



SUMMER ACTIVITIES 2020

Family Fun in Austin, TX
Compiled by



VIRTUAL MUSEUM

- FREE** **Austin Children’s Museum: The Thinkery**
Exhibits and programs for children ages 0-11 and their families.
You can find activities, story time videos, and more here:
<https://thinkeryaustin.org/thinkery-at-home/>
Phone: 512-469-6200
- FREE** **The Contemporary Austin**
Exhibits and programs for children ages 0-11 and their families.
You can create, explore, and more here:
<https://thecontemporaryaustin.org/digital/>
- FREE** **The Louvre**
Paris, France
<http://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/cappella-sistina/tour-virtuale.html>
- FREE** **Sistine Chapel**
Vatican City, Italy
<https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne>
- FREE** **Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation**
New York, United States
https://artsandculture.google.com/streetview/solomon-r-guggenheim-museum-interior-streetview/jAHfbv3JGM2KaQ?hl=en&sv_lng=-73.95897540047744&sv_lat=40.78284373830581&sv_h=307.402795563209&sv_p=10.750742478888426&sv_pid=rfLOHTGWrOlcY4J1Oc_UzQ&sv_z=0.2739310462916823
- FREE** **Yosemite National Park**
California, United States
<https://www.virtualyosemite.org/about-virtual-yosemite/>

Virtual Activities

- FREE** **YMCA**
While kids and families are home, it is important to keep everyone active, promote continued learning, and check in on everyone’s emotional health. Here you can find music, games, story time, virtual tours, and more!
Link: https://www.austinyymca.org/family_activities_home
- FREE** **Camp Hello Bello**
Free online activities, videos of past virtual camp sessions, and registration to participate in upcoming virtual sessions
<https://campstompingground.org/hometown-stomping-ground>
<https://www.camphellobello.com/>

FREE **Drawasaurus**
(basically Pictionary) lets you invite friends to play online in a private “room”. Their clues are kid-friendly and their chat feature automatically blocks out known foul-language words.

Diverse Activities

Diversity activities teach young children to **respect and celebrate the differences in all people**. Learning about different cultural aspects offers new experiences for children. It also helps them realize that we’re all humans, despite differences in how we look or dress, or what we eat or celebrate.

FREE **Facebook Post**
Inclusive Parents
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/areyouinorout/permalink/3130712260283002/>

FREE **Resource**
The black curriculum (British)
<https://www.instagram.com/theblackcurriculum/>

FREE **Book**
Anti-Racist Picture Book Recommendations for Kids
<http://hereweeread.com/2018/02/want-talk-race-picture-book-recommendations-kids.html>

FREE **Book**
17 Books About Racial Inequality for Young Readers
<https://www.vogue.com/article/books-about-racial-inequality-for-children>

FREE **Book**
A Kids Book About
<https://akidsbookabout.com/?fbclid=IwAR3RfAL76O25csturt8yrWhxkoYGUSRwz8RgjLu5jLtAtQ2ZXrTUHtg3Xq8>

FREE **Book**
Top 154 Recommended African-American Children’s Books
<https://aalbc.com/books/children.php?fbclid=IwAR1bh0HQ-gZxadHJiTo5L2sDE6myzjsJBGX4HbgRRWoeualEUt3nZ-SUmE>

LOW COST **Book**
Coretta Scott King Book Award Winners: books for children and young adults
<https://www.common sense media.org/lists/coretta-scott-king-book-award-winners>

FREE/LOW COST **Book**
31 Children’s books to support conversations on race, racism and resistance
<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/26-childrens-books-to-support-conversations-on-race-racism-resistance>

LOW COST **Book**
We are all Welcome

<https://www.amazon.ca/All-Are-Welcome-Alexandra-Penfold/dp/0525579648>

LOW COST Book

Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America

https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B0735KLL9B/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1

FREE Article

Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup from Pretty

<https://www.prettygooddesign.org/blog/Blog%20Post%20Title%20One-5new4>

FREE Instagram

The Conscious Kid

<https://www.instagram.com/theconsciouskid/>

FREE Podcast

Integrated Schools-Raising White Kids with Jennifer Harvey

<https://integratedschools.simplecast.com/episodes/harvey>

FREE TV Show

CNN/Sesame Street 10am

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/06/app-news-section/cnn-sesame-street-race-town-hall-app-june-6-2020-app/index.html>

