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June
2017



CCCS Inc.
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Make this year's Summer Break Affordable

Try Geocaching-According to the official **Geocaching website**, "Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location." **Take a Virtual Museum Tour**-Several amazing museums throughout the country and the world offer "virtual" tours. You can choose from the **Smithsonian Natural History Museum**, the **Indianapolis Children's Museum**, the **Boston Children's Museum**, the **Miami Children's Museum**, or even visit the **Louvre** in Paris or even the **Sistine Chapel** at the Vatican in Rome. Pretty cool! **Try Paintballing or Laser Tag**-Invite a few other families to join yours and battle it out. There are paintball or laser tag facilities almost everywhere—use Google to find one nearby. **Visit a Nearby National Park**-National parks truly are one of our country's greatest treasures, and most National Parks have a variety of awesome family friendly activities to choose from. Most park fees are nominal, but you can also check to find free entrance days. **Enjoy Your Local Theater**-Check the local newspaper (the Wichita Eagle has the Friday GO section) or theater website to see what plays, musicals, concerts, or family-friendly comedy shows will be playing during your planned Staycation time, then book tickets and plan for an evening at the theater. **Visit a Nearby Amusement Park**-While Disney World might not be what you are after this year, that doesn't mean you can't still have a blast at a nearby theme park. **Visit a Local Children's Museum**-If you've got younger kids it can sometimes be hard to find

activities that the whole family can enjoy, but a great Children's Museum can definitely fit the bill! Most have a variety of fun and interactive activities that can keep you busy the whole day. Check out the **Association of Children's Museums website** to find one in your area, and consider purchasing a Family pass—you can usually get your money back in just two visits. **Visit the Zoo or Aquarium**-Who doesn't love seeing animals? Some offer Junior zookeeper programs or opportunities to feed the animals, while some others even allow you to spend the night in the zoo! Be sure to pack a lunch to save on pricey zoo fare! **Check out the Local Library**-Most libraries have family-friendly events and activities happening every weekend, and sometimes even daily during spring break and summer vacations. Check your local library website for details. **Major or Minor League Sporting Event**-While major league events are a lot of fun, they can get pricey quickly, especially for a family. Luckily almost every city has a minor league team these days, which can give you (almost) the same experience for a fraction of the price! Be sure to check out which days include special events, such as free caps or fireworks for added fun! **Host a Family Board Game Tournament**-Invest in a few new board games, then set up snacks and drinks for a marathon board game tournament! **Go Bowling**-If your kids are small, try bumper bowling; for older kids go at night during "glow bowling" times! **Camp in Your Own Backyard**-Why not enjoy the great outdoors in your own backyard? Set up a tent and sleeping bags, build a fire (or use the grill) to cook s'mores, and take

turns telling ghost stories. Then download the **Night Sky app** (make sure your device is GPS-enabled first!) to identify stars, planets, and even satellites in the sky. **Tour a Local Factory or Brewery**-Most offer tours and even samples of their goods. Check the company website for details! **Visit a Nearby Tourist Spot**-Is there an area nearby that always draws the crowds? Even if you normally avoid the tourist traps, every once in a while it is fun to become a tourist in your own town. Make all the cheesy stops and take pictures along the way! **Create Your Own Art**-Spend an afternoon getting creative at a nearby paint-your-own pottery facility. Not only is it fun, you'll have your own gorgeous dishes to take home when you're done.

Get Wet-Spend the day at a local pool, fountain or water park. If that sounds like too much effort, simply set up a slip & slide in the backyard and have a family water day at home. **Tackle a family project**-Consider spending your week together working on something to improve your home. You'll not only bond while painting and building together, but at the end of the week have something concrete to show for your time! **Host Your Own Film Festival**-Pick a theme, allow each family member to pick a movie, then get comfortable for a day of movies. Be sure to provide plenty of snacks, and take breaks to discuss and rate each film. **Find a Local Festival**-Check your local newspaper or chamber of commerce website to find out what is happening in your town or towns nearby the week of your Staycation. **Play Outside**-Go fly a kite, take a walk, go for a bike ride, or take a hike—most local, state and national parks have at least a few walking, hiking, or biking trails to choose from. Do a little research to find one that fits your family's athletic ability, then head out to enjoy the great outdoors. Don't forget to pack snacks and water for your trek!

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