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Pflugerville, TX 78660

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CONTENTS

COLUMNS

- 6 Lifelines.**
Allergy Survival Guide for Your Kids' Eyes
- 11 Austin Adventures.**
5 Area Kid-Friendly Festivals
- 19 Family Matters.**
Making Family Time Work with Autism
Check www.austinfamily.com for the Spanish version.
- 20 Learning Curve.**
Empowering Neurodiverse Learners at Home
- 25 Kid Zone.**
Go Build a Kite


IN EVERY ISSUE

- 4 Austin In Action.**
News and Notes
- 22 Calendar.**
Check www.austinfamily.com for daily updates.

EXTRAS

- 10 Education Guide.**
- 12 Summer Camp Guide.**
- 23 Vote NOW! Readers' Poll Favorites.**

TUNE IN

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

FEATURE



8

Why Our Bluebonnets Are So Special



Gloria is a cover kid winner who loves spring and playing outdoors with her brother. She enjoys gymnastics, baseball, and staging her own fashion shows.

Photo taken by Jenny Rhea Photography.



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Editor's Note



CELESTE DIANNE WADE

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

At *Austin Family* magazine, we care deeply about smart parenting and healthy homes. April is a month that reflects those values in meaningful ways. Across Texas, families gather for annual photos in the bluebonnets, capturing moments that mark another season of growth. We also recognize World Health Day, National Volunteer Month, and Second Chance Month, reminders to care for our neighbors and our community.

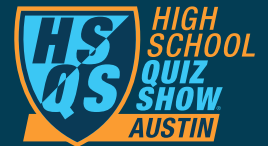
When I was growing up, volunteering was central to our household. We were taught to care for the health and well-being of friends, family, and the world around us. I tried to pass that commitment on to the next generation as a core family value. It is simply what we do. Serving others, often people we will never meet, is a

powerful way to make a lasting impact. When we volunteer, we often give others a second chance at life.

One of my favorite ways to support the health of others is by donating blood platelets each month. Here at home, We Are Blood is the only provider of platelets in Central Texas, making local donations especially meaningful.

As you strengthen your home this spring, consider what you value most and how your family can make a difference in the months ahead.

**AUSTIN'S NEWEST GAME
SHOW PREMIERES APRIL 2ND
ON AUSTIN PBS!**



Watch eight Central Texas high schools bring their brightest students to face off in a fast-paced competition!

**High School Quiz Show: Austin premieres April 2nd at 8:00
on Austin PBS or stream it on the PBS app & Youtube.**



Austin IN ACTION

GO TO WWW.AUSTINFAMILY.COM FOR WEEKLY UPDATES OF AUSTIN IN ACTION NEWS

By the Numbers

#1

Texas Largest Easter Sunday Church Attendance Day

Source: www.lifewayresearch.com

April 22, 1970

First Earth Day Celebration

Source: www.funworldfacts.com

42%

Austin's Diversion Rate from Trash to Recycling

Source: www.austintexas.gov

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Michael Robertson



Justin Thar

Two Perfect ACT Scores Highlight Excellence at St. Michael's Prep

In an extraordinary six-month span, two St. Michael's Prep students have earned perfect ACT composite scores of 36, a distinction achieved by only a fraction of test-takers nationwide. Most recently, Justin Thar joined William Robertson in reaching the top score, placing both students in the top one-quarter of 1 percent nationally.

According to ACT data, just 3,041 of the 1.37 million students in the Class of 2024 achieved a perfect score. The ACT includes English, mathematics, reading, and science sections, with the composite reflecting the average.

William pairs academic excellence with leadership in robotics, athletics, the arts, and service. As captain of FTC Robotics Team #12928, he helped lead the team to state championships and a top-five finish at the world championship. Justin demonstrates intellectual curiosity as president of the Philosophy and Literature Club, while also competing in track and contributing to theater production and community service.

Together, their achievements reflect the school's commitment to preparing students for college and beyond.

18th Annual Texas Autism Walk

April is Autism Acceptance Month, and families across Central Texas are invited to come together for the 18th Annual Texas Autism Walk on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Lakeline Park in Cedar Park. Hosted by the Autism Society of Texas, the event raises funds to provide free resources and support for individuals with autism, their families, and caregivers statewide.

The morning begins at 9:30 a.m. with check-in and a resource fair, followed by the walk at 10:30 a.m. Attendees can enjoy an awards ceremony, entertainment, and community connections through 12:30 p.m. Families may choose a one-mile walk or a 5K route.

Families can also participate virtually through the "1 in 31 Challenge," walking, running, or biking in their own neighborhoods while raising awareness and funds. Registration includes an event T-shirt, and participants are encouraged to form teams or invite donations.



Hand to Hold® Celebrates NICU Graduates in Austin

Families across Central Texas are invited to the 2026 NICU Family Celebration on April 25 at Branch Park Pavilion in Austin. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., this festive, family-friendly event honors the strength and resilience of NICU graduates and their loved ones.

Hosted by Hand to Hold®, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting NICU families, the celebration highlights the importance of connection, healing, and community. When infants require neonatal intensive care, families often face emotional challenges, including increased risks of postpartum depression, anxiety, and PTSD. Hand to Hold® works to ensure no family navigates that journey alone.

Founded in 2010, the organization offers peer support, bedside programs in partner hospitals across Texas, virtual support groups nationwide, and free counseling for NICU and bereaved families in Texas and Florida. Its evidence-based approach helps reduce isolation, improve mental health outcomes, and strengthen family well-being.

The event promises a joyful afternoon of recognition and support. Austin Family magazine will be on-site to celebrate NICU graduates and connect with readers at their booth.



Grow Your Green Space with Free Trees in Austin

Looking to grow your green space this spring? Austin families have several easy, affordable ways to add trees and support a healthier environment. Through NeighborWoods, a partnership between the City of Austin and TreeFolks, eligible residents and Austin Energy customers can receive free trees to plant at home.

Proper care is key to helping young trees thrive. The Austin Resource Recovery Recycle & Reuse Drop-off Center offers free mulch, though visitors should be prepared to load it themselves. When selecting what to plant, families can explore native and adapted species using Grow Green's online tool.

Before digging, call 8-1-1 to have underground utilities marked. This free service helps prevent costly or dangerous accidents, and may take up to a week.

Outside Austin, check with local municipalities for similar programs. Additional low-cost options are available through the Arbor Day Foundation and the Texas A&M Forest Service West Texas Nursery. Learn more at austintexas.gov and start planting today.



Photo credit Trish Rawls.

Baby Giraffes Delight Hill Country Visitors

Spring in the Texas Hill Country brings an extra dose of wonder this year with the arrival of two baby giraffes at Longneck Manor. The Fredericksburg wildlife destination recently welcomed a female calf, born Feb. 9 to 5-year-old Tana, and a male calf, born March 8 to 11-year-old Betty White, bringing the herd to eight.

