normally would. Let them know what they can expect so they don't build up unrealistic expectations in their minds. Inform the kids of travel plans and what they entail. Are you going through airport security for the first time? Talk to your kids about what that will be like. If driving twelve hours in the car, make sure they know it will be a long road trip. You will be surprised at how well your kids will do when you keep them informed and they know what to expect.

7. Pack Your Essentials

What is the key to packing all your essentials for vacation? It starts with knowing what your essentials are! Take stock of what you use daily, and what you'll have access to at your destination. Are you going to a lake? You'll need towels unless your hotel provides them. Headed out on a cruise ship? Pack medicine for motion sickness so you don't have to pay the ship's upcharge.

As a parent who has lost my kid's extra-special stuffed animal more than once on various vacations, I advise you to leave your kids' favorite toys at home. Consider buying a new "travel" stuffed animal or blankie rather than taking the one your kid has had since birth. And if you're feeling anxious about packing everything you need, remember, there are very few places you can travel without a store you can pop into for an extra pack of diapers!

Planning Ahead for Summer Learning

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.



Summer offers a particular allure; the days are longer, and anything fun seems possible for children. For parents, it can mean scheduling challenges, the dreaded summer learning slide, i.e., the loss of knowledge that can occur over the summer months. By planning for the summer break, you can give kids the fun they want and incorporate learning activities. Consider including some of these ideas with your plans to make this summer exciting and engaging for the kids.

Stay-at-Home Summer Learning

If you are a stay-at-home parent who finds the open-endedness of summer a bit daunting, now is the best time to start planning so when summer comes, you'll have your plan in place and be ready to hit the ground running while learning.

Utilize the library. Austin public libraries offer a rich array of activities and resources year-round, especially during the summertime. Help your child

get jazzed up about reading by picking up a summer reading log. He can track his reading during the summer and turn the completed log back into the library for a prize or reward.

During the summer, the library also offers free presentations and programming for children of all ages. Past offerings have included bands, petting zoos, magicians, herpetologists, knitting demonstrations, crafts, and hands-on science experiments.

Take it outside. Take nature walks and have your child collect items that interest him. Once you're back home, you can show him how to research the scientific names of the various things he has found, as well as to learn more about them.

Geocaching is another fun way to learn while out in the great outdoors. Geocaching is essentially an outdoor treasure hunt and what could be more exciting than that? With a phone and a free app, you'll navigate via GPS to find

hidden containers called geocaches, many of which contain little trinkets. Your child will have so much fun he won't even realize that he's learning about geography and navigation simultaneously.

Embrace the screens. Not all screen time is created equal, and interactive, learning-rich screen time is not a bad thing. Set reasonable time limits so your child remains physically active and engaged in other activities. Ask your child what he would like to learn more about and then help him find an interactive platform that aligns. Websites such as Khan Academy, Epic!, and BrainPOP offer free and subscription-based games and videos to help your child continue to learn all summer long.

Explore Austin. We are lucky to have so many incredible activities to do in Austin. Use the summer to check out activities you've never tried, or revisit family favorites. Thinkery, Austin Science and Nature Center, Zilker

Botanical Garden, Bullock Museum, and Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center are a few places to visit that are sure to please while offering a heaping dose of learning opportunities.

Working Parents

For parents who work during the summer, it is possible to find opportunities for kids to be engaged and learning, rather than “watched.” To ensure that your child will be excited and on board with your summer plan, choose programs where the learning will feel like fun, rather than homework.

Summer learning camps. Many summer camps are not just about recreational activities - they are also designed to help children learn. STEAM-focused camps (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) provide children with hands-on experiences that deepen their knowledge and help them develop critical thinking skills. Ask your child what he is interested in learning about and help him find a camp that aligns. You can also explore camp offerings together - he may discover something new and intriguing.

Hire an educator. If you find yourself long on work and short on time, another option is to hire a tutor, nanny, or babysitter with an educational background. Many teachers look to take on additional work in the summer and are skilled at creating lessons to address specific learning styles and needs. If the cost seems prohibitive, you might consider joining with another family, or several families, to share the cost and to make it more fun for your child.

You can look into hiring a college student earning his or her teaching degree. Many college students would appreciate the opportunity to put into practice what they are learning, they often have seemingly endless stores of energy, and they would be inspired by the challenge of devising a fun and engaging summer learning program.

Digital learning programs. If in-person programs are not workable for your family, online learning programs like Outschool and Duolingo can be

alternatives worth exploring. Outschool offers a variety of small-group, interactive, online classes for children ages 3 to 18, taught by experienced educators via live video. With countless topics available, you and your child are likely to find something to get him excited. Duolingo offers a free way to learn a new language through quick lessons while incorporating game-like features and fun challenges.

Summer should be a time for children to explore, relax, and grow with a bit of planning, it can also be a time to ensure that your child avoids summer learning loss. By talking to your child about his interests now and beginning to make plans in advance, you'll all be prepared and ready for a stress-free, fun, learning-filled summer.



