

# Family activity ideas

April 27, 2018 | 6 upvotes | by [markpf73](#)

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39, married 14 years, 2 kids 10/12, a little over 1 year into MAP.

One area that needs improvement in my MAP is planning fun family activities. We usually have 2-3 days a month that are open for anything. When I take the initiative to fill these few days with fun stuff I get pretty good gas mileage.

Short day trips and low to moderate cost planned family outing activities have been:

1. indoor rock climbing
2. hiking
3. ice skating
4. skiing
5. biking
6. fishing
7. kayaking
8. local tourist trap attractions
9. local state parks
10. gem stone hunting at a local spot
11. local cave tours

A year in and I'm looking for some fresh ideas (without forgetting the first rule which is don't do stuff that makes you want to kill your wife or kids).

Does anyone care to share what have been your most enjoyable low to moderate cost family activities?

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## Comments

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johneyapocalypse • 3 points • 28 April, 2018 12:00 AM\*

Last month or so...

Built a hovercraft - 8/10.

Jet skiing - 10/10.

Surprise trip to NY - 8/10.

Laser tag with a bunch of buddies - 11/10.

Beach day with another family - 9/10.

Ipic movie - Rampage - 8/10.

Just keep mixing it up - even little things, when done together, add up to big fun.

red-sffplus is right, too - coaching (and in my case setting up a boy scout troop) is amazing.

**Edit:** Be present. That, in and of itself, dramatically changes the dynamic. Plus, don't talk down to your kids and your kids' friends, instead, talk **to** them.

Not too long ago I learned that I'm considered the cool dad. One of my son's friend's slept over, and my wife said his first word's upon waking were, where's johneyapocalypse. I thought that was funny but was also genuinely curious. I asked my wife why, because I'd heard that from other kids, and she said it's simply because I don't treat them like I'm the authoritarian adult and they're the dumbass kids.

Makes sense I suppose.

Plus, I'm in it for every birthday, get-together, and the like... not standing on the sidelines with a stick up my ass but jumping in and having fun. Last birthday it was me and ten kids versus another dad and ten kids, while the rest of the dad's played with their faggot phones.

My team won.

quentinthequibbler • 4 points • 28 April, 2018 05:16 AM

'Faggot phones' just had me laughing. I was also thinking 'beta phones'

FoxShitNasty83 • 6 points • 28 April, 2018 08:08 AM

Swimming, dread time if your body is in a good state to chat with the hotties. And good for mummy wale to get back into semi natural habitat.

crimson\_chris • 2 points • 28 April, 2018 09:51 PM\*

"I get pretty good gas mileage" - what does that mean?

You should be pulling your wife and kids into things you enjoy. What should you do? Do cool shit that you like to do.

I take my kids to the library about 3 weekends a month. They get regular books, but they are also into comic books and graphic novels because I am into that.

I have one weekend day a month set aside to take my daughter sailing. I like the water and a local college has sailing classed that are free and open to the public every weekend. We don't make it every month, but it's on the calendar.

Depending on my schedule, I go to a local H.S. track to run sprints on Sat/Sun. I take my kids to play in yhe

playground while I workout.

I love to cook. At least one weekend a month my daughter and I try out a new recipe.

I love being outdoors. So I take my kids hiking, biking, swimming or to the beach depending on the weather.

One time my wife told me that if we ever got divorced, I'd have to be the weekend parent because there was no way she could do all the stuff that I do with the kids.

Do what you like. Don't be a retard - so find ways to incorporate your kids. Don't look for validation from mommy. I hang with my kids because it's fun. The wife also tags along sometimes - when she has her mind right. No attitudes on the fun train.

markpf73 • 1 point • 28 April, 2018 11:04 PM

Good shit man - good perspective.

Good gas mileage as in the expression said here before "your mileage may vary".

For me lifting, career, and wardrobe improvements only needed small tweaks. On the other hand my social activities and leading the family's free time activities needed the most improvement. It's where I'm investing the most effort and it leads to the biggest improvements in my marriage.

crimson\_chris • 1 point • 28 April, 2018 11:51 PM

Haha. I know what the "gas milage" expression means. I was questioning how that relates to family outings. Are you referring to the benefit varying? Again, if you do it for yourself you don't expect anything in return. They are all just coming along for the ride.

markpf73 • 1 point • 29 April, 2018 12:06 AM

Exactly.

There are some activities that the girls just don't want to revisit. Im trying to add some novelty into the equation with things that aren't old news around my house.

red-sfpplus • 1 point • 27 April, 2018 11:31 PM

Coach your kids sports. I coach both my daughters select softball team and my sons baseball.

Keep me active 8 days a week.

wrong\_hole\_lol • 1 point • 4 May, 2018 02:06 AM

I'm coaching my 6 year old's Rookie league. First time as a coach after playing HS/still playing amateur and umping 1,000+ youth/HS games. Coaching is way more fun than I expected.

SteelSharpensSteel • 1 point • 28 April, 2018 12:11 PM

Skiing, but you mention that. Camping is also on the plan.

Just get up and take the kids to a city that's a hour-two hours away, go touring.

MrChad\_Thundercock • 1 point • 28 April, 2018 01:00 PM

I was with you until:

“don't do stuff that makes you want to kill your wife or kids”

Wtf? Weak frame. Still in beta husband mindset sounds like.

Can also do very simple things like a picnic, treat everyone to Starbucks at an impromptu moment, arcades,

build shit in the garage and go test it, make a time capsule and bury it for 5 years. 5 years is a pretty good chunk of time for kids , theyll be all grown up.

markpf73 • 1 point • 28 April, 2018 01:18 PM

Yup - the "don't do stuff" was a an observation someone else here made about a ski weekend awhile back.

But true - once you are running family activities or time away from the kids within the proper frame you are no longer a dancing monkey and the "don't do stuff" doesn't really apply.

MrChad\_Thundercock • 1 point • 28 April, 2018 01:23 PM

Ok, I agree with the ski trip idea, that wouldn't be fun with little ones. Save that one for when they get older.

markpf73 • 1 point • 28 April, 2018 01:45 PM

But a good observation on frame - thx.

UEMcGill • 1 point • 28 April, 2018 02:14 PM

I have a portable grill I got at Costco. I'll take the kids to a local state park. We'll swim hike and then have a BBQ. Everyone picks their favorite picnic food. Plenty of the parks have grills too.

I let the kids run the grill (with supervision). We try to keep things to an hour. Hike; one hour. Swim; one hour, etc.

I give everyone jobs. We do scavenger hunts, etc. By the end everyone is tired and satiated.

[deleted] • 1 point • 28 April, 2018 02:19 AM

We do civic activities like delivering food to elderly on Easter or Xmas, any parade that our town puts on we attend, and Earth day trash pickups. This weekend we are marching with Vets for a fund raiser. Next month we will stand in solidarity with our people in Nicaragua. It will be an awareness rally of 5 or so, but we will stand together.

drty\_pr • 1 point • 28 April, 2018 04:17 AM

You a FAM?

[deleted] • 1 point • 28 April, 2018 11:02 AM

more married with FAM