The births offer a rare chance to observe giraffes in their earliest weeks. Guests can enjoy close-up encounters while learning about conservation efforts to protect these animals in the wild.

Located just 12 miles from downtown Fredericksburg, the facility offers guided tours highlighting giraffes, rhinos, and global conservation initiatives. Endorsed by Jane Goodall, Longneck Manor emphasizes education and high standards of animal care.

With two calves now thriving, visitors this spring and summer can watch the young giraffes grow and interact with the herd.



Lifelines

ANTON EDWARD COX, SR.

Cox is a nutritionist, husband, and a father of 6. He's passionate about illness prevention with an aim to empower parents to build strong, healthy families.



Allergy Survival Guide for Your Kids' Eyes

Spring in Austin brings bluebonnets, warm sunshine, and plenty of outdoor fun for families. It also brings something less welcome: pollen. Central Texas is famous for intense seasonal allergies, and spring can be especially difficult for children whose eyes, noses, and immune systems are still developing.

From itchy eyes to persistent sneezing, allergy symptoms can interfere with school, sports, and sleep. For parents, understanding how allergies affect children at different ages, and when to seek medical care, can make a big difference in keeping kids comfortable during peak pollen season.

Why Spring Allergies Are So Intense in Austin

The region's climate and vegetation make spring allergy season particularly challenging. Trees such as oak, elm, and ash release large amounts of pollen beginning in late winter and continuing through spring. These microscopic particles travel easily through the air and trigger allergic reactions in sensitive individuals.

When pollen enters the eyes or respiratory system, the body releases histamines. This response can cause red, itchy, watery eyes, congestion, sneezing, and fatigue. Children may not always recognize or explain their symptoms clearly, which makes it important for parents to watch for subtle signs.

Eye irritation is one of the most common complaints during allergy season.

Many children rub their eyes frequently, complain about burning or itching, or develop redness that parents may mistake for pink eye.

Caring for Infants and Toddlers

Infants and toddlers cannot explain what they are feeling, so parents must rely on observation.

Common allergy signs in babies and toddlers include persistent eye rubbing, watery eyes, nasal congestion, irritability, and trouble sleeping. Some young children also develop dark circles under their eyes, sometimes called "allergic shiners."

Parents can help reduce symptoms by keeping windows closed during high pollen days, running air conditioning with clean filters, and washing children's hands and faces after outdoor play. Changing clothes after coming indoors can also help remove pollen.

Because infants are sensitive to medications, parents should always consult a pediatrician before using allergy treatments. If symptoms persist for more than a few weeks, worsen, or interfere with sleep or feeding, it is time to call the doctor.

Helping Elementary-Age Kids

Children in elementary school often experience stronger seasonal allergy symptoms as their immune systems

become more reactive to environmental triggers.

Kids at this age may complain about itchy or watery eyes, blurred vision from excessive tearing, headaches, or frequent sneezing. Outdoor activities such as recess and sports can make symptoms worse during peak pollen times.

Parents can teach children simple habits that reduce pollen exposure. Encourage kids to avoid rubbing their eyes, which can worsen inflammation and introduce bacteria. Sunglasses can help block airborne pollen from reaching the eyes during outdoor play. Showering and washing hair in the evening also removes pollen that collects throughout the day.

Over-the-counter antihistamines or allergy eye drops may help relieve symptoms, but parents should always check with their pediatrician before starting new medications.

Preteens and Teens: Taking Charge of Their Health

Older children and teenagers can begin managing parts of their allergy care themselves.

Preteens and teens should learn to recognize symptoms such as itchy eyes, swelling around the eyelids, sinus pressure, or sensitivity to light. Many teens also wear contact lenses, which can trap pollen against the eye and make irritation worse.

Encourage teens to switch to glasses during high pollen days if their eyes become irritated. Daily disposable contacts may also help reduce buildup of allergens.

Teens can also take responsibility for preventive habits, including monitoring daily pollen forecasts, keeping allergy medications consistent, and avoiding touching or rubbing their eyes.

Eye Care During Allergy Season

Allergic conjunctivitis is a common eye condition caused by allergens such as pollen. Symptoms include redness, itching, tearing, swelling, and sensitivity to light.

Parents should watch for signs that symptoms are more than mild seasonal irritation. These may include persistent redness, thick discharge, eye pain, or changes in vision.

Cool compresses can help soothe itchy eyes. Artificial tears can also rinse allergens from the eye surface. However, frequent eye rubbing should be discouraged because it can worsen inflammation and potentially damage the delicate tissues of the eye.

When to See a Doctor

Parents often wonder whether allergy symptoms require medical attention.

A pediatrician should be consulted when allergy symptoms interfere with sleep, school, or daily activities, or when symptoms last longer than several weeks.

An allergist may be recommended if a child experiences severe reactions, frequent sinus infections, or poorly controlled symptoms. Allergy testing can help identify specific triggers and guide treatment.

An eye doctor should evaluate children who experience persistent eye redness, swelling, pain, or vision changes. Eye specialists can determine whether symptoms are caused by allergies, infection, or another condition.

Early treatment can prevent complications and help children stay comfortable during the busiest months of pollen season.

Helping Kids Enjoy Spring

Despite the challenges of allergy season, children in Austin can still enjoy outdoor activities with the right precautions.

Checking daily pollen counts, planning outdoor time later in the afternoon

when pollen levels may be lower, and encouraging good hygiene habits can significantly reduce symptoms.

With guidance from parents and support from healthcare providers, children can learn how to manage seasonal allergies and still enjoy everything spring in Central Texas has to offer.

For families, awareness and preparation are the best defenses against itchy eyes, runny noses, and the annual cloud of pollen that drifts across the Hill Country each spring.

6 Ways Parents Can Protect Kids' Eyes During Austin Pollen Season

1. Encourage kids to avoid rubbing their eyes.
2. Use cool compresses to calm itchy eyes.
3. Rinse eyes with preservative-free artificial tears to flush out pollen.
4. Have kids wash hands and faces after outdoor play.
5. Use sunglasses outdoors to reduce pollen contact with eyes.
6. Shower and wash hair before bedtime to remove pollen.

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Why Our Bluebonnets Are So Special

When our family moved to Texas in late August 2015, the landscape did not exactly win us over. The grass was faded from the summer heat, the trees looked tired, and the air felt heavy enough to wear. If it were possible to water plants with perspiration, we would have kept the whole neighborhood green.

A friend tried to help us see what we were missing. She spoke about bluebonnets with the kind of reverence usually reserved for holidays or long-held family traditions.