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HARMONY SCIENCE ACADEMY	PreK-8	North Austin	512-835-7900	www.hsaaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION	PreK-5	Southeast Austin	512-300-0895	www.hsiaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE	6-12	Southeast Austin	512-693-0000	www.hseaaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCIENCE ACADEMY	PreK-5	Cedar Park	512-494-5151	www.hsacp.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCHOOL OF ENDEAVOR	PreK-12	North Austin	512-284-9880	www.hspaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE	PreK-5	North Austin	512-821-1700	www.hssaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCIENCE ACADEMY	6-12	Pflugerville	512-251-5000	www.hsapflugerville.harmonytx.org

EDUCATION RESOURCES

KID POTENTIAL TEXAS	6 yrs and up	San Marcos, Austin	808-744-2867	www.kidpotential.net
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Structuring stronger students with high IQ and lower grades, ADHD, ADD, dyslexia, and learning disabilities.

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

CAMP	AGES	WEBSITE	PHONE	LOCATION
SUMMER CAMPS				
ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL	3-10 yrs	www.acmsaustin.org	512-474-2331	W
ART CAMPS OF CORDOVAN ART SCHOOL	5-16 yrs	www.cordovanartschool.com	512-275-4040	NW/SW/CP/GT/RR-2
BADGERDOG CREATIVE WRITING CAMPS	9-18 yrs	www.austinlibrary.org/creative-writing-camps	512-542-0076	C
BRANDY PERRYMAN SHOOTING CAMP	8-17 yrs	www.bperrymanshootingcamp.com	830-625-9105	N/C/S/W-2/SW/CP/GT/RR-2
CAMP CHAMPIONS	6-17 yrs	www.campchampions.com	830-598-2571	Marble Falls, TX
CAMP DOUBLECREEK	4-14 yrs	www.campdoublecreek.com	512-255-3661	PF
CAMP HEART O' THE HILLS FOR GIRLS	6-16 yrs	www.hohcamp.com	830-238-4650	Hunt, TX
CAMP STEWART FOR BOYS	6-16 yrs	www.campstewart.com	830-238-4670	Hunt, TX
CAMP SWITCH WILLO	6-13 yrs	www.switchwillo.com	512-920-0554	N
CARPE DIEM SUMMER CAMP	5-12 yrs	www.carpediempreschool.com	512-229-0373	CP
CLUB SCIKIDZ	4-15 yrs	www.austin.clubscikidz.com	512-401-9369	C/S
CODING WITH KIDS	5-18 yrs	www.codingwithkids.com		N/SW/On/RR-4
COUNTRY HOME LEARNING CENTER	5-13 yrs	www.countryhomelearningcenter.com	512-288-8220	N/S
DANCE DISCOVERY	3-18 yrs	www.dancediscovery.com	512-419-7611	C/RR
ENDEAVOR SUMMER CAMP	5-10 yrs	www.endeavormontessori.com	512-572-0400	PF
FANTASTIC MAGIC CAMP	5-12 yrs	www.magiccamp.com	512-988-3045	C
IDEA LAB	5-13 yrs	www.austin.idealabkids.com	512-710-9654	N/C
JUMP! GYMNASTICS	3-10 yrs	www.jumpgymnastics.com	512-593-6226	N/C/S
KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS	4-18 yrs	www.kidsactingstudio.com	512-836-5437	16 Locations
KID POTENTIAL TEXAS	5-adult	www.kidpotential.net	808-744-2867	SM, S
MAD SCIENCE SUMMER CAMPS	4-12 yrs	www.madscience.org	512-892-1143	Multiple
MASTER GOHRING TAI CHI AND KUNG FU	4-Adult	www.mastergohring.com	512-879-7553	C
NEWK'S OUTBACK ADVENTURE CAMP	8-17 yrs	www.newktennis.com	830-625-9105	New Braunfels, TX
NITRO SWIM	Inf-Adult	www.nitroswim.com	512-259-7999	NW/LT
ORPHEUS ACADEMY	4-18 yrs	www.orpheusacademy.com/summercamps	512-231-8999	NW/CP
PARAGON PREP SUMMER CAMP	3-8th	www.paragonprep.org	512-459-5040	N
REDEEMER SUMMER CAMPS	4-8 yrs	www.redeemerschool.net	512-451-6478	N
SKYDOME PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY CAMP	Family Camp	www.skydome-education.org		BR
SPICEWOOD COUNTRY CAMP	3 ½-10 ½ yrs	www.spicewoodcountry.com	512-346-2992	NW
STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS	5-11 yrs	www.steppingstoneschool.com	512-459-0258	18 locations
STICKY FINGERS COOKING SCHOOL	5-12 yrs	www.stickyfingerscooking.com	512-955-7550	N/C/NW/SW/GT/RR-2
SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP	5 & up	www.texashorsecamps.com	830-460-8487	Bandera, TX
SYNERGY DANCE	3-18 yrs	www.synergydancestudio.com	512-327-4130	W
TEX-ARTS	5-18 yrs	www.tex-arts.org	512-852-9079	LT
UNIVERSITY UNIONS AT UTEXAS	10-16yrs	www.universityunions.utexas.edu/	512-232-2697	C
ESPORTS SUMMER CAMP		university-texas-esports-summer-camp		
UT RADIO TV FILM	6-18 yrs	www.rtf.utexas.edu	512-471-6617	C

