

SUMMER TIME FUN!!!

Summer is right around the corner! Summer break is usually a welcomed change of pace, where kids can sleep in and take time to just relax. Needless to say, kids still need to keep active.

After all, kids live in a world where they already spend so much of their time, when school is in session, sitting in classrooms.

Hiking and Biking Trails:

Not only is hiking and biking great exercise, it can also be fun as well as educational.

You and your family can learn how to use a compass and paper trail maps. Sure, smart phones and other smart devices have apps for hiking and biking on trails but some trails might not have good wireless reception so it is always good to know how to navigate when such apps are not working for whatever reason.

You and your family can read and learn about different trees and plants as well as how to recognize and identify what plants are safe and which are poisonous. You can also research and learn about what kinds of wildlife live in the area of the trails you explore.



Fishing:

Nebraska Game and Parks has a variety of fishing programs aimed at recruiting kids to the sport of fishing. They sponsor "Community Fishing Nights", which are held at several locations across the state.

At these events, Nebraska Game and Parks provides certified fishing instructors to offer some basic education to kids and adults on fishing, as well as demonstrating and providing hands on skills to those who may have never been fishing before or have not been for quite some time. Once you learn how to fish, it can be a fun and relaxing outdoor activity.

On the evening of the event, head out to the location specified and look for the Game and Parks' Fishing Trailer, where staff will be waiting to assist and provide instruction. Free loaner equipment such as rods, reels and bait will also be available to participants. For More Information on the Community Fishing Nights please visit <http://outdoornebraska.gov>



Swimming & Outdoor Water Fun:

Most cities/towns have a local pool where kids and adults can go to swim socialize and take in some sunshine! However, there is almost always a cost to enter local water parks and pools so families should plan and budget accordingly. Check with your local swimming pools/water parks to see if they offer income sensitive programs that provide free and/or reduced pricing for those who qualify.

Of course, there's nothing quite like a family and/or neighborhood "swim and water fight extravaganza"! Round up your kiddie pools, sprinklers, slip & slides, water balloons, pails and hoses.



Backyard & Driveway Games:

Host a neighborhood gathering in your backyard. Yard games, such as cornhole/toss, horse shoes, volleyball, etc. are almost always a big hit. Shoot some hoops or host a neighborhood pick-up game, jump rope, or play catch. Staying fit and active with family and friends makes for a more active and fun summer!



Outdoor Movie Night:

While Drive Ins are pretty much a thing of the past, many communities now have outdoor summer movie nights. You can check your local area to see if your community will be hosting one. And no worries if your community doesn't host an outdoor movie night because with a little research and effort, you can create and hold your own outdoor viewing party right in your own backyard! What a great way to end a neighborhood BBQ or a day playing games in the backyard!

So, breakout those lawn chairs and blankets, grab some popcorn and drinks, and sit back and enjoy the show!



NEBRASKA COUNTY FAIRS:

County fairs in most communities in Nebraska are a special occasion. It's important to recognize and remember that any and all of these activities do more than keep kids entertained during the summer...they often create memories that last a lifetime, especially following such unprecedented summers the last two years!



Please click on the link below for more information on the 2022 County Fairs in Nebraska.

<https://www.nebraskafairs.org>