“Just wait,” she said. “In the spring, everything turns blue.”

At the time, it was hard to imagine. We scanned roadsides and parks for signs of this promised transformation, but in August, bluebonnets were nowhere to be found. The only ones we saw were printed on candles and dish towels at the grocery store.

Then spring arrived.

On one of those perfect days, with clear skies and a soft breeze, we went for a walk. That was when we spotted our first bluebonnet. It was small, tucked low in the grass, easy to miss if you were not looking carefully.

It did not look like much, certainly not like the sweeping fields we had heard about.

At first, we were underwhelmed. But what we did not yet realize, what every longtime Austin family already knows, is that bluebonnets are not meant to be admired one at a time. They are meant to be experienced together.

A Flower with Deep Texas Roots

Bluebonnets, part of the lupine family and known scientifically as *Lupinus texensis*, became the official state flower

of Texas in 1901. The decision followed a lively debate among lawmakers, botanists, and women’s groups advocating for different native plants. In the end, the bluebonnet was chosen for its resilience, beauty, and deep connection to the Texas landscape.

These wildflowers thrive in the limestone-rich, well-drained soils common around Austin and the Hill Country. Their seeds germinate in the fall, grow slowly through winter, and bloom in early spring, typically March and April. When conditions align, especially after a rainy fall and mild winter, the results can be spectacular.

Some years, the fields seem endless. Other years, they are more modest, reminding families that bluebonnet season is never guaranteed and always worth appreciating.

Why Austin Turns Blue

Bluebonnets are not just a happy accident of nature. Their abundance is also the result of decades of stewardship.

Since the 1930s, the Texas Department of Transportation has planted and maintained wildflower seeds along highways and public lands. This effort, supported by Lady Bird Johnson’s environmental work, helped transform ordinary roadsides into seasonal showcases.

Around Austin, bluebonnets appear along Loop 360, MoPac, neighborhood parks, greenbelts, and open fields. Many families also head west, where displays can be more dramatic.

Areas along Highway 290 toward Fredericksburg and the Willow City Loop are known for sweeping views. Closer to home, even a small patch near a sidewalk can become the backdrop for a meaningful family moment.



The Family Tradition

At some point, without much planning, we became one of those families.

The kind that watches for the first blooms of the season. The kind that slows down while driving to check if a field has reached its peak. The kind that packs up the kids, a camera, and a change of clothes, just in case.

Austin bluebonnet photos are not optional; they are a rite of passage.

Every spring, families step into fields of blue to capture that perfect picture.

Toddlers sit cautiously among the flowers. Older kids strike playful poses. Parents crouch low, adjusting angles and lighting.

It does not have to be a sprawling field.

Sometimes it is a small patch near a curb, carefully framed to look much bigger.

But when it comes together, it feels like more than a photo.

It feels like belonging.

There is an unspoken understanding here: you know you are a true Texan when your family has a bluebonnet photo.

Festivals, Fun, and Community

Bluebonnet season is also a time for celebration.

Communities across Central

Texas host festivals featuring live music, food vendors, crafts, and activities for kids. Nearby towns embrace the season with parades, wildflower drives, and photo contests that invite families to share their favorite snapshots.

For many, entering a child's bluebonnet photo into a local contest is just as much a tradition as taking the photo itself.

Even in Austin, the excitement is easy to feel. Social media fills with vibrant blue backdrops, and families share tips on the best spots.

A Few Tips for Families

As inviting as those fields may be, there are a few important guidelines to keep in mind.

Be mindful of where you step. While bluebonnets are hardy, the ecosystems around them are delicate. Stick to open areas when possible and avoid trampling large patches.

Resist the urge to pick the flowers. While it is not illegal in most cases, it is strongly discouraged, especially on public land.

Also consider safety. Fire ants, bees, and occasionally snakes can be present. Closed-toe shoes, awareness, and a quick scan of the ground help keep everyone safe.

A blanket, wipes, and snacks can also make the outing more enjoyable.

Why It Matters

At first, we thought bluebonnets were just flowers.

We were wrong.

Bluebonnets are a signal. They mark the shift from winter to spring. They invite families outdoors and create a shared experience across communities.

They also remind us to slow down. Because the season is short.

In just a few weeks, the fields fade, the petals drop, and the moment passes. But while they are here, they offer a reason to pause, gather, and take it all in.

Falling in Love with Austin

Looking back, it is easy to see how it happened.

What started as curiosity became tradition. What felt unfamiliar became something we look forward to every year.

Bluebonnets did not impress us all at once. They grew on us, quietly, until one day we could not imagine spring without them.

Now, when the first blooms appear, we know exactly what to do.

We grab the kids. We pack the camera. We head out in search of that perfect patch of blue.

Because in Texas, bluebonnet season is not just something you see.

It is something your family lives.

And once you do, you understand why it matters so much.



Feature

KIMMI FALCONER

Falconer is married to David and mom to four daughters, one in heaven. Based in Texas, she shares joy, color, and helps others live their joy life as a podcaster. Follow her @LivingYourJoyLife. Listen on Spotify @LivingyourJOYlife.

EDUCATION GUIDE

PRIVATE SCHOOL

	GRADES	LOCATION	PHONE	WEBSITE
AUSTIN WALDORF SCHOOL	Pre-12	South Austin	512-288-5942	www.austinwaldorf.org
BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	PreK4-12	North Austin	512-835-5983	www.brentwoodchristian.org
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL OF ST. MARY'S	PreK3-8	DT Austin	512-476-1480	www.smcschoolaustin.org
CHALLENGER SCHOOL	PreK-8	Avery Ranch	512-341-8000	www.challengerschool.com
CHALLENGER SCHOOL	PreK-K	Pond Springs	512-258-1299	www.challengerschool.com
CHALLENGER SCHOOL	PreK-K	Round Rock	512-255-8844	www.challengerschool.com
HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL	PreK-8	North Austin	512-246-4455	www.holyfamilycs.org
KIRBY HALL SCHOOL	PreK4-8	Central Austin	512-474-1770	www.kirbyhallschool.org
PARAGON PREP	PreK3-8	North Austin	512-459-5040	www.paragonprep.com
SAN JUAN DIEGO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL	9-12	South Austin	512-804-1935	www.sjdchs.org
SANTA CRUZ CATHOLIC SCHOOL	PreK-8	Buda	512-312-2137	www.sccstx.org
ST. AUSTIN CATHOLIC SCHOOL	PreK3-8	DT Austin	512-477-3751	www.staustinschool.org
ST. DOMINIC SAVIO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL	9-12	North Austin	512-388-8846	www.saviochs.org
ST. GABRIEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL + ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY	PreK-8	West Austin	512-327-7755	www.sgs-austin.org
ST. HELEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL	PreK4-8	Georgetown	512-869-3244	www.shclsions.org
ST. IGNATIUS MARTYR CATHOLIC SCHOOL	PreK3-8	South Austin	512-442-8547	www.school.st-ignatius.org
ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL	K-8	North Austin	512-614-6622	www.slcsaustin.org
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL	PreK3-12	Taylor	512-352-2313	www.stmarystaylor.org
ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL	Pre-12	Southwest Austin	512-327-1213	www.sstx.org
ST. THERESA'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL	PreK-8	North Austin	512-451-7105	www.st-theresa.org