DAY CAMPS

ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL	3-10 yrs	www.acmsaustin.org	512-474-2331	W
ART CAMPS OF CORDOVAN ART SCHOOL	5-16 yrs	www.cordovanartschool.com	512-275-4040	NW/SW/CP/GT/RR-2
BRANDY PERRYMAN SHOOTING CAMP	8-17 yrs	www.bperrymanshootingcamp.com	830-625-9105	N/C/S/W-2/SW/CP/GT/RR-2
CAMP DOUBLECREEK	4-14 yrs	www.campdoublecreek.com	512-255-3661	PF
CAMP SWITCH WILLO	6-13 yrs	www.switchwillo.com	512-920-0554	N
CARPE DIEM SUMMER CAMP	5-12 yrs	www.carpediempreschool.com	512-229-0373	CP
CODING WITH KIDS	5-18 yrs	www.codingwithkids.com		N/SW/On/RR-4
COUNTRY HOME LEARNING CENTER	5-13 yrs	www.countryhomelearningcenter.com	512-288-8220	N, S
DANCE DISCOVERY	3-18 yrs	www.dancediscovery.com	512-419-7611	C/RR
ENDEAVOR SUMMER CAMP	5-10 yrs	www.endeavormontessori.com	512-572-0400	PF
FANTASTIC MAGIC CAMP	5-12 yrs	www.magiccamp.com	512-988-3045	C
IDEA LAB	5-13 yrs	www.austin.idealabkids.com	512-710-9654	N/C
JUMP! GYMNASTICS	3-10 yrs	www.jumpgymnastics.com		

LOCATIONS
N, C, S, E, W, NW, SW
for Austin locations

BR Burnet
CP for Cedar Park
GT for Georgetown

L LEANDER
LT Lake Travis
PF for Pflugerville

OL Online
RR for Round Rock
SM San Marcos

CAMP	AGES	WEBSITE	PHONE	LOCATION
JUMP! GYMNASTICS	3-10 yrs	www.jumpgymnastics.com	512-593-6226	N/C/S
KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS	4-18 yrs	www.kidsactingstudio.com	512-836-5437	16 Locations
KID POTENTIAL TEXAS	5-adult	www.kidpotential.net	808-744-2867	SM, S
MAD SCIENCE SUMMER CAMPS	4-12 yrs	www.madscience.org	512-892-1143	Multiple
MASTER GOHRING TAI CHI AND KUNG FU	4-18 yrs	www.mastergohring.com	512-879-7553	C
NITRO SWIM	Inf-Adult	www.nitroswim.com	512-259-7999	NW/LT
ORPHEUS ACADEMY	4-18 yrs	www.orpheusacademy.com/summercamps	512-231-8999	NW/CP
PARAGON PREP SUMMER CAMP	3-8th	www.paragonprep.org	512-459-5040	N
REDEEMER SUMMER CAMPS	4-8 yrs	www.redeemerschool.net	512-451-6478	N
SPICEWOOD COUNTRY CAMP	3 ½-10 ½ yrs	www.spicewoodcountry.com	512-346-2992	NW
STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS	5-11 yrs	www.steppingstoneschool.com	512-459-0258	18 locations
SYNERGY DANCE	3-18 yrs	www.synergydancestudio.com	512-327-4130	W
TEX-ARTS	5-18 yrs	www.tex-arts.org	512-852-9079	LT
UNIVERSITY UNIONS AT UTEXAS ESPORTS SUMMER CAMP	10-16 yrs	www.universityunions.utexas.edu/ university-texas-esports-summer-camp	512-232-2697	C

OVERNIGHT CAMPS

CAMP CHAMPIONS	6-17 yrs	www.campchampions.com	830-598-2571	Marble Falls, TX
CAMP HEART O' THE HILLS FOR GIRLS	6-16 yrs	www.hohcamp.com	830-238-4650	Hunt, TX
CAMP STEWART FOR BOYS	6-16 yrs	www.campstewart.com	830-238-4670	Hunt, TX
NEWK'S OUTBACK ADVENTURE CAMP	8-17 yrs	www.newktennis.com	830-625-9105	New Braunfels, TX
SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP	5 & up	www.texas-horse-camps.com	830-460-8487	Bandera, TX