Books

FREE Audible

Hundreds of titles for free. In different languages including English, Spanish, German, French, Japanese, Italian at: <https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

Free Exercise Apps

Nike Training Club

Nike has made all of its Nike Training Club Premium workouts free until further notice

Planet Fitness

Planet Fitness is encouraging people to remain active at home during the coronavirus pandemic through a series of live workouts. The classes will be [streamed live on Facebook](#) every day starting today at 4 p.m. PT/7 p.m. ET. They'll be free for everyone

Peloton

Peloton is offering an extended 90-day free trial to its at-home workouts application during the coronavirus outbreak. The in-app workouts don't require you own any Peloton equipment, and include yoga, HIIT, stretching, and other categories.

Free Mindful Apps

GoNoodle-Kids videos

Engage your children every month with movement and mindfulness videos
Created by child development experts.

Website: <https://www.gonoodle.com/good-energy-at-home-kids-games-and-videos/>

App Store: GoNoodle-Kids videos

Dark Noise

Offers a wide-range library of different noises some of which include campfires, rain, thunder, white noise, and much more.

Headspace

The popular mindfulness and guided meditation app Headspace is going free for US healthcare professionals, who work in public health settings, through the end of this year.

Entertainment Ideas

Indoors

Netflix

Turn your own home into a movie theater or have a virtual party with friends. *Step 1* Install the Netflix party chrome extension from the chrome web store or Netflix website. *Step 2* Choose any show from Netflix.com and click on the red “NP” button on the top right hand corner to get the party started. *Step 3* Copy the party URL and share the link to invite your friends to the party!

Board Games

Can't think of any new hobbies to gain? Why not build puzzles and play board games with your family all under \$10:

https://www.puzzlewarehouse.com/Puzzles-Under-10_434.html

Paper Origami

<https://www.origamiway.com/paper-folding-crafts-step-by-step.shtml>

Talent Show

Gather up old Halloween costume or make your own out of clothes you already own and rehearse a unique talent to present to your family! Some examples include: singing, dancing, play an instrument, painting, magic trick, reciting, or create a comedy skit.

Decorating Nature

Pick and choose some of the most beautiful rocks around the outside of your house and enhance them with water colors, crayons, or chalk!

I spy

Play a game of I spy with people who live with you. One player chooses an object and says “I spy with my little eye, something beginning with...” naming the first letter of the object they want the second player to guess.

Make-at-home Bingo

Create a DIY bingo game your entire family can enjoy. You can either draw or color your own bingo cards or print them out here:

<https://myfreebingocards.com/>. You can use pebbles or beans to mark your cards.

Guess the Sound

Gather up items that produce sound, blindfold one player, and make them guess the item! You can also do this with lyrics and have the player guess the song.

Hide and Go Seek

This is a fun game to play indoors! Have one player be "it" and all others hide once they have found all players the person who was first found will be "it". The more players the merrier!

Tag

This game involves two or more people. The person who is "it" will chase everyone else trying to tag someone with their hand to be the next "it". Another spin to this game is freeze tag where the person who is "it" is attempting to tag everyone out of the game. If you have been tagged they you cannot move unless someone who has not been tagged by the person who is "it" unfreezes you by tagging you.

Pencil and Paper Games:

Hangman

You can play this game with simply two people or a whole crowd. The challenge is for player 2 to complete the spelling of the word player 1 has created before player 1 draws a hangman based on the wrong guesses of player 2.

Tic Tac Toe

Begin by drawing a grid of two horizontal lines dissecting two vertical lines. Player 1 will choose a box to place an "O" while player 2 chooses a box to place "X". The goal of the game is to fill in three marks in a row while at the same time blocking the other player from doing so.

Hot Potato

A classic! Gather everyone in a circle play a song and when the song is either over or one designated player pauses it the one who is left holding the potato is out.

Treasure Hunt

Kids love finding hidden items. You could write clues on paper and in the end, what they find is a prize!

