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rediscovering family time

by amanda van cura



HAS THE SUN BEATEN YOU DOWN THIS SUMMER?

Need some new ideas on things to keep the kids busy? Maybe you're just looking for a new way to spend your family time together. Whether it's splashing around at a water park, seeing community theater or cheering on the home team, with the loads of activities available in and around Frisco, there's no way anyone could get bored.

COOLING OFF

Sometimes nothing beats the heat better than a dip in the pool. If you don't have one in your backyard visit the City of Frisco Municipal Outdoor pool located at the corner of Maple and Mimosa streets in downtown Frisco. The pool stays open until August 29th and offers a special "Family Friday Nights" swim from 7 – 9 pm. Admission is \$1.25/day per person.

For a more adventurous splash, head just a few miles down Highway 121 to The Colony, where the new Hawaiian Falls water park opened in May. The park includes something for everyone, including a 65 foot high free-fall body slide, innertube slides, a continuous river with waterfalls, waves with a beach, a rainforest jungle playground, an area for toddlers and much more. Visit www.hawaiianfalls.com for more information.

SPORTING EVENTS

If you live in Frisco and you haven't yet experienced a baseball game, taken a spin on the ice or watched a race at the Superdrome, you're missing out! The Frisco RoughRiders offer an All-American baseball experience filled with excitement, entertainment and fun – all at an affordable price. Visit www.ridersbaseball.com for details – it's baseball the way it was meant to be.

A few yards away from the ballpark, you'll also discover the Dr. Pepper StarCenter, offering public skating sessions nearly every day of the week. The Texas Tornado hockey team (www.tornadohockey.com) will begin its second season at the StarCenter this fall. Tickets are now on sale for next season.



Cycling enthusiasts may enjoy a different spin on family entertainment with a visit to the Friday Night Races at the Frisco Superdrome. The track opens at 5:30pm with the first race starting at 7 pm. All racers compete for the Texas Cup – a statewide year-long series. Spectators may attend at no charge.

ARTS AND SCIENCE

How about a little culture this summer? NearFrisco's Historic District is the home of Frisco Community Theatre and Children's Theatre of Frisco. Season tickets are now on sale for the 2004-2005 season, which include "Our Town," "Macbeth," and "The Music Man." For more information, call the theatre at 972-377-3868.

For a scientific twist, head south to the Shops at Willow Bend in Plano where you'll discover the Zap! Surgery exhibit at the Sci-Tech Discovery Center. All ages will have fun performing simulated surgical procedures, discovering the science behind lasers and ultrasounds, and learning about the various instruments used. The exhibit is open through August 29th. Visit www.mindstretchingfun.org for details.

If it's a more natural form of science you're looking for, head north to the Heard Museum in McKinney, a natural science education center. The Museum is home to a 289 acre sanctuary, four miles of hiking trails, a raptorrehabilitation center, a native plant garden and more. Call 972-562-5566 for the latest exhibits.



UPCOMING EVENTS

In addition to the ongoing events and attractions in and around Frisco, the city also hosts its own events to bring the community together. Tickets go on sale August 21st for the 4th Annual Mother-Son Dance. The event, designed for boys' ages 4-12, will take place Saturday, September 18th.

The Frisco Storytelling Festival is also scheduled to take place, October 8th and 9th at Frisco Commons Park. For more information, call the library at 972-335-5510.

If the summer days seem to be getting longer and you're running out of ways to entertain, try a family activity right here in Frisco. Even after the school season starts, be sure to take time out for your family and experience the fun.

Amanda VanCura is a freelance writer living in Plano.