ACADEMIC CAMPS

BADGERDOG CREATIVE WRITING CAMPS	9-18 yrs	www.austinlibrary.org/creative-writing-camps	512-542-0076	C
CARPE DIEM SUMMER CAMP	5-12 yrs	www.carpediempreschool.com	512-229-0373	CP
CLUB SCIKIDZ	4-15 yrs	www.austin.clubscikidz.com	512-401-9369	C/S
CODING WITH KIDS	5-18 yrs	www.codingwithkids.com		N/SW/On/RR-4
COUNTRY HOME LEARNING CENTER	5-13 yrs	www.countryhomelearningcenter.com	512-288-8220	N/S
ENDEAVOR SUMMER CAMP	5-10 yrs	www.endeavormontessori.com	512-572-0400	PF
FANTASTIC MAGIC CAMP	5-12 yrs	www.magiccamp.com	512-988-3045	C
IDEA LAB	5-13 yrs	www.austin.idealabkids.com	512-710-9654	N/C
KID POTENTIAL TEXAS	5-adult	www.kidpotential.net	808-744-2867	SM, S
MAD SCIENCE SUMMER CAMPS	4-12 yrs	www.madscience.org	512-892-1143	Multiple
PARAGON PREP SUMMER CAMP	3-8th	www.paragonprep.org	512-459-5040	N
REDEEMER SUMMER CAMPS	4-8 yrs	www.redeemerschool.net	512-451-6478	N
SPICEWOOD COUNTRY CAMP	3 ½-10 ½ yrs	www.spicewoodcountry.com	512-346-2992	NW
STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS	5-11 yrs	www.steppingstoneschool.com	512-459-0258	17 locations
UNIVERSITY UNIONS AT UTEXAS ESPORTS SUMMER CAMP	10-16 yrs	www.universityunions.utexas.edu/ university-texas-esports-summer-camp	512-232-2697	C

ART CAMPS

ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL	3-10 yrs	www.acmsaustin.org	512-474-2331	W
ART CAMPS OF CORDOVAN ART SCHOOL	5-16 yrs	www.cordovanartschool.com	512-275-4040	NW/SW/CP/GT/RR-2
DANCE DISCOVERY	3-18 yrs	www.dancediscovery.com	512-419-7611	C, RR
FANTASTIC MAGIC CAMP	5-12 yrs	www.magiccamp.com	512-988-3045	C
KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS	4-18 yrs	www.kidsactingstudio.com	512-836-5437	16 Locations
ORPHEUS ACADEMY	4-18 yrs	www.orpheusacademy.com/summercamps	512-231-8999	NW/CP
STICKY FINGERS COOKING SCHOOL	5-12 yrs	www.stickyfingerscooking.com	512-955-7550	N/C/NW/SW/GT/RR-2
SYNERGY DANCE	3-18 yrs	www.synergydancestudio.com	512-327-4130	W
UT RADIO TV FILM	6-18 yrs	www.rtf.utexas.edu	512-471-6617	C

SPORT CAMPS

BRANDY PERRYMAN SHOOTING CAMP	8-17 yrs	www.bperrymanshootingcamp.com	830-625-9105	N/C/S/W-2/SW/CP/GT/RR-2
CAMP SWITCH WILLO	6-13 yrs	www.switchwillo.com	512-920-0554	N
JUMP! GYMNASTICS	3-10 yrs	www.jump-austin.com	512-705-9659	S/C
MASTER GOHRING TAI CHI AND KUNG FU	4-18 yrs	www.mastergohring.com	512-879-7553	C
NEWK'S OUTBACK ADVENTURE CAMP	8-17 yrs	www.newktennis.com	830-625-9105	New Braunfels, TX
NITRO SWIM	Inf-Adult	www.nitroswim.com	512-259-7999	NW/LT
SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP	5 & up	www.texas-horse-camps.com	830-460-8487	Bandera, TX
SPICEWOOD COUNTRY CAMP	3 ½-10 ½ yrs	www.spicewoodcountry.com	512-346-2992	NW
STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS	5-11 yrs	www.steppingstoneschool.com	512-459-0258	17 locations

TRADITIONAL CAMPS

CAMP CHAMPIONS	6-17 yrs	www.campchampions.com	830-598-2571	Marble Falls, TX
CAMP DOUBLECREEK	4-14 yrs	www.campdoublecreek.com	512-255-3661	PF
CAMP HEART O' THE HILLS FOR GIRLS	6-16 yrs	www.hohcamp.com	830-238-4650	Hunt, TX
CAMP STEWART FOR BOYS	6-16 yrs	www.campstewart.com	830-238-4670	Hunt, TX



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May 10 Open House 3:00-5:00

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- Mother & Daughter weekends
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For more details, please visit us at:




www.CampStewart.com www.HOHcamp.com

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adventures@newktennis.com
 830.625.9105
www.newktennis.com

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Preschool Ages 3-5yrs
 May 19-23 Moana's Adventure
 May 27-30 Unicorns & Rainbows
 June 9-13 Disney Discovery
 June 23-27 Frozen
 July 14-18 Moana & Friends
 July 28-1 Princess Party
 Austin 4-8 Mermaid Magic

SUMMER CLASSES OFFERED JUNE 2 - JULY 26
 (Studio Closed June 23 - July 6)

School Age 4-10yrs
 May 27-30 Wicked
 June 2-6 Swiftie Summer
 June 16-20 Movie Mania
 July 7-11 Popstar Legends
 July 14-18 American Girl Doll
 July 21-25 Wicked
 July 28-1 Moana's Luau