PUBLIC SCHOOL

PFLUGERVILLE ISD	K-12	Pflugerville	512-594-0000	www.pfisd.net
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KINDERGARTEN/PREK MONTESSORI DAY CARE

AUSTIN WALDORF	Pre-12	South Austin	512-288-5942	www.austinwaldorf.org
BRIGHT STAR	Inf-PreK	Cedar Park	512-842-6640	www.brightstaracademyschools.com
CARPE DIEM	6 wks-12 yrs	Pflugerville	512-572-0400	www.endeavormontessori.com
ENDEAVOR MONTESSORI	Inf-PreK	Leander	512-957-9159	www.carpediemschool.com
EXTEND-A-CARE YMCA FOR KIDS	3-8 yrs	77 area campuses	512-472-9402	www.austinyxca.org/locations/extend-a-care
SNAPDRAGON PRESCHOOL (Must be potty-trained)	3-5 yrs	North Austin	512-593-6226	www.snapdragonpreschool.com
SPICEWOOD COUNTRY SCHOOL	2-5 yrs	North Austin	512-346-2992	www.spicewoodcountry.com
STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS	Inf-12 yrs	17 locations in Austin area	512-459-0258	www.steppingstoneschool.com

CHARTER SCHOOL

BASIS AUSTIN	K-12	North Austin	737-263-5890	www.basisedtx.com/austin
BASIS CEDAR PARK	K-12	Cedar Park	737-263-5890	www.enrollbasistx.com/cedarpark
BASIS PFLUGERVILLE	K-12	Pflugerville	737-263-5890	www.basisedtx.com/pflugerville
HARMONY SCHOOL OF ENDEAVOR	PreK-12	North Austin	512-284-9880	www.hspaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE	6-12	Southeast Austin	512-693-0000	www.hseaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION	PreK-5	Southeast Austin	512-300-0895	www.hsiaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE	PreK-5	North Austin	512-821-1700	www.hssaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCIENCE ACADEMY	PreK-8	North Austin	512-835-7900	www.hsaustin.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCIENCE ACADEMY	PreK-5	Cedar Park	512-494-5151	www.hsacp.harmonytx.org
HARMONY SCIENCE ACADEMY	6-12	Pflugerville	512-251-5000	www.hsapflugerville.harmonytx.org

While it might be hard to find a month when Austin does not hold a festival, April offers some particularly kid-friendly options. Pack sunscreen, a picnic blanket, and possibly a kite, swimsuit, and hearing protection, and head to the parks for free festival fun.

APRIL 10

🕒Rock the Park

Shows at 6:45 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

This local series runs monthly during the spring season at a venue perfect for family-friendly concerts. Located at the amphitheater at Mueller Park, kids can burn off energy stage front or enjoy the view from the lakeside playground. Nearby restaurants make it easy to grab dinner or bring a picnic. Lineup: www.kutx.org/live-events/kutx-events/rock-the-park

APRIL 11

🕒ABC Kite Fest

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

An Austin tradition, the 98th annual ABC Kite Fest takes over Zilker Park. Bring your own kite, stretch out on a picnic blanket, and watch kites of all shapes and sizes soar over the Great Lawn. A children's concert kicks off the morning, followed by official contests for the largest, highest-flying, and most unusual kites. Kid activities, train rides, and treats for purchase are also available. Schedule: www.abckitefest.org

🕒Squirrel Fest

4 p.m. – 10 p.m.

A fun way to wrap up the day, kids will love the renovated playground, splash pad, Tree House, and Troll Trek, along with festival activities including puppet shows, face painting, food booths, and photo opportunities with a giant squirrel. For the grand finale, spread a blanket under the stars for a movie on the lawn. Details: www.peasepark.org/events/2026/4/11-squirrel-fest



AUSTIN ADVENTURES

5 Area Kid-Friendly Festivals

ANNETTE LUCKSINGER

Lucksinger is author of the local guidebook "Exploring Austin with Kids" that includes a whole section on annual events. She is currently at work on a book about life in Austin, Texas.

APRIL 25

🕒Eeyore's Birthday Party Children's Area 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

This longstanding tradition honors Eeyore's birthday from the classic tales of Winnie-the-Pooh. First-time attendees can expect to be just as surprised as Eeyore when his friends showed up to celebrate. Held at Pease Park, the event features live music, a drum circle, and outlandish outfits. Kids can participate in costume contests, potato sack races, or purchase tickets to play games with prizes. Arrive early for children's activities before the party picks up. See: www.eeyores.org

🕒Austin Dragon Boat Festival 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

From the shores of Festival Beach, rowers race in boats decorated like dragons on Lady Bird Lake. Starting at 10 a.m., enjoy performances including Hawaiian and Chinese dragon dances, Japanese Taiko drumming, and martial arts demonstrations. Sample traditional foods that are healthier and more flavorful than typical festival fare, and visit booths with children's activities. Info: www.atxdragonboat.com





CAMP	AGES	WEBSITE	PHONE	LOCATION
SUMMER CAMP				
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	CP/NW/SW/RR/GT
AUSTIN WALDORF CAMPS	3.5-15 yrs	www.austinwaldorf.org/community/summer-camp	512-288-5942	S
BADGERDOG CREATIVE WRITING CAMPS	9-18 yrs	www.austinlibrary.org/creative-writing-camps	512-542-0076	C
BRANDY PERRYMAN SHOOTING CAMP	7-16 yrs	www.bperrymanshootingcamp.com		N/S/W/SW/CP/RR/GT
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 SWITCH WILLO	6-13 yrs	www.switchwillo.com	512-920-0554	N
CAMP WARRIOR ST. MICHAEL'S PREP	4-18 yrs	www.smcprep.org/student-life/summer-camps	512-327-7755	SW
CARPE DIEM SUMMER CAMP	5-12 yrs	www.carpediempreschool.com	512-957-9159	L
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 MONTESSORI SUMMER CAMP	5-10 yrs	www.endeavormontessori.com	512-572-0400	PF
FANTASTIC MAGIC CAMP	5-15 yrs	www.magiccamp.com	512-988-3045	N/C
IDEA LAB	5-13 yrs	www.austin.idealabkids.com	512-710-9654	C/N/NW
IRON HORSE COUNTRY RANCH	8-13 yrs	www.ironhorsecountry.com		BT
JUMP! GYMNASTICS	3-10 yrs	www.jumpgymnastics.com/campjump	512-593-6226	N/S/NW/H
KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS	4-18 yrs	www.kidsactingstudio.com	512-836-5437	16 Locations
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
PARAGON PREP SUMMER CAMP	3-8th	www.paragonprep.org	512-459-5040	N
PENFOLD THEATRE	1-12th	www.penfoldtheatre.org/summer-camps	512-850-4849	RR
SPARTAN CAMP @ ST. STEPHEN'S	6-18 yrs	www.sstx.org	512-327-1213	SW
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
SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP	5 & up	www.texashorsecamps.com	830-460-8487	Bandera, TX
SYNERGY DANCE	3-18 yrs	www.synergystudio.com	512-327-4130	W
THINKERY	K-3rd	www.thinkeryaustin.org/camp/summer	512-469-6200	C
UT RTF SUMMER CAMP	6-18 yrs	www.rtf.utexas.edu/camps	512-471-4191	C
ZACH SUMMER CAMPS	4-10 yrs	www.zachtheater.org/zach-youth/camps	512-476-0541	C/CP