Charades

A single person will act out a word or phrase to a party, while that group guesses the word or phrase. You can also find free charades apps on iOS and/or Android.

Outdoors

Rural Living

If you have a big front/back yard why not turn it into a sports field with items you have at home? You could build a volleyball court by tying a rope between two trees or a soccer field by using two chairs or trees to mark a soccer goal.

Urban Living

Go for a walk, run, or bike ride in your neighborhood or local park, but remember to stay 6 feet away from the nearest person!

NATURE & PARKS

LOW COST Austin Zoo

Austin Zoo is a pleasant Hill Country zoo where visitors from around the world can come to learn about and see animals. You are welcome to bring your own food and beverages. Adult admission is \$11, seniors is \$10, children 12 and under is \$8.

Hours: Open daily 9:30 AM – 6 PM, no admissions after 5 PM

Location: 10808 Rawhide Trail, Austin, TX 78736

FREE Congress Avenue Bridge Bats

You'll want to arrive early to get a good spot for viewing. The bats generally come out right after the sun sets, but they could emerge up to 30 minutes before or after. The black cloud of bats is a sight to behold, and there are several places from which you can get a great view:

- Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge
- Austin-American Statesman Bat Observation Area
- Lady Bird Lake

Bat viewers can park in the Austin-American Statesman parking lot at 305 S. Congress Ave starting at \$6 for 4 hours. Parking is available at the Radisson Hotel & Suites for a per-hour fee. Parking meters in the downtown area are NOT enforced after 6 PM Monday – Wednesday.

Bat Hotline: 512-327-9721

FREE Mount Bonnell

This spot has been popular since the 1850s as a picnic place, hiking area, or just a place to admire the views of the Colorado River. The view is spectacular at sunset. Free street parking is available.

Location: 3800 Mount Bonnell Road, Austin, TX 78731

FREE Barton Creek Greenbelt

7.9 miles long with sheer cliff walls, lush vegetation, and popular swimming areas, the Greenbelt is truly a treasure. This area makes for a fantastic walk.

Hours: 5 AM – 10 PM

Location: 3755-B Capital of TX Hwy, Austin, TX 78704 (Loop 360 Entrance)

FREE

Lake Pflugerville

Instead of driving 4 hours to Galveston, you and your family could enjoy this beach and park which is only a short drive from Austin!

Hours: 6 AM – 10 PM daily

Location: 18216 Weiss Lane, Pflugerville, TX 78660

FREE

Zilker Metropolitan Park

Zilker is considered “Austin’s most loved park” and home to a variety of recreation opportunities and special events on its 350 acres.

Hours: 5 AM – 10 PM

Location: 2100 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78704

LOW COST

McKinney Falls State Park

Swimming, camping, hiking, mountain biking, road biking, picnicking, fishing and wildlife observation are popular activities at this park where Onion Creek splashes over limestone ledges into pools. Adult admission is \$6, and free for children 12 and under.

Hours: 8 AM – 10 PM

Location: 5808 McKinney Falls Parkway, Austin, TX 78744

Food Banks

Central Texas Food Bank

6500 Metropolis Drive

Austin, TX 78744

512.282.2111

El Buen Samaritano

7000 Woodhue. Located in Austin 78745

Call for help - 512-439-0733

Hours of center - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 – 12:00 pm

Haynie Chapel Food Pantry

Address - 16309 Greenwood, Garfield, 78617

Phone number and hours - 512-247-4454 Tuesday, 10 a.m.-12

The charity may have perishable food such as fruits or vegetables. There may also be canned groceries, Christmas meals, and snacks for students out of school.

First Baptist Church of Manor

406 Eggleston, Manor, 78653

Dial 512-281-2008

Pflugerville First UMC

500 E. Pecan, Pflugerville 78660

Dial 512-251-2575

Tuesday, 9 a.m.-12

A church helps people, regardless of religion.

Caritas of Austin

Address - 611 Neches 78701

Telephone - 512-479-4610

Soup Kitchen – free lunch and hot meals, center hours are Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Bill Assistance

Dial 211 to speak to someone who can help.