Intensives Ages 7-18yrs
 May 27-30 Stretch & Conditioning
 June 9-13 Ballet/Modern
 June 16-20 Broadway Bound
 June 23-27 Jazz/Hip Hop
 July 14-18 Ballet/Top/Jazz
 July 21-25 Contemporary/Modern
 July 28-1 Drill Team

synarydancestudio.com - (512)327-4130 - 3475 Bee Cave Rd. Suite C3, Austin 78746

kidsActing

SUMMER CAMPS

Multi-WEEK PRODUCTIONS
 Treasure Island - 3 week play camp
 Footloose - 4 week musical camp

TRIPLE THREAT
 Annie, Barbie & Friends, Beauty & the Beast, Descendants, Encanto, Frozen, Matilda, Moana, Newsies, Sing 2, Trolls, Wicked, Willy Wonka, and Wizard of Oz

ADVENTURES IN ACTING
 Pirates of the Caribbean, Spider-Verse, Star Wars Return of the Jedi, and Super Mario Bros.

ACTING FOR TV
 Make hilarious infomercials, create scenes, & learn the basics!

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IMAGINATION FRIENDS
 Half-day Camps for Younger Kids

16 Locations

Allandale/Shoal Creek, Balcones Woods, Cedar Park, Crestview, Downtown Austin, Dripping Springs, Highland Mall, Leander, Mueller, Northwest Hills, Oak Hill, Pflugerville, Round Rock, Westgate/Lamar

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\$70 OFF - 3 CAMPS
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 Ages *3-10
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HALF DAY (9:00-1:00) \$355

\$150 deposit per week/per child
 10% sibling discount

JUNE 2-6 Superheroes
JUNE 9-13 Rockstar
JUNE 16-20 Space Odyssey
JUNE 23-27 Robots

JUNE 30 - JULY 3 Olympic Stars*
JULY 7-11 Undercover Agents
JULY 14-18 Rainforest Funfari
JULY 21-25 Jurassic Journey

JULY 28 - AUG 1 X Marks the Spot
AUGUST 4-8 Passport to Adventure
AUGUST 11-15 Mermaid Island

* Closed July 4

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Jump! North 2117 W Anderson Ln North@jump-austin.com
Jump! Domain 10910 Domain Dr #112 Domain@jump-austin.com
Jump! South 6800 West Gate Blvd #111 South@jump-austin.com

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- Fabulous Weekly Field Trips to Exciting Destinations
- In-House, Special Events
- Splash Days in Our Waterpark
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- 1950's-Style Soda Shop for Cooking & Science Projects
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- Putt-Putt Golf Course
- Arts/Crafts Lab & Computer Lab
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How Can Kids Help the Earth?

Family Matters



DR. BETTY RICHARDSON

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



Q Our 8-year-old daughter Olivia saw a television program about the environment. The show stressed the need for everyone to do more to save the environment. Olivia seems to feel an urgency to help the earth. She becomes angry when she sees people throwing trash on the ground and not recycling. How can we help her manage her emotions while learning to care for the environment?

A You can begin by talking with Olivia about the one person she can control: herself. We can't control other people's behaviors and whether or whether they care for the environment. However, we can set a good example for others and hope others learn from us and do the same. Here are some suggestions for how you can help Olivia in her efforts to care for the environment.

1. Help your daughter create a recycling system in your home. Decide what your family will recycle. Choose where items will be collected and stored.

Choose what will be garbage and what will become compost. Select a yard location where the family will bury the compost.

2. Volunteer with your daughter for clean-up projects, in the neighborhood, in the city of Austin, at the lake, or at the beach.

3. Reuse and repurpose items. Reuse shipping boxes to make a fort. Repurpose egg cartons to plant a small garden.

4. Donate. Encourage Olivia to sort through clothing she no longer wears and toys she has outgrown. Discuss how these things can be used by other children instead of thrown away. Perhaps her outgrown clothes and toys could be shared with younger cousins or other children in the neighborhood.

5. Reduce water and electricity consumption. Brainstorm with your daughter about saving water by turning off the faucet while brushing

her teeth. Think about saving energy by turning off lights in empty rooms. Consider purchasing fewer disposable cups, plates, and plastic eating utensils.

6. Take a leadership role at school. Meet with the school principal. Encourage Olivia to communicate her interest in recycling at school and how the family would be able to help. The principal may provide a way for Olivia to form a school recycling club.

7. Go to the library. Read books about caring for the environment.

Outdoor play provides an opportunity to teach young children about the world. Explore new places with your kids. Let them get dirty. Dig in the sand. Collect leaves. Plant seeds and find worms. Children of all ages will benefit from spending time in nature. The more time we enjoy our world, the more likely we are to take action to care for it.

VISITAR www.austinfamily.com
¿Cómo pueden las niñas
ayudar a la tierra?

April 2025 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.

Tue 1

Canta y Baila Storytime with Special Guest Heartsong Music. 10:30 a.m. A uniquely designed program that provides a culturally rich experience, where children acquire Spanish language skills through music and movement. Laura Bush Community Library, 9411 Bee Cave Rd. www.westbanklibrary.com.