DAY CAMP

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ART CAMPS OF CORDOVAN ART SCHOOL	5-16 yrs	www.cordovanartschool.com	512-275-4040	CP/NW/SW/RR/GT
AUSTIN WALDORF CAMPS	3.5-15 yrs	www.austinwaldorf.org/community/summer-camp	512-288-5942	S
BADGERDOG CREATIVE WRITING CAMPS	9-18 yrs	www.austinlibrary.org/creative-writing-camps	512-542-0076	C
BRANDY PERRYMAN SHOOTING CAMP	7-16 yrs	www.bperrymanshootingcamp.com		N/S/W/SW/CP/RR/GT
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
CAMP WARRIOR ST. MICHAEL'S PREP	4-18 yrs	www.smcprep.org/student-life/summer-camps	512-327-7755	SW
CARPE DIEM SUMMER CAMP	5-12 yrs	www.carpediempreschool.com	512-957-9159	L

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

B for Buda
BR for Burnet
BT for Bertram

CP for Cedar Park
GT for Georgetown
H for Hutto

L for LEANDER
LT for Lake Travis
PF for Pflugerville

OL for Online
RR for Round Rock
SM for San Marcos

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 MONTESSORI SUMMER CAMP	5-10 yrs	www.endeavormontessori.com	512-572-0400	PF
FANTASTIC MAGIC CAMP	5-15 yrs	www.magiccamp.com	512-988-3045	N/C
IDEA LAB	5-13 yrs	www.austin.idealabkids.com	512-710-9654	C/N/NW
JUMP! GYMNASTICS	3-10 yrs	www.jumpgymnastics.com/campjump	512-593-6226	N/S/NW/H
KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS	4-18 yrs	www.kidsactingstudio.com	512-836-5437	16 Locations
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
PARAGON PREP SUMMER CAMP	3-8th	www.paragonprep.org	512-459-5040	N
PENFOLD THEATRE	1-12th	www.penfoldtheatre.org/summer-camps	512-850-4849	RR
SPARTAN CAMP @ ST. STEPHEN'S	6-18 yrs	www.sstx.org	512-327-1213	SW
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
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THINKERY	K-3rd	www.thinkeryaustin.org/camp/summer	512-469-6200	C
UT RTF SUMMER CAMP	6-18 yrs	www.rtf.utexas.edu/camps	512-471-4191	C
ZACH SUMMER CAMPS	4-10 yrs	www.zachtheater.org/zach-youth/camps	512-476-0541	C/CP

OVERNIGHT CAMP

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SPARTAN CAMP @ ST. STEPHEN'S	6-18 yrs	www.sstx.org	512-327-1213	SW
SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP	5 & up	www.texasHORSECAMPS.com	830-460-8487	Bandera, TX

ACADEMIC CAMP

AUSTIN WALDORF CAMPS	3.5-15 yrs	www.austinwaldorf.org/community/summer-camp	512-288-5942	S
BADGERDOG CREATIVE WRITING CAMPS	9-18 yrs	www.austinlibrary.org/creative-writing-camps	512-542-0076	C
CAMP WARRIOR ST. MICHAEL'S PREP	4-18 yrs	www.smcprep.org/student-life/summer-camps	512-327-7755	SW
CARPE DIEM SUMMER CAMP	5-12 yrs	www.carpediempreschool.com	512-957-9159	L
COUNTRY HOME LEARNING CENTER	5-13 yrs	www.countryhomelearningcenter.com	512-288-8220	N/S
IDEA LAB	5-13 yrs	www.austin.idealabkids.com	512-710-9654	C/N/NW
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
PENFOLD THEATRE	1-12th	www.penfoldtheatre.org/summer-camps	512-850-4849	RR
SPARTAN CAMP @ ST. STEPHEN'S	6-18 yrs	www.sstx.org	512-327-1213	SW
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
THINKERY	K-3rd	www.thinkeryaustin.org/camp/summer	512-469-6200	C

ARTS CAMP

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ART CAMPS OF CORDOVAN ART SCHOOL	5-16 yrs	www.cordovanartschool.com	512-275-4040	CP/NW/SW/RR/GT
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FANTASTIC MAGIC CAMP	5-15 yrs	www.magiccamp.com	512-988-3045	N/C
KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS	4-18 yrs	www.kidsactingstudio.com	512-836-5437	16 Locations
SPARTAN CAMP @ ST. STEPHEN'S	6-18 yrs	www.sstx.org	512-327-1213	SW
ZACH SUMMER CAMPS	4-10 yrs	www.zachtheater.org/zach-youth/camps	512-476-0541	C/CP

SPORTS CAMP

BRANDY PERRYMAN SHOOTING CAMP	7-16 yrs	www.bperrymanshootingcamp.com		N/S/W/SW/CP/RR/GT
CAMP SWITCH WILLO	6-13 yrs	www.switchwillo.com	512-920-0554	N
CAMP WARRIOR ST. MICHAEL'S PREP	4-18 yrs	www.smcprep.org/student-life/summer-camps	512-327-7755	SW
JUMP! GYMNASTICS	3-10 yrs	www.jumpgymnastics.com/campjump	512-705-9659	B/C/S
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
SPARTAN CAMP @ ST. STEPHEN'S	6-18 yrs	www.sstx.org	512-327-1213	SW
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
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TRADITIONAL CAMP