Hometown Lunchtime Parklet Show. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Get ready for 26 live performances, featuring a wide mix of genres to add extra pep to your week. Downtown Round Rock, 221 E. Main St. www.roundrocktexas.gov.

Round Rock Express Home Game. 7:05 p.m. Take me out to the ball game. Enjoy free giveaway nights, promotion nights, and kid days. \$15 and up. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Rd. www.milb.com/round-rock.

Wed 2

Music on Main. 7 to 9 p.m. Don't miss out on weekly Wednesday nights with

live music spanning across all genres. Downtown Round Rock, 221 E. Main St. www.roundrocktexas.gov.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1.

Thu 3

Art for Teens: Mosaic Pots. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Teens and tweens, come get crafty after school at Westbank. Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr. www.westbanklibrary.com.

CONTINUED: Hometown Lunchtime Parklet Show, see Tue 1; Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1.

Fri 4

Wicked (2024) - Community Cinema. 7 to 10 p.m. Grab chairs and a blanket, bring family and friends, and enjoy this special screening. Community First! Village, 9301 Hog Eye Rd. FREE. www.mlf.org.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1.

Sat 5


ABC Kite Fest. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The largest and longest-running festival of its kind returns to Zilker. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd. FREE. www.abckitefest.org.

Spring Fling Festival. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A magical day for all ages featuring bounce houses, soft play area, photo ops with the Easter Bunny, and real unicorns you can ride. Mason Homestead, 1101 S. Baghdad Rd. FREE. www.leandertx.gov.

Texas VegFest. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Our mission is to bring the benefits of vegan food to Texans from all walks of life. Fiesta Gardens, 2102 Jesse E. Segovia St. FREE. www.texasvegfest.com.

Children's Entrepreneur Market at Leander Spring Fling Festival. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring the family out for a day of fun and shopping with local kid entrepreneurs! Mason Homestead, 1101 S. Baghdad Rd. FREE. www.childrensentrepreneurmarket.com.

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EGGstravaganza. 12 to 2 p.m. As Lakeway's Easter festivities, attendees can enjoy multi-age group egg hunts, offering the chance to discover candy and toys hidden within each egg. City Park, 502 Hurst Creek Rd. www.lakeway-tx.gov.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1.

Sun 6

Statesman CAPI10K. 8:30 a.m. After the race, enjoy the Finish Line Festival featuring free massages, food vendors, kids' zone, autograph wall, live music, photo ops, and much more. Auditorium Shores, 900 W. Riverside Dr. www.cap10k.com.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1.

Tue 8

Education Day. 12:05 to 3:05 p.m. Gates open at 11 a.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd. www.milb.com/round-rock.

CONTINUED: Hometown Lunchtime Parklet Show, see Tue 1; Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1.

Wed 9

Sprouts. 10 to 11 a.m. Tailored for children ages 3 to 5 years, it's a celebration of nature play, led by trained guides. Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave. www.wildflower.org.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1; Music on Main, see Wed 2.

Thu 10

Bluebonnet Festival. 5 p.m. Friday kickoff. The small-town festival weekend is full of activities sure to please all ages with live music, a carnival, food, races of all kinds, and lots of shopping. Downtown Burnet. www.bluebonnetfestival.org.

CONTINUED: Hometown Lunchtime Parklet Show, see Tue 1; Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1.

Fri 11

Rock the Park Concert Series. 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. KUTX 98.9's Rock the Park returns to Mueller Lake Park this spring with free, family-friendly live music. Mueller Lake Park, 4550 Mueller Blvd. FREE. www.kutx.org.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1; Bluebonnet Festival, see Thu 10.

Sat 12

Play for All Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt. 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. This is a family-centered event, focusing on active participation for children with various disabilities or limitations. Siblings are welcome to participate in the hunt. Pre-registration is required, and spaces are limited so sign up now. Play for All Park. www.roundrockrecreation.com.

Earth Day. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Geared towards all ages with a wide variety of activities and exhibitors. Memorial Park, 600 N. Lee St. FREE. www.roundrocktexas.gov.

EGGstravaganza Springs YMCA. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Egg hunts outdoors and in our interactive pool, community vendors, Easter games, and activities. 27216 Ranch Rd 12. FREE. www.austinyymca.org.

Earth Day ATX 2025. 12 to 6 p.m. Festival attendees discover in-depth programming, activities, and engaging environmental exhibitions. Huston-Tillotson University, corner of 7th and 11th St. www.earthdayaustin.com.

EGGstravaganza North Austin YMCA. 12 to 3 p.m. Open to everyone. Multiple outdoor egg hunts, community vendors, Easter games, and activities. Austin YMCA, 1000 W. Rundberg Ln. FREE. www.austinyymca.org.

Being Kind to the Earth: An Earth Day Community Celebration. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lake Travis Community Library, 1938 Lohman's Crossing. FREE. www.reachforthestarsATX.com.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1; Bluebonnet Festival, see Thu 10.

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Sun 13

UMLAUF Family Day – Frozen in Time: Art & Preservation. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. All ages are welcome to join in a fun-filled day in the garden with sculpture searches and crafts. UMLAUF Sculpture Garden & Museum, 605 Azie Morton Rd. FREE. www.umlau.org.

Sesame Street Live! 2 p.m. Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Cookie Monster, and their friends from Sesame Street are coming to your neighborhood to say hello. Bass Concert Hall, 2350 Robert Dedman Dr. \$39 – \$59. www.texasperformingarts.org.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1; Bluebonnet Festival, see Thu 10.

Tue 15

All Ages Storytime with Special Guest Armstrong Community Music School. 10:30 a.m. Join Westbank Library for a demo of an early childhood music class. Laura Bush Community Library, 9411 Bee Cave Rd. www.westbanklibrary.com.

CONTINUED: Hometown Lunchtime Parklet Show, see Tue 1.

Wed 16

CONTINUED: Music on Main, see Wed 2.

Thu 17

CONTINUED: Hometown Lunchtime Parklet Show, see Tue 1.

Fri 18

Art in Cahoots. 10 a.m. A one-hour event designed for pre-kindergarten students with an accompanying adult caregiver. Pleasant Hill Branch, 211 E. William Cannon Dr. FREE. www.austintexas.gov.

Day of the Children/El día de los Niños Celebration. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Join us for a celebration of children and books. Terrazas Branch, 1105 E. César Chávez St. FREE. www.austintexas.gov.

Sat 19

Kyle Easter Egg–Stravaganza. 10 a.m. Get the family together and hop on over to Gregg–Clarke Park for the Easter Egg–Stravaganza. Gregg–Clarke Park, 1231–1301 W. Center St. www.cityofkyle.com.

Children’s Entrepreneur Market at Manor Easter Egg Heli–Drop. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Easter Egg–Heli–Drop is a free fun, family–friendly event. East Manor Development No. 1, 15317 US Hwy 290 E. FREE. www.childrensentrepreneurmarket.com.

Badgerdog Poetry Writing Workshop. 10 a.m. Young writers of all skill levels are invited to explore the magic of poetry with Badgerdog. Cepeda Branch, 651 N. Pleasant Valley Rd. FREE. www.austintexas.gov.

Tue 22

CONTINUED: Hometown Lunchtime Parklet Show, see Tue 1; Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1.

Wed 23

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1; Music on Main, see Wed 2; Sprouts, see Wed 9; Early Childhood Music and Movement, see Tue 15.

Thu 24

CONTINUED: Hometown Lunchtime Parklet Show, see Tue 1; Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1.

Fri 25

Georgetown’s Red Poppy Festival. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. It’s the 26th year the city has hosted the three–day festival to celebrate the history and beauty of its poppy season. Georgetown’s Historic Town Square, 103 W. 7th St. FREE. www.poppy.georgetown.org.

Founders Day Festival. 10 a.m. Parade, carnival, festival, cook–off, and more. 511 Mercer St. FREE. www.cityofdrippingsprings.com.

Moana 2 (2024). 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Grab chairs and a blanket, bring family and friends, and enjoy this special screening. Community First! Village, 9301 Hog Eye Rd. FREE. www.mlf.org.

The Little Mermaid. 7:30 p.m. Following the original tale written by Hans Christian Andersen, Metamorphosis Dance presents an original ballet, “The Little Mermaid”. Penfold Theatre Mainstage, 2120 N. Mays St #290. www.roundrocktexas.gov.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1.

Sat 26

36th Annual Burton Cotton Gin Festival. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Come celebrate history in the making. Texas Cotton Gin Museum, 307 N. Main St. FREE. www.texascottonginmuseum.org.

7th Annual Sunset Valley ARTFEST 2025. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A one–day event. Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones Rd. FREE. www.sunsetvalley.org.

Slice of Pflugerville. 11 a.m. “An event as unique as our name,” this festival highlights different cultures. 304 1st St. www.parks.pflugerville.gov.

Healthy Kids Day. 10 a.m. Come enjoy this event; open to everyone at all area Austin YMCAs. FREE. www.austinyymca.org.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1; Founders Day Festival, see Fri 25; Georgetown’s Red Poppy Festival, see Fri 25; Little Mermaid, see Fri 25.

Sun 27

Fall In Love with Nature Day. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join Families in Nature, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and our community partners

for a day of outdoor fun for all ages. McKinney Falls State Park, 5808 McKinney Falls Pkwy. FREE. www.familiesinnature.org.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express Home Game, see Tue 1; Founders Day Festival, see Fri 25; Georgetown’s Red Poppy Festival, see Fri 25.

Tue 29

Perler Play: Día de los Niños Edition. 4 to 6 p.m. Create fun perler bead charms, magnets, and keychains using available patterns or from your imagination. Little Walnut Creek Branch, 835 W. Rundberg Ln. FREE. www.austintexas.gov.

CONTINUED: Hometown Lunchtime Parklet Show, see Tue 1.