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TWO CAMPS



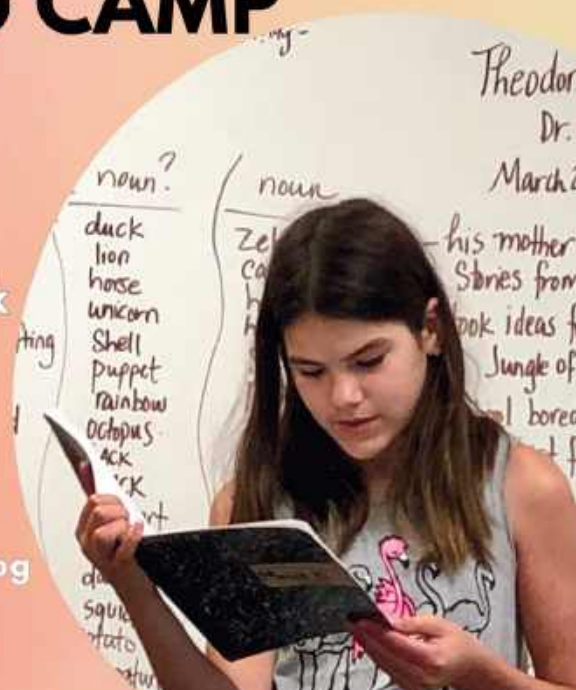
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Making Family Time Work with Autism

Q I have four children. My eldest is 12 and autistic. He focuses on a narrow set of interests, loves video games, and avoids participating in family activities. Doing things as a family is important to me. Do you have recommendations for how our family can meet my son where he is while still spending time together?"

A Thank you for this thoughtful question during National Autism Acceptance Month. The goal of this observance is to raise awareness and foster understanding and inclusion for people on the autism spectrum.

For readers who may be less familiar with autism spectrum disorder, the condition exists along a wide spectrum that ranges from mild to more severe symptoms. Autism is characterized by challenges with social skills, speech, nonverbal communication, and repetitive behaviors. Each person on the spectrum has a unique combination of strengths and challenges.

Because you did not describe your son's specific strengths or difficulties, I will offer general strategies that often help families include children on the spectrum in shared activities. Sometimes this means

helping the child participate in family plans, and sometimes it means adjusting family activities so the child can enjoy them.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about one in 31 children and one in 45 adults are on the autism spectrum. This suggests that some individuals with milder traits may remain undiagnosed.

Children on the autism spectrum may show behaviors such as:

1. Meltdowns, when a child loses control because of overwhelming sensory or emotional experiences, which may include screaming, crying, kicking, or biting.
2. Self-stimulating behaviors, such as repetitive movements or sounds.
3. Social challenges, including limited eye contact.
4. Highly focused or obsessive interests.
5. Difficulty understanding personal space.

In more severe cases, children may show aggression toward caregivers, others, or themselves.

Here are several strategies that may help your family:

1. **Create a quiet retreat.** Help your child identify a calm place where he can go whenever he feels overstimulated.
2. **Use distraction before a meltdown builds.** Offering a calming activity, such as listening to music or using a favorite toy, can sometimes redirect stress.
3. **Maintain clear routines.** Predictable schedules, limits, and rules help many children on the spectrum feel secure.
4. **Practice naming emotions.** Visual tools, such as emotion charts, can help children learn to recognize and communicate feelings.
5. **Prepare a sensory toolkit.** A backpack with items such as noise-canceling headphones, fidget toys, or comfort objects can help when your family is out.

You can also plan family outings that are more autism-friendly. Consider visiting a children's museum during sensory-friendly hours, exploring inclusive parks designed for children with special needs, or attending businesses that offer quieter, sensory-aware events.

VISITAR www.austinfamily.com
Hacer que el tiempo en familia funcione con el autismo.



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.



Empowering Neurodiverse Learners at Home

Today, more families than ever have at least one child with a learning difference such as ADHD, dyslexia, executive functioning challenges, or a processing disorder. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, autism affects approximately one in 36 children, increasing the number of families navigating diverse learning needs.

Parents try to distribute their time and attention fairly among their children. However, when one child requires more support, that child often receives more attention. Parents deeply love all their children and want to support each one emotionally and academically, but balancing those needs can be challenging.

How can families ensure that each child feels seen, supported, and confident as a learner?

The challenge is real, but it is not unsolvable. It requires intentional planning, strong support systems, and strategies that consider the entire family.

Strategy 1: Identify Each Child's Learning Needs

Every child learns differently. The better parents understand how each child learns, the more effective their support will be. Many strategies that help diverse

learners also benefit neurotypical learners.

For example, children with autism often benefit from structured teaching and visual supports, such as schedules and picture cues. Social stories and play-based learning can support social and language development. Clear, consistent communication routines help simplify information and reduce confusion.

Children with ADHD, dyslexia, and executive functioning challenges benefit when tasks are broken into small, manageable steps. Clear expectations and consistent routines reduce overwhelm. A distraction-free environment can help them focus and stay engaged.

Neurotypical learners also have individual preferences that influence how they absorb information. A child may learn best through visual materials, listening, movement, or reading and writing. Understanding these preferences helps parents provide targeted support that builds confidence.

Strategy 2: Build Routines That Work for Everyone

When families balance multiple needs, structure and predictability make daily life easier. Consistent routines benefit

children who struggle with attention and organization, and reassure neurotypical children that their needs matter.

Routines also reduce stress and guilt. When learning time is consistent, families are less likely to feel they have not done enough.

Create a daily learning routine and post it where everyone can see it. Each family's schedule will differ, but a simple example might include 30 minutes of focused support for a neurodiverse learner, 15 minutes for each sibling, and 30 minutes of independent or shared activities.

Be specific when outlining the routine. Clear expectations reduce confusion and frustration.

It also helps to explain the schedule to your neurotypical child. Let them know their sibling may receive more structured support because their needs are different. Reassure them this does not reflect how much they are loved or valued. Encourage them to ask for help when needed and reinforce that their needs matter, too.

Strategy 3: Schedule Focused Time with Your Neurotypical Child

Siblings of neurodiverse children often experience a mix of emotions, including

pride, frustration, loneliness, and guilt. Because families often focus additional attention on the neurodiverse child, parents must be intentional about maintaining strong connections with their other children.

Scheduling one-on-one time can make a significant difference. Even brief interactions help children feel valued and heard. Some families divide responsibilities so each parent can spend dedicated time with different children.

During these moments, acknowledge and validate your child's feelings. A simple statement such as, "I know it sometimes feels like your brother gets more of our attention. Thank you for being patient," can go a long way. When children feel recognized, they are more likely to feel secure and supported.

Strategy 4: Identify and Celebrate Individual Strengths

Children who feel overlooked may question their importance. At the same time, neurodiverse children may feel discouraged if they compare themselves to siblings who seem to learn more easily.

Every child brings unique strengths to the family.

For example, a child with autism may demonstrate creativity, logical thinking, or pattern recognition. A child with ADHD may excel at creative problem solving and flexible thinking. Neurotypical children also bring talents and interests that deserve recognition.

Highlight what each child does well. Celebrating strengths builds resilience, boosts confidence, and reinforces that everyone contributes something valuable.

Strategy 5: Seek Outside Support and Care for Yourself

Parents cannot meet every need alone. Families who try to do so often experience burnout, which helps no one.

Caregiver stress decreases when parents connect with resources such as support groups, educational training, community programs, and professional services. Teachers, therapists, tutors, and parent networks all play important roles.

Equally important is caring for yourself. Schedule time to rest, recharge, and enjoy activities you value. Parenting is a long-term commitment, and maintaining your well-being allows you to better support your children.

Building a Supportive Learning Environment

By understanding how children learn, establishing routines, celebrating

strengths, and seeking support, families can create an environment where every child can thrive.

Balancing multiple learners is challenging work. With intention and compassion, families can ensure that every child feels valued, supported, and confident in their learning journey.



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April 2026 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.

Wed 1

Preschool Play. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Each Wednesday at Laura's, we'll have self-directed playtime activities set up that are geared toward preschool-age kids. Laura Bush Community Library, 9411 Bee Cave Rd. www.westbanklibrary.com.

Easter Bunny at Lakeline Mall. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Easter Bunny will visit with families as part of the Bunny Photo Experience. Lakeline Mall, 11200 Lakeline Mall Dr. www.whereisbunny.com.

Music on Main: Spring-Summer 2026. 7 to 9 p.m. Bring your family and friends to enjoy live music, every Wednesday night. Prete Plaza, 221 E. Main St. FREE. www.roundrocktexas.gov.

Thu 2

Art for Teens: Painted Pots. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Teens and tweens, come get crafty after school. All materials will be provided. Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr. www.westbanklibrary.com.

Flashlight Egg Hunt. 6 to 10 p.m. Join in the fun of a nighttime egg hunt. Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd. www.roundtherocktx.com.

CONTINUED: **Easter Bunny at Lakeline Mall**, see Wed 1st.

Fri 3

Homeschool Fridays. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn about a variety of sculpting techniques through activities inspired by local artist, Tammie Rubin. Terrazas Branch Library, 1105 E. César Chávez St. www.austintexas.gov.

Baby Stories and Free Play. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Youth Services Specialist Sunny Reed will host a short story time with songs, stories, and fingerplays. Lake Travis Library West, 21209 State Hwy 71 W. www.laketravislibrary.com.

Music and Movement. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Little ones are invited to play with maracas, beanbags, and scarves while singing and dancing along to well-known children's songs. Lakeway Library, 1938 Lohmans Crossing. www.laketravislibrary.com.

NCHM Annual Easter Egg Dye-o-Rama. 12 to 4 p.m. Egg dyeing, live music, and games on the front lawn. Neill-Cochran House Museum, 2310 San Gabriel St. www.nchmuseum.org.

CONTINUED: **Easter Bunny at Lakeline Mall**, see Wed 1st.

Sat 4

20th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. 10 to 11:30 a.m. Bring the family and Easter baskets. Search for prize eggs and learn about the meaning of Easter. Huston-Tillotson University, 900 Chicon St. FREE. www.htu.edu.

Easter Egg-Stravaganza. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hop on over with the family, for a spectacular Easter Egg drop for children of all ages and abilities. Celebrate with Easter Bunny photo opportunities, music, face painting, food vendors, games, arts, and crafts. FREE. www.events.cityofkyle.gov.

CONTINUED: **Easter Bunny at Lakeline Mall**, see Wed 1st.

Sun 5

Rancho Moonrise Easter Extravaganza. 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Celebrate Easter at Rancho Moonrise with a fun-filled spring day for the whole family. Rancho Moonrise, 20117 Lockwood Rd. \$39. www.ranchomoonrise.com.

Tue 7

Kids Krafternoon. 5 to 6 p.m. Ages 5 and up. Arts, crafts, and other activities. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr. www.wblibrary.org.

Wed 8

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

Art After School: Painted Pots. 4:30 p.m. Elementary-aged kids, come get crafty after school at Laura's. There's a new project every month, and all materials are provided. Laura Bush Community Library, 9411 Bee Cave Rd. www.westbanklibrary.com.

CONTINUED: **Music on Main**, see Wed 1st; **Preschool Play**, see Wed 1st.

Fri 10

Snow White. 7:30 p.m. Inspired by the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, Snow White is reimagined through expressive choreography that brings inner forces to life. Pride, envy, and the Queen's growing darkness take human form, while the forest transforms from a place of terror to one of refuge. \$35 and up. Penfold Theater, 2120 N. Mays St., #290, Round Rock. www.penfoldtheatre.vbotickets.com.

KUTX 98.9's Spring 2026 Rock the Park

Concert Series. 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. KUTX 98.9's Rock the Park returns for its 16th season with family-friendly, outdoor concerts. Mueller Lake Park Amphitheater, 4550 Mueller Blvd. FREE. www.kut.org.

Superman (2025) - Community Cinema. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Grab chairs, a blanket, family, and friends, and enjoy the screening. Community First Village, 9301 Hog Eye Rd. FREE. www.mlf.org.

CONTINUED: **Baby Stories and Free Play**, see Fri 3rd.

Sat 11

Squirrel Fest. 4 to 10 p.m. A family-friendly celebration of spring at Austin's first public park. Enjoy games, activities, shows, booths, food, drink, music, and a screening of Zootopia. Pease Park, 1100 Kingsbury St. FREE. www.peasepark.org.

Startup Chica Austin 2026. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. An exciting conference where students ages 9 to 14 build businesses and friendships by leveraging STEM skills. Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, 2309 Panther Trl. \$30. www.app.betterunite.com.

ABC Kite Fest. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The spring tradition is back. Zilker Metropolitan Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd. FREE. www.abckitefest.org.

Folkfest Living History and Music Festival. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. This all-day, outdoor festival is designed with young families in mind. Kids can roam freely and take part in hands-on living history demonstrations. Heritage Village, 1370 Church Hill Dr. \$10. www.folkfestnb.com.

Earth Day ATX. 12 to 6 p.m. Enjoy family fun and learn about the planet. Huston-Tillotson University, 1403 Glencrest Dr. FREE. www.earthdayaustin.com.

中文游乐园-Chinese Learning Playground. 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. A Mandarin Chinese study group for school-age children. Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr. www.westbanklibrary.com.

CONTINUED: **Snow White**, see Fri 10th.

Sun 12

Statesman Cap10K. 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The fun doesn't stop once you cross the finish line. Celebrate at the Finish Line Festival featuring free massages, food vendors, live music, photo ops, and more. www.cap10k.com.