Wed 30

Arts and Culture: Día de los Niños. 4 to 6 p.m. Join us for a range of art, history, and culture projects for all ages. This month we will be celebrating Día de los Niños, books, and literacy. Pleasant Hill Branch, 211 E. William Cannon Dr. FREE. www.austintexas.gov.

World Language Sing Along. 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. Come sing all your favorite World Language story time songs with us. Twin Oaks Branch, 1800 S. Fifth St. FREE. www.austintexas.gov.

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MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Four sheets of colorful paper – one dark blue, one light blue, one white (for the bluebonnet petals), and one green (for the leaves)
- Wooden skewer (slightly skinnier than a pencil)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Tape

Step One: Measure strips on each piece of paper, 2 inches wide by 11 inches long.

Step Two: Cut the paper into strips along the lines you've drawn.

Step Three: Make a quarter-inch fold on each strip along one of the long sides

Step Four: On the other long side, cut tiny sections toward the folded piece about a quarter inch apart. These don't need to be exact. Different widths give your bluebonnet a more natural appearance.

Step Five: Cut the strips of paper to desired lengths. This will determine how many layers of petals you have: the longer the strip, the more layers. In this example, the dark blue strip is 11 inches. The light blue strip is about 4 inches long. The white strip is about 2 inches long.

Step Six: Align each strip on a wooden skewer and roll the strip toward the fold line. You can also do this with the green paper for tiny leaves.

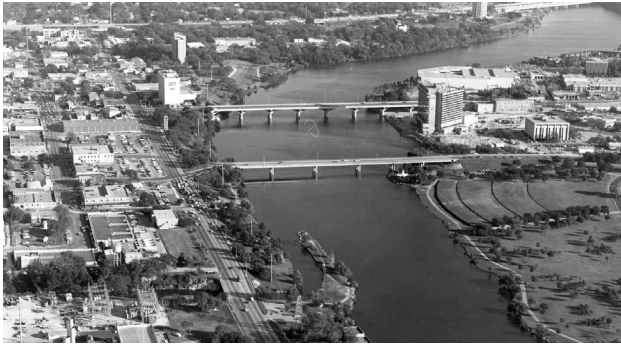
Step Seven: Attach the curled pieces of paper by flattening the folded edge and taping one end to the skewer. Begin wrapping around with paper around and down the skewer with the curls facing outward and down. Attach the white first then light blue and dark blue last.

Step Eight: Using the same technique, attach the leaves at the bottom of the skewer.

Age-appropriate themed arts and crafts projects are a regular part of the curriculum at The Greater Austin YMCA Summer Day Camp. Registration is open now for camps at 20 area locations. Learn more at www.austinyymca.org/camp/summer-day/.

Austin Then *and* Now

Lady Bird Lake



TRACIE SEED

Seed is a communications director who adores writing, sewing, painting, and snuggling her fur babies.



Then

In 1893, the Colorado River was Austin's only waterway. It was transformed when a dam was built to create Lake McDonald. The Great Colorado couldn't be held. In 1900, it destroyed the dam and, then a decade later, another dam. In 1940, the Tom Miller Dam was constructed on the same site to control flooding and generate hydroelectric power.

In 1960, Austin added the Longhorn Dam on the Colorado River to create Town Lake, a reservoir designed as a cooling pond for the Holly Street Power Plant and a way to prevent flooding.

By the early 1970s, Town Lake was considered an eyesore. Roberta Crenshaw, the Austin Board of Parks and Recreation chair, bought nearly 400 trees and shrubs to contribute to the cause.

Ann Butler, the wife of 1970s Austin Mayor Roy Butler, and Lady Bird Johnson, reportedly met in a London hotel. Inspired by a lush path along the River Thames, the women organized a fundraiser to beautify the trail surrounding Town Lake. Mayor Butler created the Town Lake Beautification Committee and appointed Lady Bird Johnson as honorary chairman.

Following Johnson's passing on July 26, 2007, the Austin City Council renamed Town Lake to Lady Bird Lake.

Now

Lady Bird Lake is an integral part of living in Austin. It sits at the heart of the city, encircled by vibrant greenery and framed by the city skyline, offering a serene escape for Austinites and visitors alike.

This urban oasis is surrounded by a 10-mile Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail. While many people run or jog, some sections of the trail are flat and easily walked—perfect for strollers or tykes on bikes.

Although swimming or wading isn't allowed, adventurous families can take guided boat tours or see the famous Congress Avenue Bridge bats at sunset. Families can rent paddleboards, canoes, kayaks, and swan pedal boats.

For a more traditional afternoon, families can grab a picnic basket and feast among the wildlife at one of several parks and picnic areas. The lake is stocked with bass, catfish, sunfish, perfect for sun-filled catch-and-release fishing sessions afterward. There is even a dog park!

Over the decades, Lady Bird Lake has had a rich history and many transformations. It has transformed from a powerfully dangerous river to a generator and reservoir and, finally, into an open community gathering space—evolving from a utilitarian necessity into an outdoor lover's dream.

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