Sunday Funday: Paper Making. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Make paper with flowers and seeds. Neill-Cochran House Museum, 2310 San Gabriel St. www.nchmuseum.org.

CONTINUED: **Charlotte's Web**, see Tue 5th.

Mon 13

Art for Teens: Blackout Poetry. 4:30 p.m. Hang out after school and relax with a simple craft. Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr. www.westbanklibrary.com.

Tue 14

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

CONTINUED: **Kids Krafternoon**, see Tue 7th.

Wed 15

Homeschool Day: All About Birds. 10 to 11:30 a.m. Is your homeschool learner ready to become an ecologist? Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave. www.wildflower.org.

Homeschool Program. 1 to 2 p.m. Join Youth Services Librarian Nicholle Halprin for a unique homeschool program. Lakeway Library, 1938 Lohmans Crossing Rd. www.laketravislibrary.assabetinteractive.com.

CONTINUED: **Music on Main**, see Wed 1st; **Preschool Play**, see Wed 1st.

Fri 17

Georgetown's Spring Art Stroll. 4 to 8 p.m. Semi-annual arts and culture event with art exhibits, shopping booths, artist demonstrations, and live music. Georgetown Square, 103 W. 7th St. FREE. visit.georgetown.org.

Sat 18

Tiny Tot Triathlon. 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Bring the kids for a mini race for children between 3 and 8 years old. Gregg-Clarke Park, 100 W. Center St. www.events.cityofkyle.gov.

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Earth Day. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. A family event with a wide variety of activities. Yonders Point at Old Settlers Creek, 3103 Aten Loop. FREE. www.roundrocktexas.gov.

Texas Cotton Museum Festival. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Begins with the Main Street bicycle parade, followed by pie eating, seed pulling, classic car display, tractor pull, live entertainment, and food booths. Texas Cotton Museum, 307 N. Main St. FREE. www.cottonginmuseum.org.

Johnson City Wildflower Festival. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Come celebrate wildflower season in the heart of Johnson City with a vibrant weekend of artisan vendors, wellness, live music, family activities, and community tradition. Johnson City, Main St. FREE. www.jcwildflowerfest.com.

4th Annual for the Love of Parks Festival. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event brings thousands together to enjoy live music, hands-on activities, and the beauty of Travis County parks. Richard Moya Park, 10001 Burseson Rd. FREE. www.traviscountyparksfoundation.org.

Round Rock Community Choir Concert. 7 to 9 p.m. "Brighter Still," an uplifting evening of music celebrating the beauty, hope, and power of light. Round Rock First United Methodist Church, 1004 N. Mays St., Round Rock. www.roundrocktexas.gov.

CONTINUED: **Campfire**, see Sat 11th; **中文游乐园-Chinese Learning Playground**, see Sat 11th.

Sun 19

CONTINUED: **Charlotte's Web**, see Tue 5th; **Johnson City Wildflower Festival**, see Sat 18th.

Tue 21

CONTINUED: **Preschool Play**, see Wed 1st; **Kids Krafternoon**, see Tue 7th.

Wed 22

Earth Day Project. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Help us celebrate Earth Day by working on an environmental project. Hamilton Greenbelts, 1201 Lohmans Crossing Rd. www.lakeway-tx.gov.

CONTINUED: **Music on Main**, see Wed 1st; **Preschool Play**, see Wed 1st; **Sprouts**, see Wed 8th.

Sat 25

26th Annual Austin Dragon Boat Festival. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come enjoy live performances, food trucks, vendors, and the traditional lion dance. Lady Bird Lake, 1621 Nash Hernandez Senior Rd. FREE. www.atxdragonboat.com.

UT Physics Circus Free Demonstration. 3 to 4 p.m. Join the UT Physics Circus for a high-energy, mind-blowing science show on the back patio. Texas Science & Natural History Museum, 2400 Trinity St. FREE. www.sciencemuseum.utexas.edu.

Buda Wiener Dog Races. All day. Dachshund racing with a pet parade, costume contests, barbecue cookoffs, vendors, and live music. Buda City Park, 204 San Antonio St. www.budatx.gov.

CONTINUED: **Campfire**, see Sat 11th.

Sun 26

Fall In Love with Nature Day. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join Families in Nature, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and community partners for a day of outdoor fun for all ages. McKinney Falls State Park, 5808 McKinney Falls Pkwy. FREE. www.familiesinnature.org.

CONTINUED: **Charlotte's Web**, see Tue 5th.

Tue 28

AARC: Being and Belonging: Asian Americans in Texas. 6 to 8 p.m. An educational pop-up series about Asian American history, culture, and arts. Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron Rd. www.austintexas.gov.

CONTINUED: **Kids Krafternoon**, see Tue 7th.

Wed 29

CONTINUED: **Music on Main**, see Wed 1st; **Preschool Play**, see Wed 1st.

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KIDZONE

Go Build a Kite



April brings perfect kite-flying weather. Start now, and your creation can appear at the ABC Kite Fest at Zilker Park on April 11. Here is how to get started:

Step 1: Gather Your Materials You'll need:

- Two lightweight sticks, about 20 and 24 inches, or substitutes such as drinking straws taped together, bamboo skewers, garden stakes, or straightened wire hangers
- String or twine
- A sheet of sturdy paper, craft paper, or light plastic
- Scissors, tape, and a ruler
- Markers, paint, tissue paper, or stickers
- Ribbon or fabric strips for the tail

Step 2: Build the Frame

Lay the shorter stick across the longer one to form a cross, positioning it about one-third down from the top. Tie them tightly with string and trim any excess. Add a dab of glue for extra reinforcement. Then wrap string around the four ends of the sticks to form the kite's outline, or "skeleton."

Step 3: Add the Sail

Place your paper or plastic under the frame and cut around the shape, leaving an extra inch. Fold the edges over the string outline and tape securely. Poke a small hole where the sticks meet and tie on your flying string with a sturdy knot.

Step 4: Create the Tail

Attach a long ribbon or fabric strip to the bottom of the kite to keep it stable in the air. Adjust the length based on kite size, and add bows or knots for decoration and weight distribution.

Step 5: Decorate Your Kite

Let creativity take flight. Bright colors, patterns, drawings, and stickers help your kite stand out against the sky, and this step is perfect for kids who want to personalize their design.

Step 6: Head Outside and Fly

Choose a wide, open field away from trees and power lines. Face the wind, hold your kite high, and start running. Once the breeze catches the sail, your kite will lift. If needed, have a helper give it a gentle upward launch.

Join the fun at the ABC Kite Fest on April 11, where the Greater Austin YMCA will offer family kite-building activities and share information about youth programs. Learn more at www.austinyymca.org.

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